AGRICULTURE - GENERAL

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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

The do's and don't's 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 service organisation (Uskor). During 1999, 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 1996 and is financed from the estate of the late Cleto Saporetti. Its main activities include research, data collection and the teaching of all aspects of preventive health and community nutrition education.

MARIKA SBOROS
Impounding stock 'makes farmers rich'

By Jo-Anne Collinge

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

"One Mudun farmer impounded 160 goats and 184 head of cattle from land he was renting for R10 a year and claimed R31,200 in trespass fees," according to a report in the newsletter of the Association for Rural Advancement (Afra).

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

He states that the Weenen pound realised a total of R33,065 in 1988 and that last year the Weenen Town Board alone claimed more than R35,000 in respect of 100 head of cattle and 180 goats that strayed on to its property.

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

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

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

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

Black farmer buried in AWB territory

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

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

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

"He was a happy man and I had a very good relationship with him. I am a CP member and did not mind in the least when he bought the farm next to me. "During the past six months I had a better relationship with him than I had with the previous owner. I'm sad he will not be here to bring in his harvest in July. "After the last harvest he allowed me to graze my cattle on his land for nothing."
Suspect killed
Farmers strike back

Crime Staff

Free State farmers are fighting back against violent crime.

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

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

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

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

The self-defence system, using citizen band radio, was introduced after the killing two weeks ago of local farmer Willie Engelbrecht (71), his wife Bettie (69), his daughter Lena Smit (59) and granddaughter Michelle Smit (21) in the same district.

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

Mr Pienaar and a worker Jacob Monga were busy milking when four men attacked him. He fought back as they tried to tie him up. They demanded money and dragged him towards the farmhouse.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Senior police officers, including Major-General Ter- tius Galtz, went to the scene yesterday.

General Galtz said two of the three suspects were handed over at the local police station by farmers. They had been badly beaten. One of them later died as a result of his injuries, he said.
R17-m help scheme for drought city

PORT ELIZABETH.—A R17 million emergency water scheme to supply water from the Orange River to Port Elizabeth comes into operation today.

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

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

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

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

The scheme was completed after continuing drought reduced the city's main supply dam levels considerably.
Rich states blamed as Third World starves

A former Oxfam director has accused the European Community of putting up trade barriers to exclude the Third World, reports NICHOLAS SCHOOON.

The enormous support payments that Europe's taxpayers and consumers make to EC farmers are a major contributor to poverty and famine in the Third World, the recently retired director of Britain's leading foreign aid charity said this week.

Lord Judd, director of Oxfam until the end of last year and a Labour Party peer, told the Oxford Farming Conference that farm policies in Europe and the United States were ruining the livelihood of poor farmers in the developing world. They had led to crop surpluses being dumped on world markets at low prices, and undercutting the prices Third World farmers needed to make a living.

The EC and other wealthy nations had also put up trade barriers which made it difficult for developing countries to export to the West.

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) was set up to prevent farmers deserting the countryside and ensure Europe grew enough food to give it security, said Lord Judd. "But the impact of subsidised exports discourages agricultural production and undermines food security in Third World countries."

An example of this was the dramatic fall in international sugar prices in the mid-1980s, caused, he said, by protectionist farm policies in the US and EC. This price collapse had led to calls to Oxfam for emergency aid to the cane sugar regions in the Philippines.

"At the time Oxfam was heavily involved in the famine relief effort in Ethiopia. It was hard to accept that there could be a parallel problem of widespread starvation on an agriculturally fertile tropical island — hard to believe that our trading system was so distorted it could force almost prosperous farmers into starvation," Lord Judd said.

This kind of hardship followed from the CAP's one undoubted success — enormous ly boosting food production in Europe. The 12 nations now in the EC imported nearly 4 million tons of sugar a year in 1987, he said. Guaranteed high prices, intervention purchases and import levies changed all that. By the mid-1980s, when the international market collapsed, the Community was a net exporter of nearly 4.5 million tons of sugar.

Lord Judd said there should be one law for the poor and another for the rich. While developed nations should no longer be allowed to protect their home markets, developing countries should. "Third World countries should be allowed to protect their fragile food production industries until they also achieve food security."

At present, one in three people in developing nations did not have enough to eat, he added. "The gap between rich and poor is growing. But famine will not be ended without more accountable, democratic governments with the will to tackle poverty."

Professor David Harvey, of Newcastle University, said reforms that attempted to keep high food prices in Europe were doomed to failure. "If the electorate wants to support farmers on small farms, they should be subsidised directly, not by giving them subsidised prices for their produce," he said. — The Independent News Service.
A senior World Bank official has called for a doubling of food production in Africa to avert a “nightmare scenario” brought about by population pressure, environmental destruction and the stagnation of agriculture.

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

Production is currently increasing at only 2 percent a year. Something has to be done about population growth in Africa, he said, “but the rate of change in agricultural technology has also to be speeded up enormously.”

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

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

A similar plan has been drawn up to assist war-torn Mozambique and Angola work out their agricultural research priorities. Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe will collaborate on the research.

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

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

According to a Spaar statement, Africa’s technological base is inadequate to meet the region’s needs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The South African Red Cross Society was originally not allowed access to the farm and medical aid food had to be passed through the fence where the roadblock is situated. "At least they treated us better in Bophuthatswana," said William Mgca, whose grandparents, buried in the old graveyard, once owned grazing fields in the area. "Bophuthatswana my three children could go to school and my cattle were able to graze but now that is impossible."

Mgca, a miner in Rustenburg, has had to pay people in Bophuthatswana to look after his livestock and poultry.

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

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

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

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

Negotiations are taking place among lawyers from the Pretoria Legal Resources Centre — which represents the community — officials from the Department of Agricultural Development and Development Aid, church people and community representatives.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The next set of discussions are scheduled for January 15.
School bombed, but learning goes on

By Mckeed Kotolo
Pretoria Bureau

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

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

A spokesman for the northern Transvaal region of the DET, Thomas Kekana, said extensive damage had been caused to the buildings, but the department would soon start with repairs.

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

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

Flashpoint as warning goes out: ‘We’ll shoot to kill’

THREE days before Christmas, something went terribly wrong in the tiny Free State town of Verkooldevlei. One of the placid community’s best-loved residents, his wife, daughter and grand-daughter were gunned down in a farmhouse close to town. That was shocking enough. But the alleged killer’s claim in court a few days later that he had done it to “kill apartheid” was enough to ignite a mood of anger among farmers and the 70 or so residents of the town.

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

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

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

Bitter

Describing the attacks on farmers as “the beginning of anarchy”, he said more farmers were being killed in South Africa than were lost during the bush war in Zimbabwe. He said farmers were frustrated and bitter.

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

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

He said he had received calls from all over the country offering help. Farmers in the town were tight-lipped this week, claiming that the media had shown more interest in the death of an attacker than the killing of helpless farmers.

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Mr Bornman said he did not believe economic conditions were behind the crime wave against farmers.

“If someone is hungry, he might steal a sheep — but there’s no economic reason to brutally attack people. That’s barbaric and inhuman,” Mr Gouw said.

“The farmers are starting to think they are pawns in a political game. They have a perception that they are being forced to do something they don’t want to do,” he said.

Reports: PETER MALHERBE; Pictures: CORUS BODENSTEIN

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

While the situation in Verkooldevlei shows little sign of settling down, farmers in the Ladybrand/Clovelian area nearby have declared war on thieves and say they are crossing the Caledon River from Lesotho and stripping their farms of stock and equipment. They said this week that they would “shoot to kill” any trespassers on their properties.

Dogs

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

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

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

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

By ZUBEIDA Jaffer

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

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Road to Nowhere... The main road through the troubled village of Prince Alfred Hamlet. Pictures: AMBROSE PETERS

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

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Row over torture claim

By ELIAS MALULEKE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He was then dangling from the rafter by his hands and smacked again.

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

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

"I took the police to the spot where I was picked up, and they then brought me back to the farm. The white policeman left his black colleague guarding me in the van and spent a long time in the farmhouse before I was taken to a doctor in Wakkerstroom."

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

He spent New Year's Day in the cells, and was taken to court the next day without being charged. He was released on R500 bail.

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

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

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

Doctor RA Goolam's report noted that apart from several bruises, Phungwayo's right eye was injured, and a mark on his neck was consistent with having been hung.

He noted other injuries to his right wrist, knee, penis, chest and back.

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

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

DIFFERENT VERSIONS ... Vusumuzi Phungwayo points to the farm worship where he alleges he was tortured. *Pic: ANDRIES MCINEKA*
Only 50km away, pupils of all races flock to join school

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

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

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

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

The chairman of the Ladybrand Farmers Association, Mr Jan van der Berg, said he had written to the education authorities saying there was a dire need for the school as farm schools only went to Std 5 and then children were forced to move to the cities to continue their education.

"I think all the farmers will support the move as the school would have closed down otherwise. We must use our common sense. The greatest need is a school." Headmaster Bietkie Swart described the school's opening as exciting and said there had been no threats from right-wingers.

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

"We must learn to live together," he said.
There is hope yet for deserted small towns

MASS migration from the platteland to the cities has left small towns like Wolmaransstad and Swartruggens with empty schools and closed shops, and uneasy townpeople 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 94 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 Samwerk 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 Mampoo 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.
THOUSANDS of "squatters" at Majakaneng in the Brits district plan to stay away from work today in protest against an ultimatum to evacuate the area or face forced removal.

Pamphlets issued in the name of the Transvaal Provincial Administration have warned the estimated 1,400 families occupying the farm owned by a group of black farmers to leave the area by today or their "illegal structures" would be removed without further notice.

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

But yesterday the TPA denied knowledge of the eviction order.

The occupants of the farm claimed their presence was legal. Some produced receipts reflecting the amounts they had paid to the landowners as deposits to stay there.

The amounts range between R40 and R240.

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

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

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

A Department of Development Aid official confirmed the ultimatum. He said the squatters should apply for sites at Letlhahile and Hartebeesfontein townships.
Farmers face disaster over poor rainfall

By Helen Grange
Pretoria Bureau

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dams in the Vaal system which supply the PWV region are slightly down from 72.9 percent last week to 72.6 percent, which is still above the 67 percent level for the Vaal, Sterkfontein, Bloeinhof and Woodstock dams this time last year.
Trust is to acquire land for the poor

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

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

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

- R750 million on setting up a capital subsidy scheme, the IDT’s biggest programme, for the development of nearly 100 000 new serviced sites that will accommodate about 700 000 people;
- R102.1 million to the promotion of ongoing development in informal settlements; and
- R466 million on the setting up of the IDT Finance Corporation, through which the trust is developing new forms of housing finance for the poor.

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

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

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

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

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

“We are serving the poor - some of them earning less than R1 000 - and hope that the scheme will stimulate a lot of interest in the home building market,” he said.
Man v elements: the oldest battle of all

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

MURPHY'S GRANDFATHER EMIGRATED TO SOUTH AFRICA IN THE MID-19TH CENTURY. BUT DESPITE HIS LINING, HE SPEAKS ONLY AFRIKAANS.

"There were lots of good farmers here, but when things go wrong some of them took chances. They took one out of debt, then another. But there were no more good harvests, so they were finished."

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

"I used to sell 1,000 bales a month. At R5 a bale that was good money. But lucerne needs lots of rain and the drought has destroyed the last few years' harvest. Every year that there's a bad harvest my cows have to carry me through. I'll hopefully sell my 40 young bulls this year. The speculators buy them and if I'm lucky I'll get R1,000 a head."

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

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

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

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

Some farmers are already resigned to disaster. It is understood that a number of applications for disaster assistance have been made to the agricultural disaster fund for assistance.

Amplifying these problems, under-colonial settling in the Transvaal area: "We have big problems. The under-irrigation is dry and we urgently need water for the trees. We're at a dead end. The authorities are talking about cutting our water limit by 50%.

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

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

The yields in northern and north-eastern Transvaal and the northern Free State are deteriorating rapidly, meaning that grazing pastures will provide little fodder for livestock in queues to sell wheat, peanuts, sorghum and lucerne. But the last time we had a really good harvest was in 1972," laments Mr. Murphy, who has lived off this and other land his entire life.

Over the past decade he has watched less resilient farmers lose the battle with the drought. "I've survived. Perhaps it's my Irish blood," he grins. Mr. Murphy's grandfather emigrated to South Africa in the mid-19th century. But despite his lineage, he speaks only Afrikaans.

DR. LINDSEY HAS ESTIMATED THAT THE EL NINO IS A MODERATE ONE — AND WILL NOT RESULT AS MUCH HAVOC AS THE EL NINO OF 1982/83, THE STRONGEST IN A CENTURY.

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

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

Other weather specialists are not as certain that the current drought is symptomatic of an El Nino. "At this stage there is no evidence to show the El Nino weather phenomenon is a factor," says a spokesman for the Pretoria Weather Bureau.

Whatever the cause of the hot, dry days, however, they show no sign of abating. It is likely to result, — at least — and farmers look certain to again have to shoulder the brunt of the hostile weather.
Khayelitsha: New hope for the starving

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

DI CAELENS
Weekend Argus Reporter

ALTERNATIVE farming techniques - and a good dose of dedication and determination - have resulted in an oasis in the Khayelitsha “desert” designed to give hope to the township’s people.

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

The Khayelitsha Oasis is one of two well-stocked people’s garden centres - the other is in Nyanga - with the dual purpose of being both training centres and food nurseries.

Project co-ordinator Mr Dave Gelding said the major aim of the project was to help people grow some of their own food - fruit and vegetables, as well as to teach them “greening” the environment.

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

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

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

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

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

“Since we started in Khayelitsha in April 1989, we have seen sales of resources increase by 80 percent,” project developer Mr Bob Small said.

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

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

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

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

- Non-profit permaculture design courses to be run at Camp Hill Village Alpha in Malmsbury from March 1 to 14 and March 29 to April 2. Further information call Julia Wilson or Lori Lake at (021) 22345 before the end of January.

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

DESSERT FRUITS: Ms Christina Kaba, above, garden manager of the Khayelitsha people’s garden centre, shows off the spoils of the Abalimi Bezekhaya demonstration garden.

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

"Press formal" I am never quite sure whether...
Squatters conned out of R32 000

By Martin Ntsoeleno:

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

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

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

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

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

They said no one knew where he was.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chief Mathope wants them out by end of month

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

Mathope's account was supported by the commanding officer of the Boons Police Station, WO Du Preez, who said that what Matshitse did was totally wrong and contrary to the spirit of an agreement reached in 1912, when the farm was bought from JH Coetsee.

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

The title deed stipulated that the land on which the families were squatting be reserved for grazing and ploughing.
Elsie mourns death of boss, 'friend and father'

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

Friend

Domestic worker Mrs Mogotu mourns because “they have killed my friend, boss and father”. Mogotu’s boss, his wife and two daughters were victims of a man who said he did it because he was “killing apartheid”.

By IKE MOTSAPI

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

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

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

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

Soldiers

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

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

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

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

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

“This is really bad and I will not forsake the person who did this horrible thing.”
THE 300 black families of Tshepong, at Verkeerdevlei in the Free State, are living in fear of their lives following threats from the neighbouring white community.

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

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

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

Tension started to build up after the December killing of farmer Mr Bennie Engelbrecht, his wife, daughter and two grandchildren by a man who claimed he was “killing apartheid”.

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

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

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

“We now fear for our lives. What worries us is that we are not responsible for what is happening. We do not even know the man who was shown on television pro-

claiming that he killed Engelbrecht because he was killing apartheid.

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

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

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

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

“Free State regional commissioner of police, Major-General Tertius Calitz, will be addressing both communities tomorrow in an attempt to solve the problem,” she said.
Farmers desperate as drought tightens grip
By Helen Grange and Dirk Nel

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

And in the Eastern Cape, a small swarm of locusts has attacked crops.

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

There had also been veld fires in parts of the Free State because of the drought.
No success with Stals for agricultural union

GERALD REILLY (3 Gen)

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

The delegation, led by SAAU president Boet Fuurie, was told there was little hope of additional aid for the industry or of a softening in interest rates on agriculture’s debt, which would exceed R17bn by the year’s end, sources said. 3 (Day) 22/11/92.

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

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

Farmers’ interest payments amount to about R2.7bn a year. An SAAU spokesman said the interest burden constituted 35% of net farming income compared with 18% in 1980/81. About half the industry’s debt is in short-term loans from commercial banks and co-operatives.

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

Sapa reports the Free State Agricultural Union’s disaster and emergency relief committee has asked the SAAU to carry out a comprehensive investigation into the financial position of farmers.
MP warns of flare-up over squatter row

By Shirley Woodgate

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"The Red Cross estimated that between 65 and 80 percent of the people were employed in nearby Randburg and Sandton. It was a viable community until it was evicted," he said.

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

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

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

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

It was vital that an acceptable solution be found by keeping all avenues of debate open, he added.
Increasing demand for agricultural products has created a need for more effective irrigation systems. Traditional methods, such as flood irrigation, are inefficient and waste large amounts of water. New technologies, like drip irrigation, use water more efficiently and can be tailored to meet specific crop needs. This has led to a shift in farming practices and an increased focus on sustainability. Farmers are now encouraged to adopt these new methods to not only improve crop yields but also to conserve water resources.

In addition to technological advancements, there has been a push for better management of water resources. This includes implementing water conservation measures and creating awareness among farmers about the importance of efficient water use. Governments are offering incentives to farmers who adopt these new practices, and some are even providing infrastructure support to help them make the transition.

As a result, we are seeing a significant improvement in the water productivity of farms. This not only benefits the farmers themselves but also contributes to the overall stability of the agricultural sector. With ongoing research and development, we can expect to see even more innovative solutions that will further enhance water management and productivity in the future.
Land reform a searing issue

Tension is building up as some of the most vulnerable land claimants are being pushed off the farms, reports JO-ANNE COLLINGE.

Land rights groups claim these are forced removals which are put into effect by the private sector as farmers give notice to tenants who live on their land in exchange for labour.

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

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

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

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

Mr Nienabe, a third wife of five, is a tenant on the Piet Retief farm Moddervele. From what I understand, when the farms were surveyed my grandfather was already living there.

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

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

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

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

Mr Nienabe's mother, brother and sister have not been evicted. It appears that Mr Nienabe's hankering of vegetables has come between him and Mr Paul. "He says he doesn't want me on the farm - I'm a business man."

Unable to contact Moddervele's owner, the Star spoke to his brother, W.R. Paul, who farms at Giving. He told that the problem was that men from the labour tenant families were no longer prepared to work on the farm. "And the Government has a law that people on your farm must work for you - they are not idle.

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

The Legal Resources Centre, which runs a rural legal clinic in the Piet Retief area, says the 18 months to July 1991, the LRC assisted 70 labour tenant families. In January this year, at a single session of the clinic, legal advisors were faced with about 80 people who had either received "trekpassers" or who believed they were under threat of eviction.

"The current escalation of attacks on fundamental changes to structural changes. The 'New South Africa' is about the Land Act, the Group Areas Act and the Separate Amenities Act. The Government has also recently appointed the Advisory Commission on Land Legislation, an LRC press release notes.

"These changes and various other 'homelands' appear to have created a fear among the present farm owners about their own future."

Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) president Dries Brouwer argues with the proposition that evictions are, in part, pro-emptive action against possible future land claims by tenants. He also says that security concerns have motivated farmers to come to the farm Sterkfontein as a boy.

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

In the case of widow Chris- tina Hatungwe in her family's cattle into a neighbour's field appears to have provoked the issuing of notice. The family of Thomas Magagula (25) the isimwe came when he was charged with assault against the farmer who allegedly tortured and accused Mr Magagula of theft when he visited his family on the farm.

In about four years or more the LRC has been able to secure for labour tenants is the right to accord a period of notice. "One thing we have not been able to win for you through the courts is the right for you to live on your land forever - although we know that is what you want," LRC attor- ney Odettie Goldrey told labour tenants this week.

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

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

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

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

In the words of Mr Hlopo, who has been heard about the farm Sterkfontein in his 90 years there: "Some farmers Others come and go. But..."
Drought devastating crops
By Helen Grange
Pretoria Bureau

The drought has already devastated between 60 and 70 percent of crops in some areas of the Transvaal, Transvaal Agricultural Union chief executive Johan Hartman said yesterday.
Mr Hartman said that despite the hardiness of the maize plant, many maize fields were dying in the heat of each day without rain.

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

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

National Maize Producers

Organisation spokesman Giel van Zyl agreed that "tremendous" damage had already been done to crops.
"We won't be able to assess the extent of damage until the maize is literally burnt white. The Department of Agriculture is monitoring the situation and keeping Government informed, Mr van Zyl said.

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

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

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

By DAN DHLAMINI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mogoerane said he ran to Oom Andries se plas entertainment centre where a black man took him back to De Klerk and asked why he had shot him.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

City Press could not contact De Klerk.
Eskom lights up rural towns

ESKOM has taken over the electrification of two towns previously under the jurisdiction of the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

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

Eskom spokesman Mr Robin Larsen said, "Most of the consumers will receive electricity in terms of S1 tariff, which requires no deposit," he said.

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

By Jo-Anne Collinge 17/9/92

Police have opened a murder docket on a black youth who died on Christmas Eve, hours after being apprehended by two civilians in Elandskop, about 10 km south of Johannesburg.

The civilians arrested two men, an old man and a teenager, after a row over the mugging of a white dog and a "kaffir" black.

Police spokesman Captain Piet van Deventer said Samuel Stranskyho Le看不到 (23) "was arrested by a white man and a black man for allegedly stealing a radio and was handed over to police."

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

One of the last people to see Mr Le看不到 alive was a friend who saw him standing by the roadside in the afternoon of December 24 when a vehicle pulled up, with Louis Perie and a woman inside.

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

Later that day Mr Le看不到 was handed over to police.

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

"He said he wanted the radio and the gun from Stranskyho and he didn't get them. He told us that he left Stranskyho with the police at Orange Farm." Mr Perie confirmed this was so.

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

Eveline Mihethwa, a domestic worker, has laid charges of assault against two members of the De Deur police and her former employers at Walkervile.

When The Star interviewed Miss Mihethwa, she said she was a former employee of Chris Badenhorst of Walkervile, and his wife had assaulted her when she persisted in attempts to claim her December wages.

Mr Badenhorst reportedly claimed Miss Mihethwa smoked dagga and had assaulted him with a brick. He claimed there was nothing wrong with Miss Mihethwa when "I threw her out of my gate".

According to Miss Mihethwa, the day after her confrontation with the Badenhorsts, two white policemen traced her. They started hitting me - one had a long gun and he used the back of it and the other had a stick. They allegedly took her to the Badenhorst home and waited while she was made to clean the house. "Then they took me to the police station and locked me up till next morning."

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

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

Handing over white-owned land to people who couldn't manage it was not economically feasible, he said.

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

Report: Political Staff, Sapa.
'Land restitution won't wipe out apartheid legacy in agriculture'

By Esther Waugh
Political Reporter

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

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

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

Dr van Niekerk said equal opportunities could be utilised only if equal abilities existed.

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

**Training**

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

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

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

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

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

The department was restructuring and re-organising itself, and the 14 departments of agriculture were trying to consolidate their activities so as to avoid duplication, he added.
South Africa's population shift from rural to urban areas benefits neither region, reports Agricultural Correspondent GEORGE NICHOLAS.

TEN years ago, about 72,000 people lived in the rural areas of the Transvaal and Free State farming areas. Now, the number has increased to 120,000 people. This transformation of rural areas into urban centers is a problem that is causing concern, not only to the farmers, but also to many rural communities.

People are simply leaving the countryside to work in the towns and cities as the traditional farming practices are no longer a viable option. Many are disillusioned, when they fail to find work or suitable accommodation, and when their efforts do not bear fruit, they may return to the farms but tend to concentrate in squatter camps on land in the urban and peri-urban areas, where many of them wind up deep in poverty and debt.

The Apartheid government has introduced various policies to address the issue of migration. One of the most significant policies is the Rural Development Grant (RDG), which provides financial assistance to rural communities to promote sustainable livelihoods. However, the success of these programs is limited due to various factors, including lack of access to information, resources, and markets.

The diagram illustrates the movement of people from rural areas to urban centers. The RDG is shown as a bridge between the two, symbolizing the attempts to improve the quality of life for rural dwellers. The diagram highlights the need for a comprehensive strategy that addresses the root causes of migration, such as poverty, unemployment, and lack of opportunities.

In conclusion, the issue of migration is complex and requires a multi-faceted approach to tackle. The government, civil society, and private sector must work together to develop sustainable solutions that benefit both rural and urban communities. It is crucial to invest in education, job creation, and infrastructure development to reduce the temptation of migration and create opportunities for rural dwellers to thrive in their communities.
Negotiate land issues, Minister

and the advisory commission on land allocation was the result.

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

The commission, under the chairmanship of Mr Justice T H van Reenen, was set up in November 1991 in terms of the Abolition of Racially Based Land Measures Act of 1991.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MWU general secretary Piet Ungerer said the union started a campaign last year to form one union for all white workers. He said the union now had 40,000 members in key positions in the economy, including the mining, steel, chemical, electrical, municipal, postal and retail sectors. "Talks with the leaders of other white unions are currently under way and we hope to make an announcement soon," said Ungerer.

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

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

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

De Jager said the MWU wanted ANC president Nelson Mandela, as the de facto president of SA, to note that white workers would fight for self-determination.
The University of South Africa (Unisa) is planning to train students in the legalities of land ownership and rights — in view of critical developments surrounding the land issue and the current lack of expertise in this field.

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

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

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

A similar restructuring is envisaged for the existing optional LLB paper in Advanced Law of Property.
CAPE TOWN — Land issues should be solved through negotiation and consensus rather than costly court proceedings which might take years to resolve, Jacob de Villiers, Minister of Regional and Land Affairs, said yesterday.

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

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

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

The commission, chaired by Mr Justice T H van Reenen, was set up in November last year in terms of the Abolition of Racially Based Land Measures Act of 1991.

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

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

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

A unique project to introduce blacks to the world of agriculture

By NIKOPANE MAKOBANE

Image to care for. We have been painfully aware that our project is not to enter the environment and be as we need to approach it.

Although we contribute to the environment, there are people who contribute more diligently, we could not ignore the fact that we had an important role to play," Makoneye said.

In line with black economic empowerment, the NSSA can play an important role in the creation of jobs and economic advancement.

"As a company that derives its profits from the export of a commodity, we believe that we are the ones who should be in the forefront in this scheme. While we are addressing the waste problem, we are also going to empower our people. We are going to create jobs and help encourage people to grow black farmers as we would be supplying them with fertilizer and compost."

Another good thing is that this project will not only generate revenue for the University of the North, but our students will also have an opportunity to engage in real-life research," he said.

Objective

Makoneye said it was the long-term objective to establish an all-black farming community.

If successful, the operation would be run by the NSSA and were the initiative to work, it would have an economic benefit.

He believed that the operation would need about 100 hectares to work sufficiently.

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

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

Damage is irrepairable in some areas.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Natal has not had enough rain for sugar producers though the crop is not in danger now, says Cane Growers' Association's Brian Sugden. Last year the sugar crop grossed R2,46 bn with exports earning R530 m.

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

Citrus Exchange CE Doug Stanton says there is enough irrigation water for this year's crop, which should at least equal last year's exports of 31,5 m cartons, earning R1,11 bn in forex.

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

Wool Board GM Jan Kievit says that while enforced slaughtering of wool sheep could sharply reduce the seasonal clip to 85 m kg, higher wool prices could push up export earnings from last year's R697 m to an expected R788 m this year.

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

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

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

By MONWABISI NOMADOLO

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

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

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

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

**No explosives**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Moloi, a diabetic, died in December.

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

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

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

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

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

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

However, Weber said the family should lay a complaint against the police, who were allegedly led by a Captain Venter.
Drought-hit far north farmers hope for new livelihood in towns

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

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

Residents blamed the drastic drop in underground supplies on uncontrolled usage by private owners, who used expensive drilling and pumping equipment.

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

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

Transvaal Agriculture Union president Dries Bruwer recently predicted that many farmers would leave their land this year if it did not rain.

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

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

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

By Dirk Nel
Northern Transvaal Bureau

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

Strict water restrictions are in force in several towns.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Heat and dust . . . undernourished cattle in the desert-like bushveld near Alldays in the far northern Transvaal.
Cities will suffer if not built on a sound rural base

Paul Foster and Christopher Gregory

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

—Horace, 65 BC — 8 AD.

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

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

This is partly because agricultural activities necessarily have a low return in the drier parts of the country. It is also due to the inherent riskiness of agriculture, which encourages people to diversify their sources of income.

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

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

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

As in the developed world, these policies have been driven by the politically powerful farm lobby. In SA, this lobby has started to weaken, a process likely to continue. The removal of excessive subsidies to this sector is to be welcomed, and represents an attempt to make national economic efficiency. There is a danger, however, that the pendulum may be allowed to swing too far in the opposite direction.

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

Food prices in urban areas are frequently depressed for the benefit of middle-class consumers, at the cost of government subsidies and lower producer prices. Depressed producer prices directly harm the rural sector. In particular, this has penalised the activities of smallholders, who are often disadvantaged by agricultural products.

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

It is critical that, as SA shifts the balance of its political constituencies, it learns from these experiences. In reducing subsidies to the white commercial farm sector, the government should avoid capturing budgetary resources within the rural economy. Many Far Eastern industrial successes such as Japan and Taiwan achieved their early and rapid growth rates on the base of a healthy agricultural sector.

G

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

1 Head of Department
1 Teacher

**Oscar Mpetha**

1 Head of Department
2 Teachers

**Langa**

1 Head of Department
3 Teachers

**I D Mkize**

1 Teacher

**Feczea**

2 Teachers

Additional classroom places: Cape Peninsula

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

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

**B42E**

**The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING:**

Yes.

(a) (i) 680 (as a result of the construction of new classrooms) 6421 (due to the implementation of the platoon system)

(ii) 420 (as a result of the construction of new classrooms) 8240 (due to the implementation of the platoon system)

(b) New classroom places as a result of the construction of new classrooms:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Primary</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mkhanyakisele</td>
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<td>120</td>
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<td>Mfuleni</td>
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New classroom places as a result of the introduction of the platoon system:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Places</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ilifa</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuma</td>
<td>960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inkhanyeletla</td>
<td>960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nkomiso</td>
<td>1040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encositheni</td>
<td>1040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilo</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Nomlingsanielo**

628

**Linge**

720

**Hlengisa**

240

**Total**

6421

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secondary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ebutsheni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inalanganiiso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inkwanaleku</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vuyakasa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total**

11820

**Grand Total**

8240

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classrooms</th>
<th>Places</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total**

239 | 9145

**INTERPELLATION**

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

**Own Affairs:**

**State Revenue Fund: amounts returned**

Mr C H PIENAAR asked the Minister of Agricultural Development:

†1. Whether certain amounts for which provision was made in the estimates of his Department for the 1989-90 financial year were returned to the State Revenue Fund; if so, why?

(2) whether he foresees such an eventuality again occurring in the 1991-92 financial year?

**B112E INT**

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

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

This is normal State accounting.

The lion’s share of the balance of R39.8 million was originally voted for stock farmers’ disaster drought relief scheme but, in the 1989-90 financial year, the department received claims for only R15.91 million in respect of this scheme, and this was paid because it had rained and the drought did not persist.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

There is mention here of improved agricultural conditions. If one should take a look at the SAAM survey of agriculture which has just been published, one would see that the total farming profit, the net income after the payment of interest, for 1990-91 was almost R1.7 billion, or 25.4% lower than in 1989-90. These are improved agricultural conditions according to the NP Government.

The farmers’ burden of debt has increased. And these are improved agricultural conditions! The fact that increases in the prices of farming require a 16% and surpass those of products by a huge 5.3% indicates that the farmers’ exchange ratio deteriorated further. According to that department, however, agricultural conditions in South Africa have improved.

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

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

I want to suggest that it is the immediate priority to make available a direct cash subsidy for the payment of cash wages to farm workers. This will obviously have to take place with the necessary control. I am saying this because, although there are tens of thousands of farmers who are in a state of crisis and who could be helped successfully to survive it, we should remember that there are hundreds of thousands who would go under in a rationalisation programme and whose job opportunities would simply disappear.

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Dr F HARTZENBERG: That is true.

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

*Dr F HARTZENBERG: You have just said it.

*The MINISTER: This is what the CP does time after time. Then farmers swallow it whole because the hon member quotes from a book and tells them to take a look at the way this Government treats farmers. [Interjections] They conduct dialogue as if they were the farmers’ champions. Actually the SA Agricultural Union is the farmers’ champion. The SA Agricultural Union and this Government have a firm agreement to talk to one another to try out these problems.

*Mr C H PIENAAR: You are no champion.

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

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

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

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

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

I want to give the hon the Minister a single example, namely Canada. He can ascertain the facts for himself. Over the past three months Canada has even used a year’s budgeted amount of R7.1 billion to subsidise farmers because their incomes are low. This amounts to as much as R0.00000 per annum per farmer, in other words per farm.

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

Our Government is squandering billions of non-production-orientated projects and then enormous sums of money are borrowed in an effort to pay the current expenditure of the State. We then have a high State-created rate of inflation and try to curb it by keeping interest rates sky high, interest rates above 15% levelling that any agricultural producer can afford. Instead of real steps to help farmers pay their accumulated debt of R18 billion, agricultural budgets are deliberately pruned almost annually. Even budgeted money is being redeposited while farmers are wretched and impoverished. [Time expired.]

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

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

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

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

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

(1) Whether any cases have been brought to his attention where members of management council members have in an irregular manner persuaded parents in the Transvaal to vote in favour of school models B and C; if so, what cases;

(2) whether he intends taking any steps in this connection; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

B3E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

(1) No, however I am aware of complaints about attempts to persuade parents.

(2) No, because steps have already been taken.

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

West Rand: school model C

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

(1) Whether the voting percentages required for the implementation of school model C were met at two schools in the West Rand area, whose names have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply; if so, what are the relevant details; if not,

(2) whether, despite the voting percentages recorded, he has granted permission for the implementation of school model C at those schools; if so, (a) what are the names of the schools and (b) on what grounds did he grant permission;

(3) whether any steps are contemplated to protect the rights of the parents who did not vote in favour of school model C; if so, what steps?

B3E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

(1) No,
Innovative deal by Landmark

STAR 5/2/92.

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

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

"The buyer wanted extensive renovations. They wanted ownership but with a very small deposit. The building did not warrant more than an 80 percent bond and the seller was not prepared to settle for a rental," says Mr Braude.

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

Problem

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

Which is when Landmark got creative. They devised an instalment deed of sale plan which enabled the buyer to put down a 10 percent deposit and make up a 30 percent deposit over two years through three balloon payments culminating in the payment of the balance outstanding at the end of the two-year period.

"The buyer and seller signed joint liability for a bond of 80 percent. The seller took a separate bond of 40 percent of the renovated value of the building as cash in hand and the interest being paid by the buyer services that bond in the hands of the seller."

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

Investors

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

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

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

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

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

Is this a risky deal? Mr Braude believes not.

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

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

Drought forces maize imports

By Helen Grange
Pretoria Bureau

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

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

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

Mr van Zyl warned that there could be food shortages because the transport system would be inadequate to import the amount of maize that may be needed.

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

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

Agriculture Minister Dr Krais van Nickerk is in daily contact with officials of his department. He plans to survey farms in the OFS and western Transvaal by helicopter next week and attend meetings in Kroonstad and Bethal. Various political parties and agricultural authorities are due to meet him.

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

The SA Agricultural Union has predicted that the maize crop could fall below 6 million tons this year, the smallest crop in a decade.

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

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

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

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

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

The Argus Correspondent

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

And agriculture experts predict South Africa will have to import up to 23-million tons of maize to meet the demand this year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pretoria Correspondent

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

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

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

Professor van Zyl said the agriculture department had up until the present trained postgraduate students to do research, but there was an urgent need for subject matter specialists and extensionists as practical links between researchers and farmers.

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

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

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

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

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

The House's Order Paper showed the debate was proposed by CP chief whip Frank le Roux. Agriculture Minister Kriel van Niekerk is scheduled to visit the drought-stricken summer grain-producing areas early next week.

He expressed concern about the critical situation in the Free State and Transvaal in particular.

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

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

Sure Holdings Limited

Sure Holdings Limited is authorised to announce that the Company to proceed with the sale to a strategic alliance with the ('Inhold') were approved at the meetings of the Company, Inhold and ('Investec') held on 31 January 1992. At the Company resolutions increasing the capital of the Company by the creation of preference shares and sanctioning their issue.

Harvestime to retrench 500

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

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

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

The decline in demand was probably being caused by the current state of the economy, with people eating more cheaply, he said. — Sapa.
Van Niekerk set for aerial ‘scorched earth’ inspection

45 MPs to attend whistle-stop meetings as drought deepens

ALAN DUNN
Political Correspondent

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

He has invited about 45 MPs to attend meetings he will address on Monday and Tuesday in Kroonstad and Bethal.

In terms of an agreement between him and the Conservative Party, Transvaal Agricultural Union chairman Mr Dries Bruwer and Free State Agricultural Union chairman Dr Piet Gous, both of them MPs, will accompany him in their political capacities.

Dr van Niekerk, accompanied also by his deputy Mr Tobie Meyer and senior officials, will visit Bloemfontein, Senekal, Bethlehem, Vrede, Heilbron and Bothaville on Monday.

On Tuesday, he will fly to Klerksdorp, Wolmaransstad, Scheizer-Reineke, Lichtenburg, Venterdorp, Potchefstroom, Vereeniging, Greylingsdacht, Standerton, Morgenson, Davel, Bethal, Trichardt, Devon, Springs and Pretoria.

The government has an emergency scheme to feed farmers and their workers who are going hungry because of the drought.

Aid committees would be set up immediately to start supplying those in need, Minister of Health Dr Rina Venter announced as the House of Assembly debated what was described as the “worst drought this century”.

Health, agricultural and welfare officials, and members of national women’s organisations would form these committees to judge individual cases.

Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk said of the drought: “It looks as though the 12 plagues of Egypt and a few more are queuing to ravage agriculture.”

He said in a special debate marked by general agreement between the parties that it was not only the farmer facing hard times. It was every worker, every rural inhabitant, every rural business, every rural official.

The whole rural economy was at stake, he said.

Other implications were less food, which was costlier and poorer in quality, and greater dependence on imported food, which was inferior and more expensive.

Food self-sufficiency in South Africa was an important priority: “This makes agriculture a strategic business and that is what it is in the government’s eyes.”

The country had lost many farmers for various reasons in past years.

“The disaster now hitting us leaves farmers again staring insolvency in the face.”

South Africa could not afford to lose more competent farmers, particularly in circumstances over which they had little or no control.

Dr Venter
Dr Van Niekerk

The State would therefore have to establish aid measures to keep farmers on their lands as far as possible. This would have to be done individually. Organised agriculture could help by surveying the financial positions of each farmer. But the intensity of the damage had first to be determined, and the first reasonably reliable crop estimates could only be done in the middle of March.

“After this the aid wheels can really start turning faster,” he said.

He assured farmers of government understanding and sympathy “in their hour of need”. The State would not turn its back on them and would help them again within its financial capacity.

“I have cleared this principle with the Cabinet and it is again positively confirmed,” he said.

Agriculture ministers had in the past never returned from the Cabinet emergency when a disaster struck agriculture, Mr Van Niekerk said.

But he said it took time and “does not happen overnight”.

“This does not mean we are dragging our feet and I appeal for understanding for the processes and prescribed budgetary procedures.”

The government would have to look not only to farmers, but agricultural communities as a whole.

It was worrying that co-operatives were, as a result, facing a crunch. Some had been sequestrated. Some faced amalgamation.

Attention would have to be given this — without co-operatives there would be chaos in the agricultural sector.

Mr Van Niekerk said all financial institutions with an interest in agriculture would have to contribute to solving these problems.

“I therefore appeal to the Land Bank, commercial banks and other creditors not to act hastily or irresponsibly in these difficult times. It would be in nobody’s interest.”

Mr Dries Bruwer (CP Lydenburg) described the drought as the worst this century. He said city dwellers, the government, the ANC and other organisations did not seem to realise what was happening, and the consequences.

It was the big, expert farmers who were collapsing. All sectors should jointly act to prevent a catastrophe.

Mr Bruwer, also chairman of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, said if it did not rain by Sunday there would be no crops left in the Western Transvaal.

In central Transvaal (Delmas, Middelburg), less than a 40 percent crop remained.

In Eastern Transvaal conditions were critical. Eighty percent of the crops had been damaged.

The Northern Transvaal, which had had periodic droughts since 1974, was on its knees. Various co-operatives were collapsing, Mr Bruwer said.

Mr Mike Tarr (DP Maritzburg North) said tragedy threatened. The drought stalking the rural areas would affect all, he said, raising the prospect of a 30 to 50 percent increase in food prices.

It would cause further unemployment and government should be planning relief.
Drought expected to push up food prices

By Paula Fray
Consumer Reporter

The prices of agricultural produce are set to soar as consumers pick up the high cost of the searing drought gripping the country.

Unless the present heatwave over various farming areas is broken soon, embattled consumers reeling under double-digit food inflation could face even harsher price increases.

Yesterday, National Co-operatives Dairies Ltd group manager Dr Martiens Hermann announced an 8,02c increase in the producer's price of milk from March 1 because of the drought.

Similar increases would be passed on to wholesalers, but there was no need for retailers to pass on the increases to consumers "immediately," Dr Hermann said. NCD controls a third of the dairy market.

This follows a Meat Board warning that drought conditions in the country could push the price of meat up by an estimated 15 to 24 percent this year.

The Meat Board's management information systems head, Jurie Shymann, said if it did not rain within the next two weeks there would be "drastic consequences for the meat industry and carcasses would have to be bought in".

On Monday, the Meat Board announced price increases of 3,3 percent for beef, 2,8 percent for mutton and 13,3 percent for pork.

However, the Consumer Council has warned that consumers expect to benefit from surpluses and would turn to alternative products if meat prices soared again.

"Consumers will buy less meat if prices increase in spite of the expected surplus of this product due to the drought," said Consumer Council executive director Jan Cronje.

Meat prices soared by 33,8 percent last year, according to the Central Statistical Service.

Mr Cronje said consumers were strapped for cash as a result of the economic recession and would resist price increases that were not in line with the principle of demand and supply.

"In the interest of the survival of their industry, producers and marketers of red meat are advised to keep the depleted buying power of consumers in mind before increasing the price of their products indiscriminately," said Mr Cronje.

There is widespread concern in agricultural circles about the effect of the drought on the maize market as a disastrous year for maize could ripple through to other industries.

Maize Board spokesman Piet Denyschen said the conditions were still dry and there had already been damage to crops.

"Indications are there will be a shortage of maize for local consumption," he said. Maize would then have to be imported.

Exact figures on the effect of the drought could not be given as the "situation is changing" on a daily basis, he said.

Consumers will know in March how the drought has affected maize crops as the board meets then to decide on prices for the next year.

A source in the food industry reiterated market concern for the maize crop -- not just as a feed but as a basic foodstuff under threat of shortages.

"Shortages would, on the principle of demand and supply, push up prices," he said.

According to the source, the citrus and vegetable growing areas in the Overberg Valley of the eastern Cape, already suffering from bad rains in previous years, has been severely affected by the drought.

This could lead to shortages for canned and frozen products which, in turn, could put additional pressure on the price in terms of demand and supply.
Rural economy collapsing
drought a ‘national disaster’

The Government has activated an existing emergency scheme to feed farmers and their workers who are going hungry as the crippling drought threatens to become a national disaster.

National Health Minister Dr Rina Venter announced yesterday that aid committees would be set up immediately to start supplying those in need.

She spoke during a special House of Assembly debate in Cape Town, during which the drought was described as "the worst this century".

Dr Venter said health, agricultural and welfare officials as well as members of national women’s organisations would form these committees to judge individual cases.

Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk said: "It looks as though the 12 plagues of Egypt and a few more are queuing to ravage agriculture."

And the chairman of the National Farmers Producers Organisation (Nampo), Ceres Claassen, said yesterday the drought was no longer an agricultural crisis but a national disaster.

Mr Claassen said the disaster - with its anticipated effects on the country's economy - needed to be addressed urgently with extraordinary measures by the Government.

It could be estimated that about 100,000 black farm workers, who had up to nine dependents each, would be stripped of their livelihoods. It could therefore be estimated that work and housing for up to 1 million black people were seriously threatened as a result of the extensive crop failure.

Mr Claassen added that the business infrastructure of platteland towns - already close to breaking point due to poor agricultural conditions over the decades - would be strangled.

Professional people such as doctors, dentists and lawyers would close their doors, at the same time forfeiting thousands of job opportunities, and there would be further retrenchments with the loss of big companies in transport, pharmaceuticals and petrol among others, he said.

"Hundreds of thousands of workers and their families - black and white - were threatened. Squatter camps around the cities would grow, along with an increase in unrest, robbery and murder," he said.

Food shortages could, for the first time in decades, be a reality.

Mr Claassen said that it had, in the past, never returned from the Cabinet empty-handed when a disaster struck agriculture, Mr van Niekerk said:

"It takes time, it does not happen overnight," he cautioned. "This does not mean we are dragging our feet and I appeal for understanding for the processes and prescribed budgetary procedures."

Dries Bruwer (CP Lydenburg) said city dwellers, the Government, the ANC and other organisations did not seem to realise what was happening.

It was the biggest expert farmers who were collapsing. All sectors should jointly act to prevent a catastrophe.

Mr Bruwer, chairman of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, said only 22 percent of the Transvaal’s crop would exist as of Wednesday. Sunday, he said, would see no crops left.

In the eastern Transvaal conditions were extremely critical. Eighty percent of the crops had been damaged.

The northern Transvaal, which had suffered periodic droughts since 1974, was on its knees. Various co-operatives were collapsing, Mr Bruwer said.

The Acting State President, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, and MPs will attend an hour of prayer for rain at the Groote Kerk in Cape Town at lunchtime today.

Drought to push up food prices - Page 6
Govt launches food aid plan for farmers

CAPE TOWN — Government is launching a food aid plan for farmers and their labourers who are suffering in the drought ravaging most of the country.

National Health Minister Rina Venter said yesterday she had given "urgent" instructions for the programme to be established.

The drought was the subject of a four-hour debate in the House of Assembly yesterday, where Dries Bruwer (CP Lydenburg), who is also president of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, warned that it was probably the biggest disaster yet to hit SA's farmers.

Wessel Nel (DP Mool River) said the livelihood of SA's 6 000 farmers and their 1.3-million labourers was threatened.

Venter said in a statement the National Health and Population Development Department would set up the programme to provide "continuous" assistance to those in need. It would draw from the Nutritional Development Programme.

Aid committees would be established immediately on a district level, and farmers who needed assistance for themselves and their labourers should contact their local agricultural extension officer.

* See Page 3
PRETORIA — The drought was no longer just an agricultural crisis — it had spun into a national disaster with dire socio-economic consequences, Nampo chairman Cornels Claassen said yesterday.

In a statement from Bothaville, he warned that tens of thousands of black farmworkers would lose their jobs and government would probably have to find up to R1,5bn to import between 2-million and 3-million tons of maize this year.

To counter the catastrophic short- and long-term impact of the worst drought in decades, extraordinary relief measures were required. The jobs and housing of up to 1-million people were threatened. The infrastructures of platteland towns, after a decade of decline, had reached breaking point.

The major input companies — fertiliser, tractor manufacturers, petroleum and other industries — were threatened and further heavy job losses would occur.

The accelerated stream of rural population to urban squatter camps would aggr­­e­­vate crime and unrest. Neither would the SA consumer escape the bitter consequences of the drought. There could be food shortages for the first time in SA.

The financial risks associated with maize production had assumed such proportions that most meatie farmers did not have the reserves to survive a failed harvest, he said.

"Literally thousands of farmers in the summer grain areas face sequestration and if government aid policy is not upgraded they will look in vain for production loans from commercial banks and co-operatives for the new season," he said.

Senior Absa economist Adam Jacobs said Nampo was not exaggerating — "what is happening in the summer grain areas is a national disaster".

Prices of most farm products would rise putting pressure on the CPF and on consumer buying power generally.

"One of the worst summer seasons in living memory is going to make us all poorer."

Greater unemployment in rural areas was inevitable, as more farmers collapsed financially, exacerbating the urban squatter problem.

The virtual certainty of costly maize imports would have a direct impact on the balance of payments.

Our political staff reports that yesterday's special House of Assembly debate on a "matter of public importance" was marked by widespread agreement that the situation was dire in many areas of the country. Only parts of Natal and the western Cape had escaped the ravages of the drought.

Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk said government had great sympathy with the farmers "in their hour of need" and would assist the agricultural sector within the limits of its financial capacity.

He called on financial institutions — the Land Bank, commercial banks and other creditors — not to act hastily and irresponsibly in this difficult time.
The government is launching a massive food-aid plan for farmers and their labourers who are suffering in the drought ravaging most of the country.

The Democratic Party estimated that most of South Africa's 6,000 farmers and their 1.3 million labourers were threatened. Only parts of Natal and the Western Cape have escaped the drought.

Nampo, the National Association of Maize Producers, said 100,000 farm workers' jobs were in danger. It said each worker had an average of eight dependants, prompting fears of a huge exodus of poor people from the platteland to the cities.

Yesterday, the three parties in the House of Assembly were united in describing the drought as one of the worst agricultural crises the country had ever faced and accepting that drastic action was needed.

The drought was the subject of a four-hour debate in the House and the Conservative Party MP for Lydenburg, Mr Dries Burger, said it would appear that urban dwellers did not understand the extent of the disaster.

Mr Burger, who is also president of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, said: "One also gets the impression that the perception exists that the government also does not understand it."

CP deputy leader Dr Ferdis Hartzenberg urged the government to take "desperate measures" such as a debt standstill to enable insolvent farmers to stay on their land. He said harvest estimates for the Western Transvaal were "virtually nil."

**Prayers**

The CP MP for Standerton, Mr Roos de Ville, warned that the drought could lead to prices going "sky high" for consumers.

Today MPs will gather in the Great Court during lunch-hour to pray for rain at a bilingual multi-denominational service.

The Minister of Health Services and Welfare, Dr Ruia Venter, said that aid committees consisting of agricultural extension officers of the Department of Agriculture and representatives of national women's organisations would immediately be established in the districts affected by the drought. Welfare departments would also assist.

The immediate need for food assistance would be determined by the district aid committee, which would pass on its evaluations to the Department of National Health and Population Development.

The Minister of Agriculture, Dr Kaisi van Blaaderen, said the government would assist the agricultural sector within the limits of its financial capacity.

He called on the Land Bank, commercial banks and other creditors "not to act hastily and irresponsibly at this difficult time."

The DP MP for Maritzburg North, Mr Mike Tarr, called on the government to consider short-term measures such as subsidies for high interest rates, debt-restructuring schemes, production credits, transport subsidies and direct subsidies to farm labourers.

The DP MP for Maritzburg South, Mr Rob Harwell, said disruption in rural areas led to migration, mainly to metropolitan areas.

Port Elizabeth frozen-food manufacturer Harvestine is to retract about 500 people nationwide — victims of the drought in the Eastern Cape and the declining economy.

The Harvestine chairman and managing director of Table Top, Mr Gert Schuurman, said the drought was causing a lack of adequate supplies. Operations in Port Elizabeth had to be scaled down, due mainly to declining demand for frozen vegetables.

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

The chairman of Nampo, Mr C. Neels Claassen, said tens of thousands of black farm workers would lose their jobs and the government would probably have to find up to R1.5bn to import between two and three million tons of maize this year. Food shortages could not be ruled out.

The infrastructure of platteland towns after a decade of decline had also reached breaking point.

"Because of this doctors, dentists, lawyers and businessmen could finally close their doors and thousands more would be out of work,"

The major input companies — fertiliser, tractor manufacturers, petroleum and other industries — were threatened and further heavy job losses would occur.

Senior Absa economist Mr Adam Jacobs said Nampo was not exaggerating: "What is happening in the summer grain areas is a national disaster on a large scale."

— Political Staff and Sapa
FARMERS in the eastern Transvaal are up in arms about toxic fallout from a German-owned vanadium plant that they say is linked to a disease which kills cattle and causes cows to abort prematurely.

And the health of people living near the factory, in the upper Drakensberg, may be at risk. A farmer who has bordered the chemical plant claims his lungs have been made "sensitive" by the pollution, while preliminary studies conducted by the Medical Research Council indicate that one in two people in the district suffer from eye irritations.

The department of health, responsible for monitoring pollution emanating from the Transvaal Alloys factory, owned by the German multinational Norddeutsche Affiliette, appears to be dragging its feet over addressing the problem.

"Your factory poisons 30km and further the environment around you," said farmer Piet Geldenhuys in a letter to the company. "In die nag is die swart en wit heet om die fakiriek (everything that lives around your factory dies): fish, birds, animals and a large number of plants and the people are being drastically affected.

The plant refines vanadium ore to produce vanadium pentoxide and ammonium metavanadate. These appear to be strategic commodities used in the cement and motor industries, as well as in the manufacture of synthetic fuels. GR Hoven, general manager of Transvaal Alloys, refused to tell The Weekly Mail why the company's clients were interested.

Hoven has denied any responsibility for endangering the environment around the plant. He is backed by the government's chief air pollution officer, Martin Lloyd, who says the "dust on the windscreen in my office causes more trouble than the air in the eastern Transvaal".

But this has not deterred Geldenhuys from recording a campaign against the multinational. And the farmer has received backing from a team of scientists based at Onderstepoort near Pretoria - toxicology researchers began investigations after they received reports of cattle deaths and vanadium poisoning in the area.

Two-year-old heifer calves on the farm seem to have stopped growing at six months. But they are the lucky survivors in the past five years. Geldenhuys claims that as much as 50 percent of his dairy herd has died in the last five years.

A local vet identified the disease as "illihair" - a chronic disease that suppresses the immune system of livestock, disrupts the animal's ability to digest food and impairs fertility. It appears to be caused by long-term exposure to toxicants.

Onderstepoort's final report, issued in August, concluded that vanadium toxicity was the underlying cause. "What we have witnessed was the kind of toxicological condition that would lead us to believe the animals on Mr Geldenhuys's farm have been suffering from the effects of excessive levels of vanadium, we feel confident that vanadium to uicidity is the under-
'Don’t blame us,’ says factory

LAWYERS for Transvaal Alloy yesterday said the Onderstepoort report “is tentative and is based on circumstantial evidence. A survey by independent experts has not revealed anything to indicate that TA has contributed to Mr Geldenhuys’ problems in any way”.

According to TA: “The plant has been upgraded continuously in order to modernise the equipment and ensure that the company complies with the obligations in terms of the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act. The company holds a registration certificate issued in terms of this Act.

“Monthly, gravimetric monitoring, in line with Act 70 of 1973 as amended, of the plant surrounds is done by an authority accredited by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs — Air Quality Division. This monitoring reveals that the company is in compliance with the required standards. The company is aware of no conclusive evidence that its operations have caused any damage to Mr Geldenhuys.

“The company indicated that if Mr Geldenhuys persisted in his claims to the contrary, it would be necessary to arrange for certain sampling to be undertaken on his property. Mr Geldenhuys has refused to give the company access to his property.

“During 1975, an earlier owner of the property, a Mr Jacobs, brought a claim in the supreme court against the company for damages ... Expert evidence obtained by the company indicated that the problem experienced by Mr Jacobs arose from poor agricultural practices rather than from contamination or pollution from the company.”
The curse that hangs over 3 farmers
Piet’s land

Strange things have been happening on Piet Geldenhuys’ once-thriving farm. Bull calves stop growing at six months. Those are the lucky ones; Geldenhuys claims to have lost half his dairy herd.

Farm children suffer from chest ailments and asthma. There seems to be a high incidence of kidney problems. Geldenhuys says his lungs are “rotting”. Local workers will not live on the farm because there is a high incidence of women miscarrying.

What is the curse hanging over the Geldenhuys farm? He blames a factory next door which produces vanadium, an alloy which toughens steel. Some respected scientists agree.

A national vet says the cattle suffer from a disease called “illthrift” which suppresses the immune system of livestock, disrupts the animal’s ability to digest food and impairs fertility. It is caused by long-term exposure to toxins.

Scientists at Onderstepoort near Pretoria believe that the animals on the Geldenhuys farm suffer from excessive levels of vanadium toxicity, which damages their immune system, making them susceptible to other diseases.

But the issue is more complex. The owners of the plant — which produces alloys strategically important to the arms industry — have the government health department on their side.

The government’s chief air pollution officer says: “The dust on the windowsill in my office carries more toxins than the air in the eastern Transvaal.”

Full story: PAGE 5
Weekend Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The Western Transvaal is in the grip of the worst drought in memory.

Mr Pieter Maree, who has farmed in the area for 54 years, warned: "I don't know what will become of the farmers now. What I do know is that there will be chaos in this country.

"The people in the cities don't know what is happening out here. But come winter they will realise when they see how little food there is on the market."

And at the same time a shortage of maize has turned export to import.

Mr Dries Bruwer, chairman of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, estimates that by the middle of next week three-quarters of the region's crops will have been destroyed. That alone would be enough to drive farmers to despair.

But many have been driven to the wall by droughts up to last year from the 1960s. Many have gone bankrupt.

Agriculture Minister Mr Kraal van Niekerk will visit the Free State on Monday.

"There will be hard words at that meeting because farmers here can't see where the help for them is coming from," said one agricultural official.

Sapa reports from Pretoria that the South African Maize Board still has to meet export commitments, in spite of an estimated deficit in stocks of nearly three million tons.

Warning of city chaos

In a statement yesterday the board said crop prospects were between four and five million tons, but warned that lack of immediate soaking rains would scale down expectations even further.

Pointing out that the drought and accompanying high temperatures during the past six weeks were the worst experienced in the summer grain area in 50 years, the board noted that in many regions there was no crop and that the rest of the area was far below normal.

The deficit is complicated by unprecedented increases in maize consumption. This, said the board, means that supplementing stocks before the new season is urgent.

Permission had already been given by the board for importing about 100 000 tons during April.

But increased consumption was eroding the additional stock.

It is expected that the board will have at least one million tons of maize available at April 30. Without imports, this would meet the national requirements for maize until the end of June.
Cities will not escape the drought

JAN du Plessis and his family don’t go down to the stream on their farm these days.

“We used to sit here and relax, make a braai, sometimes catch fish,” says Mr du Plessis, who has worked the farm Witpoortjie near Klerksdorp for nearly 25 years.

“Now we don’t go there because it’s too terrible to see it like this.”

The Schoenspruit stream is now a bed of sand and stones. Mr du Plessis and his wife Muriel have the family photo albums — snaps of children fishing, swimming, wading — to show what it used to be like.

“The spruit has been low before,” he says, “but I’ve never seen it run dry like this.”

The western Transvaal is in the grip of the worst drought in living memory. Dries Bruwer, chairman of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, estimates that by the middle of next week, three-quarters of the region’s crops will have been destroyed.

That alone would be enough to drive farmers to despair, heaped on to the damage already wrought by the droughts of the 1980s and last year, many have been driven to the wall.

“Many of the people in this area have gone bankrupt,” Mr du Plessis says. “I would say more than 20 in an area of about 40 sq km. And they were all strong farmers, men who had a lot of money, men who came here and bought their farms for cash.”

Crisis point

“There are always auctions,” he adds. “But you try not to go to your neighbour’s auction. Somehow it seems disreputable. I just went to one, bought my neighbours’ firearms then gave them straight back to him as a last gift.”

Many would assume that Mr du Plessis, who moved away from mealie farming to concentrate on raising cattle, would be in a less precarious position.

But the state of his pastures — a mix of stubble burnt brown by the sun and ash grey where the wind has turned grass to powdery dust — reminds him daily of just how close to crisis point he is.

“There is no grazing to be had here, and I can’t afford to buy it. There’s not much to be had, anyway.”

“I’ve already sold off my calves. And if there’s no rain next week, I’ll be forced to start selling my animals. Some of them cost me R1 000 each — I’m not sure I will even get R500 for them.”

Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk will be visiting the Free State on Monday and will meet farmers in the western Transvaal the following day. “There will be hard words at that meeting, because the farmers here can’t see where the help for them is coming from,” said one agricultural official.

Said Pieter Maré, who has farmed in the area for 54 years: “I don’t know what will become of the farmers now. What do I know is that there will be chaos in this country.”

“The people in the cities don’t know what is happening out here. But, come winter, they will realize when they see how little food there is on the market.”
This is my home, why must I go?

JOHN PERLMAN

ALFRED MOYO can't understand why some people think he should go and live in Soweto or Alexandra.

The 60-year-old house-painter has lived on farms and plots north of Johannesburg for his entire life, the last three years in Zevetfontein.

"I was born in Honeymead on one of the farms where my parents lived, both working," says Mr Moyo. "Then my father died and I had to find out how to live for myself."

Mr Moyo, who started off working as a clerk, says he thought at times about moving to a township, but knew there was little point.

"I knew if I tried to go there the law would stand in my way. The police would not just let me go and live in the location."

"By this time I had married a woman from there, we would not have been able to live together. So I told myself I would have to live according to the laws of the farms."

Over time, though, the laws of the farms began to change. "In the old days, a plot in these areas was more than 200 acres," Mr Moyo says.

"But as the place developed, the plots got smaller. Then the owners would say they didn't want any more people there."

Mr Moyo says more than half the people at Zevetfontein grew up in the area. "There are some who were born elsewhere, but they have spent most of their lives on these plots and farms."

Olembile Motseki, 60, was not born in the area. He first farm at Otovos, Transvaal, when he was a young man to seek work in Johannesburg.

"Otovos was a small place. There was no work," he explains. He was too young to live in a township, partly because he was part-time in building gangs and partly because he felt it was no place to raise a family.

"These places are too rough," says Mr Motseki.

He settled in a small room on a plot, but was forced to leave when the owners objected to his family being there. "They said there was not enough room to raise a child," he says.

"But if that is not possible, then the government should find a place where the people can build their own house and we can pay rent like in any township."

Mr Motseki insists that the Zevetfontein community is law-abiding. "We have a committee to run things and there has never been any fighting or any stealing."

"Most of the time, I go to a nearby school, as do Mr Moyo's. A number of residents own motor vehicles, including Mr Motseki, who has a sturdy-looking Volvo.

And both men say the majority of Zevetfontein residents are in stable jobs. "I think more than 70 percent of the people here are working," says Mr Moyo. "These young men you see in the day time at work in the hotels at night." Mr Moyo knows there is great white opposition to the continued existence of Zevetfontein, but says he feels "neither angry nor sad" about it and expects that that attitude will change.

"All we want is to live and I think they know we have nowhere to go. I don't really see why they would want to give us a hassle."

OLEMBILE MOTSEKI: Lest his possessions when bulldozers flattened the shacks. He also lost his job when he missed work the day after the demolition.

Photographs: JOHN HOGG

ALFRED MOYO: A house-painter, he has lived on farms and plots north of Johannesburg for all of his 47 years, the last three at Zevetfontein.
Identify land for housing, says ANC

MINING land and land being held for speculative purposes should be used for low-cost housing, the ANC said in a statement yesterday.

Urging the creation of a forum to establish a housing policy and to identify suitable land, the ANC said these steps were vital to prevent conflicts such as that involving the Zevenfontein squatters.

The ANC, the statement said, believed that planning should be a public process enabling parties such as civic, local authorities, ratepayers, the private sector and the general public to take part in decisions that affected them.

“All this should be underpinned by the principle that the needs of the urban homeless must be affordably met.”

The State, it said, was obliged to seek out land suitable for residential sites and encourage the use of vacant land being held for speculative purposes.

“Furthermore, the assumption that mining land is untouchable should be challenged, as such vacant land is often well suited for residential purposes.” — Sapa.
R17bn debt mounts for farmers hit by drought

By PETER MALHERBE

DEBTS run up by South African farmers have passed the R17-billion mark — more than the country’s total budget for defence, education and law and order.

This was despite direct state assistance worth R7.4-billion over the past decade.

Roughly 50 percent of the debt is owed to commercial banks and financial institutions, 44 percent to co-operatives and the Land Bank and six percent to the Agricultural Board.

Now, with one of the worst droughts in memory threatening to destroy crops and drive up food prices, the chances of farmers reducing the mountain of debt are slipping away.

The South African Agricultural Union warned this week that the effects of the drought could be “catastrophic” and there could be food shortages.

Disaster

SAAU president Boet Fourie said many farmers could be forced into liquidation and the survival of hundreds of platteland communities was at stake.

“Can you imagine the impact it will have on the country if so many farmers are allowed to leave their land?” he asked.

Meanwhile, the Maize Board, which is predicting a shortfall of two to three million tons of maize this season, still has to meet export commitments agreed to before the drought.

This season’s export sales amount to more than 800 000 tons, not all of which has been shipped yet.

Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk responded to growing calls for help this week by saying the government would assist the agricultural sector within the limits of its financial capacity.

The Minister, who is to meet the SAAU next Friday after a tour of drought-stricken areas earlier in the week, called on financial institutions not to act hastily or irresponsibly.

Help

National Maize Producers’ Organisation chairman Cerneels Claassen said the drought was no longer an agricultural crisis but a “national disaster”.

He warned that tens of thousands of black workers could lose their jobs on farms and in farm-related industries and the government could face a R1.8-billion bill for maize imports.

The Meat Board this week said the price of meat could rise by 15-24 percent this year.

SAAU chief economist Dr Koos du Toit said farmers had accumulated a debt of R17-billion by the middle of last year, but this was likely to be closer to R16-billion now.

The estimated R17-billion debt represents a significant increase since 1989, when farmers owed R3.8-billion. In 1985 their debts rose to R11.1-billion and at the end of 1990 the figure was R15.8-billion.

The total for this year is higher than the combined 1991/92 state budgets for law and order (R4.63-billion), education and training (R3.13-billion) and defence (R9.18-billion).

Interest repayments on the debts are now R2.4-billion a year.

Of the total debt bill, the amount owed to the Land Bank increased by R75-million last year to R325-million, with unpaid interest and capital instalments amounting to more than R235-million.
HUNGER now, starvation tomorrow.

This is the stark reality threatening millions of people caught in the grip of the worst drought to hit the country this century.

Welfare workers predict a human catastrophe of enormous proportions as already impoverished rural communities face starvation.

Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman said it would take a miracle to save crops in some areas.

"We are praying daily for our subsistence farmers in Mahlabuyini, Ramatlahama, Winterveldt, Nkandla and Lebowa," Perlman said.

She added that her organisation was struggling to find funds to feed the people who already served and were praying they would be able to help the ballooning waiting list of 500 000.

"There is now the need to double and treble food aid while we are desperate trying to find the cash for several hundred self-help projects," Perlman said.

Jannie Momberg (DP Simon's Town) said in Parliament this week at least five million black people would be drastically affected by the drought.

It was calculated that about 1.1 million people were employed on farms in S.A.

Each worker had about seven dependents, which meant that about eight million people depended on agriculture.

There was a real possibility that if the farmer went under, the workers would find themselves homeless, and they and their dependents would stream to the cities with all the socio-economic problems this would bring.

"This is a potential time bomb of people who have no jobs and who are mostly without school education and will be left absolutely at the mercy of others," Momberg added.

A subsistence farmer in Winterveldt, Joseph Maduna, said his community needed a miracle to save them from the drought.

"We will have to pray to the Almighty to open up the heavens and send us rain to save the crops that have not yet been burnt up," Maduna said.

"If our prayers are not answered, we will be doomed and all we can do is to sit and wait for death."

Also hard hit is the Eastern Cape where animals are already dying from the heat and drought.

In the area between Willowvale and Jansenville near Port Elizabeth, several white farmers have abandoned their dry land and trekked to the cities, leaving hundreds of labourers destitute.

In the Northern Transvaal, Free State and Northern Cape grazing land is fast becoming wasteland and rivers and dams are down to dangerously low levels.

Food aid organisations have been inundated with appeals for food by thousands of people starving in rural backwaters.

"All the gains Operation Hunger had made over the past 10 years have been used up to help feeding black farmers and the needy," Perlman said.
It’s survival of the fittest, says angry horse-belt ‘liberal’

VAL and Dennis Keightley are wealthy, English-speaking and politically progressive.

Or at least they were — until last week when the Randburg council pulled the rug from under their riding boots by allocating 44 hectares of nearby veld to thousands of Zwenfontein squatters.

This week Dennis Keightley joined residents from upmarket Imandla and middle-class Bloubosrand in patrolling the streets surrounding his R1.2-million property and manning a roadblock to keep squatters out.

“I have always been to the left, but now I am moving the other way. I am starting to see what Africa is all about — it’s the survival of the fittest,” said the professional diamond marker.

“I certainly don’t want the AWB in here, but if those squatters come in I will do everything in my power to defend my property and my family,” said his showjumping wife, Val.

“When this started my son wouldn’t go to school because he had to look after his pony in case the squatters came and tried to steal it.

“People might accuse me of being the filthy rich, but we’ve worked hard to get what we have. When my husband arrived in South Africa 26 years ago he had R50 in his pocket and that was all.

“We moved here 11 years ago from Bryanston because we wanted to be in the countryside. I’ve created a world for myself and my family. I don’t know about politics, I don’t even go to the shops, all I do is ride in the greenbelt. Now they want to change it all and turn it into a dump.

Pilfering

“There are already squatters living along the river, I see them when I go riding, and already the place is a mess.”

What the Keightleys are opposed to is thousands of squatters moving in less than 1km from their homestead, not because the newcomers are black, but because 44 hectares would not contain an impoverished and largely unemployed population for long, they said.

“Don’t get me wrong, I am not against people having proper houses, but there will never be enough room. They’ll spill over, and then where will they go?”

“We already have a pilfering problem here. We never get the police out here as it is. Once a woman was being raped down the road and it took the police hours to arrive. Now we’ll have to get double barbed wire fences and Rottweilers,” Mrs Keightley said.

“Why should outsiders get houses anyway, why shouldn’t our staff who have worked for us for years have first option?”

Her husband added: “It’s not a black-white thing — it basically boils down to bad town planning. You can’t put sub-economic housing in the middle of a suburb. The government took away influx control and left nothing in its place. If we don’t make a stand here no-one is safe.”

ROUGH RIDE AHEAD... Dennis Keightley, his wife Val and children Dawn and Dylan.
PIETERSBURG — Farmers were literally on their knees yesterday as churches observed a national day of prayer for rain, while the drought crisis intensified.

But the scope of many of the prayers offered by ministers and laymen went beyond the immediate need for relief from the heat and drought conditions.

In several churches in the far northern Transvaal, one of the worst affected regions, people prayed emotionally for peace and reconciliation throughout the country, and for a change of heart in those perpetuating violence.

The Bible passage used most frequently at prayer gatherings was 2 Chronicles 7 Verse 14: "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal their land."

There were unprecedented numbers at churches in Soutpansberg, Pietersburg and Ellisras areas.
CAPE TOWN — Substantial electrification of rural areas and informal houses in SA was unlikely this decade, Stellenbosch University economist Servaas van der Berg said at the weekend.

In a paper delivered at the ANC national meeting on electrification, Van der Berg said pressures on financial and skills resources would limit electrification to formal houses in the urban areas.

He foresaw most formal houses having electricity within the next 20 years.

The paper was based on a soon-to-be-released final report of a research project for the National Energy Council undertaken by Van der Berg and J du Toit.

Van der Berg said SA did not have the financial resources for full-scale electrification, even if political problems retarding electrification were overcome.

To eliminate the full urban housing backlog by the year 2000 would require 420,000 additional connections per year for the first decade, and to cope with the increase in the urban population, 220,000 connections the following decade. Financial constraints made this unlikely.

ANC science and technology group’s LH Napa Maapa said a common feature of all successful electrification projects overseas was that they were undertaken as the result of a conscious decision and commitment by the government of the country. Another key feature was the total participation by the local population.

He believed electrification projects undertaken by Eskom or the present “unrepresentative” government would be stillborn. Community controlled and sponsored electrification initiatives were the sole viable means of bringing electricity to black communities in SA.

Our Cape Town correspondent reports that the meeting decided to establish a convening committee to call a follow-up meeting before March.
Drought-hit farmers seek debt standstill

By Helen Grange
Own Correspondent and Sapa

Some Transvaal farmers are already retrenching labourers as the drought begins to strangle rural economies, and cash-strapped farmers are urgently appealing for a debt standstill.

Thousands of farmers as well as agricultural heads from every region met Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk yesterday to discuss what they have called a national disaster. Many appealed for an immediate hold on farmers' debts as the start to a solution.

"Food and cash would have to be provided for a number of farmers in the Free State as they did not have food for their families," Free State Agricultural Union president Dr Piet Gouw told Dr van Niekerk at a meeting attended by about 1,000 farmers in Kroonstad.

Dr Gouw said there would also have to be immediate intervention by the State to stop the large-scale sell-off of farms. The subsidisation of stock feed would have to be addressed.

Another problem was the shortage of the existing agricultural debt of R17 billion. This had become an "albatross" around the neck of the farmer.

Dr van Niekerk said there had been positive suggestions at the meeting. He said he was very concerned about the farmers' inability to service their debts because of lack of income, which had been aggravated by the fact that the past 10 years had not been good agricultural years.

Dr van Niekerk noted that there were no instant solutions and it would be necessary to negotiate with creditors to work out problems with local committees and determine the role the State must fulfill.

He pointed out there were basic principles to be observed before money could be allocated from budgets. He said he would not make any promises and did not want the farmers to be under any illusions. They should also not talk themselves into pessimism.

As soon as he had answers he would inform the farmers.

Subsidised

The meeting heard that 48 percent of agricultural debt was in the open market, which was not consolidated with that of the Land Bank and Agricultural Credit. The question was posed as to whether this debt could not also be subsidised.

Other points raised from the floor included a demand that the sequestration of farmers should be stopped; that in 1982 agriculture got 12.5 percent of the national Budget, compared to 1.2 percent in 1991; that there should be a return to a close relationship between the price of a ton of fertiliser and a ton of maize; that farmers should be put back into the situation they had been in in September 1991 before they planted the present crop; that the Land Bank was unsupportable when it came to settlement; that if debts of black townships could be moved to other accounts, the same should also be done for the farmers' carry-over debt, and ways should be found for farmers to get realistic prices for their produce.

Flip Kotze, a prominent Delareyville farmer, proposed that a convention on farming, similar to Codesa, be formed to thrash out solutions. The Government should also take immediate steps to help farmers pay the cash wages of their labourers, he said.

Mr Kotze said farmers were struggling to meet Eskom charges for power, and several farmers in Delareyville had already paid off labourers they could no longer support. Some labourers had volunteered to work for only food and housing.

Dr van Niekerk inspected the failed maize crops and poor grazing in the Senekal, Bethlehem, Vrede, Bothaville and Heilbron districts before the meeting.

Today he will visit drought areas in the Transvaal.

Boer Crisis Action has called on President de Klerk to declare an emergency in the entire agricultural sector.

Mr. de Klerk yesterday said the country faced "a great crisis" and extended his sympathy to victims of the drought.

Speaking at D.F. Malan Airport in Cape Town on his return from Europe, he said the Government would take steps to care for people who had suffered the effects of the drought.

Natal farmers are quickly finding themselves in a situation as bad as farmers in the Free State and Transvaal.

Some Natal farmers have lost up to 70 percent of their crops after the weekend's intense heat. Sugar harvests this year are also expected to be lower than previous expectations because of the drought affecting Natal's sugar belt.
Drought plea to minister

Farmers need food and cash

KROONSTAD. — Minister of Agriculture Dr Kraai van Niekerk, on a tour of drought- ravaged areas, was yesterday told that many farmers in the Free State did not have food for their families.

At a meeting of about 1 000 farmers here, Dr Piet Gous, president of the Free State Agricultural Union, told Dr Van Niekerk there would have to be immediate intervention by the state to stop the large-scale selling-off of farms. The subsidisation of stock feed would have to be addressed.

Dr Van Niekerk proposed subsidised interest rates as low as 5% as one of the measures to help the farmers.

Other measures were that interest should be frozen, that there should be a one-off input subsidy for all crop farmers, that there should be an immediate adaptation of mortgage rates for farmers to a level of 3% for five years and that full payment before the interest reduction should be maintained.

This would reduce capital loans, but these full payments should be tax deductible, he said.

President F W de Klerk yesterday extended his sympathy to the victims of the disastrous drought. Speaking at D P Malan Airport on his arrival from Europe, Mr De Klerk said the government would take steps to care for people who had suffered the effects of the drought. "We are, in fact, facing a great crisis," he said.

Mr Johan Neethling, president of the National Wool Growers Association in the Free State, called for a tax holiday of two years to enable farmers to solve their financial problems and get back on their feet.

He asked for the Eskom extension tariff to be abolished for two years in the outlying stock grazing areas as it placed a great burden on farmers.

Mr Neethling said there had been many warnings in the past that the rural infrastructure was collapsing. Now the whole farming community was collapsing, he said.

President De Klerk should proclaim the whole agricultural sector an emergency, the Boer Crisis Action said yesterday.

In a statement from Pottgietersrust the BCA said all sequestrations of farmers should be ceased, a debt standstill on agricultural debt should be announced and an urgent reappraisal of agriculture should be conducted taking into account the production capacity of farms.

In Natal many farmers have lost up to 70% of their crops after the recent intense heat. The farmers have started cutting the plants for winter feed.

Although farmers said their animals were in good condition, they added they had begun to send parts of their breeding herds to abattoirs because they expected a grazing shortage during winter.

And sugar harvests for 1992 are expected to be lower than previous expectations because of the green drought affecting Natal's sugar belt.

Cane-growers' Association general manager Mr Rex Hudson said there had been just enough rain to keep the cane-fields looking green, but in most places growth had come to a standstill.

According to auctioneers, 33 farmers in northern Natal have lost their farms because of bankruptcy since 1990.

Meanwhile foreign buyers of SA maize have refused to let the Maize Board buy back its export contracts after it became apparent that this year's crop would be disastrous.

Board sources said yesterday this meant SA would now have to import large quantities of maize to meet its contractual obligations to supply hundreds of thousands of tonnes.

Mr Robin Veldman of grain merchants Khan and Khan said yesterday maize prices at all levels were likely to rise sharply in the new season — which starts on May 1 — because of the catastrophic drought in the summer grain areas. — Sapa and Own Correspondent
DURBAN — Many farmers in five Natal districts have lost up to 70% of their crops after the weekend’s intense heat, and have started cutting the plants for winter feed.

Farmers said although stock was in good condition, they had begun sending some of their breeding herds to shottoria because they expected a winter grazing shortage.

And yesterday President F W de Klerk extended his sympathy to the victims of the disastrous drought.

Speaking on his return to Cape Town from Europe, de Klerk said government would take steps to care for those who had suffered.

Meanwhile, sugar harvests are expected to be lower than usual because of the drought.

Cane-growers’ Association GM Rex Bulkin said there had been enough rain to keep the canefields looking green, but in most places growth had come to a standstill.

He said there was hope of a partial recovery as long as good rains fell between now and April.

Despite the drought in parts of the province, Natal’s major storage dams are still in a healthy state.

In the Transvaal, a prominent Delareyville farmer said yesterday a convention for farming, similar to Cord aver, was needed to thrash out solutions for the drought-stricken farmers.

Delareyville District Agricultural Union chairman Flip Kotze said that in his personal view there should be a total write-off of farming debt. He urged government to help farmers pay the wages of their labourers, and their Eekom hills.

“We must compile a whole new set of rules for the game, because the existing rules have just landed us deeper in difficulty,” said Kotze.

Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk is scheduled to call at Kotze’s farm today during a helicopter tour of drought areas.

Van Niekerk said at Heilbron yesterday that Free State farmers would not have an income to service their debts. This was aggravated by the fact that the past 10 years had not been good agricultural years.

He was giving his first impressions during a tour of the drought-stricken north and north-eastern Free State.

“It will be necessary to negotiate with creditors ... to work out solutions with local committees to determine the role the state must fulfil.”

Farmers interviewed at the weekend said the drought was the best thing that could have happened to further the right-wing cause.

A northern Transvaal farmer warned that government and city dwellers did not truly comprehend the situation. This was “radicalising” farmers.

“There are 80 000 farmers. By this time next year there may be less than half left,” he said. — Sapa.
Thousands now face starvation

Paula Fray
and Helen Grange

Thousands of people are facing starvation within the next few weeks as a result of the severe drought gripping the country, Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman warned yesterday.

The critical shortage of maize in the country is expected to result in serious shortages of mealie meal, a staple diet for the poor.

Several farmers are already struggling to feed their farmworkers and some have begun retrenching those they can no longer support.

Ms Perlman said at a press conference in Johannesburg that the Government had been “monstrously slow” in responding to Operation Hunger’s formal request for money to alleviate the plight of people reeling under the severe drought.

Not a cent had yet been received.

“Such bureaucratic delay will, for many of our constituency, effect the most permanent solution of all —

○ To Page 3 ○
Government warned of large-scale starvation

OPERATION Hunger said yesterday two-million blacks could be starving by May unless government accelerated drought relief.

The private welfare group said delay in starting the first government funding of its work could turn malnutrition in rural areas to outright starvation.

"We do not use the word starvation lightly. We use it with the full weight of what the word means," agency director Ina Perlman told a news conference. "We are desperately worried."

The group said it had received none of the R220m promised to non-government organisations for normal hunger relief in government's budget in April last year.

The money was more urgently needed now because of the drought.

"We are feeding, wholly or partially, 1.8-million people now and we have almost half-a-million others on our waiting lists," said Perlman.

She said the organisation would need to feed between 2.25-million and 2.5-million people if government did not release funds by the end of April.

The Department of National Health said strict precautions to prevent misapplication of taxpayers' money had led to a delay in payments, but these were now being accelerated.

Perlman said in a statement the "miracle" of rain might still save crops in some areas, but prayers were being said daily for subsistence farmers in Mahobanyanini, Ramathlabana, Winterveld, Nkandla and Lebowa.

She said Operation Hunger was aware that grants had been made to some creches and had read about a clinic relief scheme that had been announced but as yet had seen no signs of its implementation.

Perlman warned that "bureaucratic delay and dilly-dallying" would result in death for many.

Aid workers estimate a quarter of all deaths among blacks are children under five who succumb to malnutrition. Perlman said this rate was rising. — Sapa-Reuters.

Urgent drought talks scheduled

PRETORIA — Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk will meet a top-level delegation from the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) on Friday for urgent talks on the drought disaster and its consequences for the economy and agriculture.

Union director Piet Swart is expected to appeal for cash aid measures at the Cape Town meeting.

The union said about half the industry's total debt, which could reach R20bn by the year end, is owed to commercial banks. The balance is on the books of the Land Bank and cooperatives, except for 5% owed to government.

Namaq economist Kit le Clus said yesterday 12 000 farmers in the summer grain areas were responsible for 90% of the country's maize, wheat and oil seed production.

Almost 3 000 of these were in grave financial straits. About R1,5bn of the total invested in crops this year — mostly borrowed money — had "gone down the drain with absolutely no return".

Farmers were paying almost R3bn a year to service debt — a burden fewer and fewer were able to carry. Without substantial aid few would be able to plant the 1992/93 crop.

Le Clus added that food shortages could not be ruled out.

A "disastrous" situation loomed if farmers had to keep on borrowing to service debts. A long-term strategy to get the industry back on its feet was urgently needed.

Meanwhile the Farmers' Crisis Action group, which orchestrated the disruption of central Pretoria last year when thousands of farmers and their vehicles clogged city thoroughfares, is threatening another "farmer power" demonstration unless government acts to defuse the crisis.

Sapa reports SAAU co-operative council chairman Charles van Velzen said in a statement yesterday it was clear few farmers would harvest any summer crops whatsoever.

"This situation can have disastrous results for many farmers who are already in a weak financial position due to many years of crop failures and high interest rates, while the rural areas also suffer, making the future of many agricultural co-operatives uncertain," he said.

He said co-operatives played a key role in determining the extent of the losses, and encouraged them to continue to provide all possible co-operation in the search for solutions and further aid actions.

IT'S A CREDIT JUNGLE OUT THERE. DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR COMPANY IS?
Aid urged for farmers facing ruin

ALAN DUNN
Political Correspondent

FINANCIAL aid is needed urgently for thousands of farmers facing ruin.

Minister of Agriculture Dr Kraal van Niekerk, clearly alarmed by what he saw in a two-day helicopter tour this week of drought-ravaged farmlands in the Transvaal and Free State, said: "Reports on the serious damage to crops were not exaggerated."

In some districts there was apparently no prospect of any crops at all. "Even if rain should fall, it will be too late," he said. "Grazing in the areas visited is inadequate and everything points to a shortage of fodder during the winter."

Innovative ways had to be found to tackle a host of problems the drought had created, including consideration of an input cost subsidy to lower farmers' debts and methods of lowering agricultural interest rates without too much distortion of the economy.

Dr Van Niekerk said he would discuss the drought with the South African Agricultural Union and government's agricultural departments tomorrow.

The Department of Agricultural Development would, with the Department of Justice, establish local committees as soon as possible to help farmers in financial trouble.

He urged farmers to table their cases for emergency relief through applications for debt consolidation with the Land Bank and Agricultural Credit Board.

Zambian President Frederick Chiluba has declared the whole of the southern province and sections of the Lusaka, central, eastern and western provinces as drought disaster areas, Sapa reports.
Water scarcity 'inherent to SA climate'

By Shirley Woodgate

Drought is an inherent part of the South African climate, according to a report to the Water Affairs Commission by Professor Walter Zucchini and P T Adamson.

"Statistics prove that not a single year passes without drought in some part of the country," concluded Water Affairs hydrologist Stefan van Biljon.

But three periods dominate, when vast areas of the country were affected: the early 1930's, from 1948 to 1949 and the recent major five-year drought from 1978 to 1983.

In 1963/4 and 1965/6 the eastern and northern Transvaal experienced some of the driest years ever. By 1972, the coastal areas of the south-western Cape and the southern Interior were in the throes of its worst drought.

In this context, latest Water Affairs figures indicate the total amount of water in dams throughout the country has dropped 7 percent below the overall 72 percent recorded in February last year.

Natal is well supplied with water, the level only slightly down from last year's 75 to 74 percent.

At the other end of the scale, the critical state of eastern Cape water resources has seen dam capacities dwindle to the 33 percent mark from 48 percent last year.

Although parts of the western Transvaal are in the throes of a crippling drought, the 17 dams in the region were just over half full this week, averaging 53 percent.

In the Upper Orange River scheme, the Hendrik Verwoerd and the P K le Roux are dams recent (96 in 1991) and 70 percent full (58 in 1991) respectively. But the total for the 11 dams is down from 74 to 64 percent.
Platteland trade grinds to a halt

By Helen Grange
Pretoria Bureau

Trade in platteland towns has almost reached a standstill as a result of farmers' financial crises — and some businesses, no longer able to carry their debt, have closed shop.

In the western Transvaal town of Delareyville, two shops closed during the past month and other traders are considering their options as sales plummet.

Struggling farmers are not even able to repair farming equipment and are cutting down sharply on purchases of feed and essential agricultural goods.

Delareyville furniture maker Christie Pool said yesterday that traders in the small town were extremely worried.

"Everyone is just hanging on, but already two shops — a boutique and a stationary shop — have closed," he said.

"The farmers are dead scared to spend money, and we depend on them. We don't have the option of working in factories to make ends meet," he said.

General dealer Michel Chidrawi said businessmen were now "on the edge".

"We are trying to hang in, but business is terrible and the heat is killing us. My trade is 60 percent down. Even if it does rain now, the crops are ruined and the farmers won't recover," he said.

Wholesalers in the area are also suffering, as retailers are keeping purchases to a minimum. A worker at Metro Cash 'n Carry wholesalers said the shop was "absolutely dead" this week.

In Thabazimbi, farmers are expected to begin retrenchment of their farmworkers in the next few days, leaving hundreds in the area out of work.

Rural unemployment is expected to rise dramatically in both the Free State and Transvaal in the next few weeks as a result of farmers being unable to support their labourers.

The branch manager of the Thabazimbi co-operative, Andre Botha, said farmers would probably cut their staff by more than half in some cases.

Fight on

The co-operative, which sold "everything needed by the farmer", had been empty yesterday "for the first time ever".

"It is the same in all the towns, right up to Ellisras," he said.

However, several traders said they would fight on and assess the situation in April.

In the Free State — where it is understood almost half of commercial farmers have mortgaged their farms — 326 farms have been sequestered recently, according to Frik Dreyer of the Free State Agricultural Union.

A spokesman for Farmer Crisis Action said hundreds of Transvaal farms were being sequestrated every month. "It's a case of standing there one day and being gone the next," he said.

The Land Bank has not yet commented on the number of farm sequestrations in the two regions.

- Crop losses of 80 percent and more had been reported in 13 of the 49 farming areas falling under the Eastern Transvaal Agricultural Co-op, the organisation said in a report.

The areas that had suffered crop damage of 80 percent and more were Amersfoort, Bloemfontein, Davel, Devon, Glenroy, Greylingstad, Holmdene, Leeuwspruit, Maizefield, Morgenzono, Platrand, Standerton and Trichardt.

Farmers in the Koedoesrand district of the north-western Transvaal yesterday formed a disaster committee to help farmers in trouble because of the drought.

The committee will supply drinking water and other essentials to needy families and will also try to keep farmers who lose their farms because of insolvency in the district, by providing them with work on neighbouring farms.

- The drought has hit South Africa's cotton crops badly, reports the Cotton Board. The 1991/92 forecast has again been reduced, from 174,172 to 169,835 bales.

If present weather conditions persist, further reductions were likely, the board said.
New urgency to deal with drought crisis on farms

It's a disaster - Kraai

By Alan Dunn
Political Sub.

CAPE TOWN — Thousands of farmers face ruin if meaningful aid programmes were not urgently instituted to rescue them from the drought, Agriculture Minister Dr. Kraai van Niekerk said last night.

Clearly alarmed by what he saw in a helicopter tour this week of drought-ravaged farmlands in the Transvaal and Free State, he noted that reports on the serious damage to crops were not exaggerated.

Dr. van Niekerk seemed earlier in his statement last night to have a greater sense of urgency about the looming crisis than he displayed in Parliament last week.

He warned: “Even if rain should fall at this point in time, it will be too late for any recovery of maize and other summer crops.

“Grazing in the areas visited is inadequate and everything points to a shortage of fodder during winter.”

Dr. van Niekerk informed the Cabinet at its weekly meeting yesterday of the gravity of the situation.

He said that innovative ways had to be found to tackle a host of problems the drought had created, including consideration of the feasibility of an import-duty subsidy to lower farmers’ debt.

An aspect requiring innovation was the method of lowering agricultural interest rates without too much distortion of the economy.

Ways had to be sought of pre-financing large-scale irrigation units.

“Urgent efforts are being made to clarify ways in which this farm crisis can be avoided,” he said.

Appeal

Dr. van Niekerk reiterated an appeal he issued in the House of Assembly last week to the Land Bank, commercial banks and financial institutions “not to take hard-line decisions and to cooperate in trying to forestall the sequestration of farms.”

He said that the Government was limited in what it could do.

“All players in the field of agricultural finance must co-operate in order to identify and handle their respective responsibilities in the whole matter,” he said.

The disturbing situation would negatively affect all the country’s people and its economy, he said.

The distressing situation would negatively affect all the country’s people and its economy, he said.

Anthony, 18, son of cricketer great Graeme Pollock, makes his debut with the Transvaal side tomorrow.

By Jacqueline Myburgh

Anthony also plays for the TNP first team which is up against Eastern Province tomorrow.

“A B Com student at Rand Afrikaans University, Anthony played for the Transvaal B team before selectors chose him to play against Eastern Province to-morrow,” he says.

Anthony has no plans regarding his cricket career — apart from being selected to play for Transvaal — was when he scored his first century then at the National Schools competition.

The highlight of Anthony’s cricketing career — apart from being selected to play for Transvaal — was when he scored his first century then at the National Schools competition.

“Anytime outdoors goes,” he said.

The flavor of France

Whoopi snaps up piece of bushveld

By Michael Sparks

American actress Whoopi Goldberg has bought a 21ha bushveld property close to the Kruger National Park.

Mr. Vorster said he was surprised by Goldberg’s very good knowledge and understanding of nature.

“Whoopi knows that pollution in this country is a big problem,” he said.
Another aspect requiring innovation was methods of lowering agricultural interest rates without too much distortion of the economy.

Ways had to be sought of preventing large-scale sequestrations.

"Urgent efforts are being made to clarify ways in which this imminent disaster can be avoided," he said.

**Appeal**

Dr van Niekerk reiterated an appeal he issued in the House of Assembly last week to the Land Bank, commercial banks and financial institutions "not to take headlong decisions and to co-operate in trying to fend off the sequestration of farmers".

He noted that the Government was limited in what it could do.

"All players in the field of agricultural finance must co-operate in order to identify and handle their respective responsibilities in the whole matter," he said.

The distressing situation would negatively affect the entire country. "If meaningful assistance programmes are not instituted as a matter of urgency, agriculture and rural communities will face a crisis," he said.

He said the consequences would be:

- Sequestration of thousands of summer crop farmers.
- Agricultural co-operatives closing.
- Farming expertise lost to agriculture.
- Rising unemployment due to farm labourer retrenchment, and accelerated urbanisation as a result.
- The demise of small rural businesses, and socio-economic problems in those areas.
- The import of maize and other agricultural products which would be more expensive and of inferior quality.

Dr van Niekerk said he would discuss the drought with the SA Agricultural Union and the Government's agricultural departments tomorrow.

The Department of Agricultural Development would, with the Department of Justice, establish local committees as soon as possible to help farmers in financial trouble to negotiate with their creditors on the handling of their debts.

He urged farmers to table their cases for emergency relief through applications for debt consolidation with the Land Bank and Agricultural Credit Board.

**Antilope**

By Jacques Dreyer

His father's legend — he's a left-hander and he's a week to go — is the tale of the Pollock, cricketer.

"He was just going to be a great player, but he's gone his own way. "He was just going to be a great player, but now he's doing his own thing."

**What's New**

By Michael Goldstein

America's Goldberg bushveld is the Krugersdorp.

The price last week was close to $1000 above the market.

The price was $1000 above the market.

**Sewage**

By Peter Smith

A sewerage scheme has been planned for the town of Hatfield.
Crisis over houses alleged in Platteland

HOME building practically came to a halt in the Platteland over the past year and a number of contractors were forced to close their doors, said outgoing Master Builders' Association Witwatersrand and South Transvaal president Adrian van den Berg at its general meeting yesterday.

The main reason for this decline in building activity was high interest rates which in turn led to high building costs, he said.

Equivalent housing, priced at between R150,000 and R250,000 in the PWV area, was being sold for between R80,000 and R100,000 in Platteland areas like the Free State, eastern Cape and eastern and western Transvaal. New homes of comparable size could simply not be built at these low prices, he said.

"The ever increasing tax structure, high inflation and interest rates have caused people to become poorer. The reduction in bond rates of between 0.5% and 0.75% announced on 30 January 1992 is a drop in the ocean. The time is ripe for a further reduction in bond rates," he said.

Van den Berg said government should reduce interest rates and promote home ownership by way of tax concessions on the interest portion of bonds made to homeowners. "If these tax concessions are implemented, home ownership and savings will be promoted," he said.

He said a large number of homes were repossessed by financial institutions last year. These were being sold far below market value, at prices that covered the outstanding bond. He said new home owners should buy such houses rather than have new homes built.

Political uncertainty, poor productivity and the continuing increase in the cost of building materials also contributed to poor levels of business activity in the building industry, he said.

Van den Berg also referred to an apparent dispute between his association and the Master Builders' Association of Natal.

He said relations with the Natal body had been sour for the past few years and ended when his association requested an inquiry to determine whether Natal's conduct was in the interest of the Building Industry Federation of SA.

He said that if it was found the Natal association had not acted in the interests of the federation, its membership would be terminated. Spokesmen for the Natal association yesterday said they had no knowledge of what Van den Berg was referring to.
ANC joins row over emergency food funding

MICHAEL MORRIS, Political Correspondent
THE ANC has joined the row over the funding of emergency relief through Operation Hunger, accusing the government of insincerity in responding to the critical needs of the people.

"The government has once again shown bad faith and a monstrous lack of concern for the suffering of people in desperate and urgent need," the ANC said in a statement.

It was reacting to the row between the Department of National Health and Operation Hunger, which wants R20 million from State emergency funds to help feed drought-stricken communities.

Operation Hunger director Mrs Ina Perlman warned yesterday that 2 million people could be starving by April.

But Minister of National Health Dr Rina Venter—who criticised Operation Hunger for using "public pressure" to obtain funds—insisted that the organisation spell out how it intended spending the money before a grant could be approved.

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Talks on drought battle plan

TOS WENTZEL
Political Staff
A COMPREHENSIVE emergency plan to deal with the drought crisis will be discussed today when Minister of Agriculture Dr Klaas van Niekerk and his top officials meet a South African Agricultural Union delegation.

The minister said today that many farmers in the summer grain areas faced a double crisis—many of them would not have maize crops or winter grazing for their animals.

Many faced the choice of slaughtering their animals or letting them die.

The main aim of today's meeting will be to evaluate and quantify the damage to crops and to establish support schemes.

The drought is one of the worst this century.

Dr Van Niekerk has warned that the distressing situation will effect the entire country.

"If meaningful assistance programmes are not instituted as a matter of urgency, agriculture and rural communities will face a serious crisis."

This may include:

- Sequestration of thousands of summer crop farmers.
- The closure of agricultural co-operatives.
- The loss to agriculture of farming expertise.
- Rising unemployment due to farm labour retrenchments.
- Accelerated urbanisation.
- The demise of small rural businesses and socio-economic problems in those areas.
- The import of maize and other agricultural products.

Dr Van Niekerk called on banks and financial institutions to co-operate in trying to fend off the sequestration of farmers.
Drought decimating southern Africa

By Hans-Peter Bakker
Star Africa Service

Virtually the entire southern African region is reeling in what could become the most devastating drought in a century.

From Tanzania in the north to the Cape Province in the South, millions of people could face famine as crops are laid to waste and watercourses dry up.

The drought grips much of South Africa, southern Namibia and Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho, all of Zimbabwe, southern Zambia and much of Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania.

In former years of shortages, South Africa was often able to provide staple foods to hard-hit countries in the region, but 1992/93 threatens to be one of the worst in recorded history as South Africa faces the prospect of having to import about 3 million tons of maize for its own consumption.

To make matters worse, the United Nations World Food Programme predicts serious congestion on the region's transport system. Most provisions will have to be imported via Durban.

And, said a WFP spokesman, traditional donor countries are already far stretched to provide food aid to war-torn Ethiopia and Somalia and in flood-ravaged Bangladesh, and would be hard pressed to provide the short-term requirements in southern Africa.

The spokesman said it was feared that many people in the region would die before the end of the year. "Even if we get the food, it will be logistically impossible to get it to the areas where it is urgently needed."

Thousands of farmworkers and villagers are facing bleak prospects, and already crowded cities will swell with millions seeking means to survive - with unemployment and crime rising as a result.

The drought also promises to play havoc with the region's hopes of economic and political stability.

In South Africa, hopes of an upturn in the economy are fading and dreams of a more favourable trade balance will be dashed as the country imports foods to survive.

Zimbabwe is one of the worst-hit countries in the area, with estimates of more than a million tons of maize needed to make up the shortfall and with more than 2 million people already having applied for emergency food aid and another 4 million more expected to make the appeal soon.

In Mozambique, the drought promises to take a high human toll with many thousands of people already displaced by the war, and the cities holding little promise of survival for the stricken rural population.

Regie Mugwara, sector co-ordinator for food security in the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference region, is worried that the message of the seriousness of the situation is not getting through to policymakers in the area.

He said his unit was "quantifying" the extent of the drought to enable countries in need to apply for donor assistance. "But there is a danger that everyone will come asking for food aid at the same time."

● Subcontinent could be left high and dry — Page 13
Farmers look to govt for relief

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Agriculture Minister Klaas van Niekerk's obvious alarm over SA's summer crops has given agriculture leaders confidence that they will get a sympathetic response when they ask government today for massive and urgent aid.

A high-level SA Agricultural Union delegation meets Van Niekerk in Cape Town today to discuss the plight of the drought-ravaged maize industry.

The destruction in the summer grain areas has been catastrophic, agricultural authorities say, although it has not yet been measured in any detail.

They note that it is not only maize that has been affected, but all summer crops, including groundnuts, sorghum and sunflower.

Another issue to be raised at today's meeting is the fear that food shortages could develop in the next two years if many of the thousands of farmers now bordering on sequestration are forced off their farms.

Van Niekerk, after a brief helicopter tour of the damaged summer grain areas this week, was alarmed at the destruction, describing it as disastrous. He said thousands of farmers faced ruin unless aid programmes were instituted immediately. With that attitude, the sources said, there was hope of substantial new aid.

It was not clear whether Finance Minister Barend du Plessis would attend today's talks, but the situation would figure prominently at next week's Cabinet meeting.

Meanwhile, the worsening plight of farmers is highlighted by new Land Bank figures. A bank spokesman said farmers' mortgage debt to the bank was a record R3.2bn at the end of last year. This will be aggravated by the latest drought.

Sepa reports Land Bank GM HS Hattingh, yesterday gave the assurance that it would try to ensure farmers could continue with their ventures.

Hattingh said the bank had noted Van Niekerk's appeal to all banks this week to avoid sequestrating farmers.

The bank was prepared to consider suspending arrear capital instalments, con-
PRETORIA. — The alarm shown by Minister of Agriculture Dr Kraai van Niekerk over the summer crop crisis has given agriculture leaders confidence that they will receive a sympathetic response when they ask the government today for massive and urgent aid.

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Subcontinent could be left high and dry

The economic damage wrought by the drought could pose several political problems for countries in southern Africa, reports HANS-PETER BANKE of The Star Africa Service.

Thousands of rural Swazi and refugees engaged in subsistence farming in the Limpopo district have been warned to save water, which is now being supplied to them by ladders from distant sources. The Ministry of Agriculture in the country has already alerted large numbers of cattle and raising maize crops in north-eastern Swaziland, has already led to the worst drought in the history of the country. The minister also warned farmers to save some of their maize immediately rather than have them rot in the fields.

In Zambia, President Frederick Chiluba has declared half the country a disaster area, apparently due to the drought. But reports from Zambia are conflicting. Two weeks ago Zambia's deputy minister of agriculture predicted a bumper maize crop following rains, but recently, rains in the country's capital have been reported to be scarce.

Southern Namibia has had good rains in September and October but virtually nothing since.

The situation has been aggravated by very high temperatures, and a meteorologist said, "If the region doesn't get rain before the end of summer, it will be a disaster." The southern parts of Malawi will be severely affected by the drought, according to the World Bank, which had warned farmers to expect a dry season due to the drought. The estimated 1 million Mozambican refugees in Malawi are in the south of the country.

In Tanzania, various food shortages are being experienced, especially rains in the north. Relief supplies of 22,000 tons are urgently needed to meet the needs of 1.5 million people in Dar es Salaam and 300,000 elsewhere, according to the UN.
Not even the champion’s feeling chirpy

What do small farmers do when the going gets tough?

By RAY NXUMALO

NIKLAAS NGODELA, owner of the farm Viellfontein just outside Bronkhorstspruit, is regarded as the champion farmer in kwaNdebele. Yet, he feels he is losing this battle.

"In all the years I have been farming — since 1958 — never has there been such drought in the land."

His experience in farming comes from some 36 years employed as a farmworker. He started working for a white farmer at the age of 16.

"He would be working in town while I farmed his land."

Nkologela’s big break came when most farming land in the area fell under the jurisdiction of kwaNdebele six years ago. He took over the farm he’d been working — this time as the master. And he proved he could do it by himself, building up a fleet of five tractors in the process. He also has his own farming implements like ploughs, planters and harrows.

But this year has seen a turnaround in his fortunes.

"I may manage to repay a loan I took out for the fertilizers, seeds and the diesel — but there will be no profit for me this year, that’s for sure."

Unlike most of his peers, he has four dams on his farm. He has put 20ha of land under irrigation, and he hopes this patch of land will produce the crops he needs to repay the loan.

Nkologela is pessimistic about the chances of his fellow farmers in the Witbank area. "Even if it rains, there is nothing for those people to rejoice about. They are finished here."

WHEN the going gets tough for the farmers of kwaNdebele, the farmers get going to the Zijameleni Farmers Co-operative for help.

The organisation is less than nine months old, according to chairman Nico von Hulst, but already it has secured land on a leasehold for numerous black farmers. And through its guidance as the farmers’ business arm, it has given them an additional lease on survival through the drought.

"Black farmers in kwaNdebele are shaping up to the challenges of farming," says Von Hulst. "You see, most of these people have been foremen and labourers in white-owned farms for some time. Now that they are on their own they can only get better."

It does help that the drought has not ravaged the area to the extent that it has in other parts of the country.

"We are sitting in an oasis compared to the western Transvaal. In my opinion that is the hardest hit of all regions," says Von Hulst.

Nevertheless, the black farmers have been hampered at a time when they are only just beginning to find their feet. What they need is time and proper guidance, according to Von Hulst. He thinks 15 years would be appropriate to give them the necessary skills to establish themselves.

But first, the drought has to be overcome.

EARLY the entire community of black farmers outside the eastern Transvaal town of Bronkhorstspruit stopped worrying about the drought for a few hours on Wednesday morning and asked for God’s intervention.

The prayer meetings were held in schools, churches and outside in the fields after Duka Mabona, president of the local Farmers Union, went on radio to urge other farmers in the area to observe a call for prayers.

Mabona, owner of the farm Blesbokfontein, himself held a prayer meeting with his neighbours at a hillock called Spookklip.

Promising clouds formed in the sky as they returned from the meeting, but they did not build up to anything beyond a scattered patchwork.

Sitting in his dining room, Mabona clutched his hands together as if in prayer. “One has to have hope all the time,” he says. “Farming is a risky business. One moment we can be in a drought and the next day it may rain.”
The devil in the deep blue sea

EL NINO seems to be behind the drought. El Nino is a warm current that flows past Latin America around Christmas.

It is not the current itself, but the energy exchange between warm water and atmosphere that apparently causes the abnormal weather.

Weather forecasting director Gerhard Schultze says El Nino almost always coincides with abnormal weather in the summer rainfall season in southern Africa. Given that, the present abnormal weather should last until March.

However, El Nino is only part of the total picture, says Schultze. And every El Nino is different so there is no absolute certainty about how long the weather will be affected or to what extent. Schultze does say that 12 out of the last 13 El Ninos studied resulted in below-normal rainfall in the summer rainfall area of South Africa.

Peter D'Abretton, a member of the University of the Witwatersrand's Climatology Research Group, agrees. "People are coming to the conclusion that it is El Nino." But D'Abretton says El Nino can only be held responsible for 10 to 20 percent of the variance in South Africa's rainfall.

Abretton says El Nino crops up every three years or so. The last time it was associated with devastating drought was at the end of 1982 and beginning of 1983. While the 1982-83 El Nino effect was severe, the next time it appeared, in 1987, it was not as severe.

Long-range forecasting is still impossible. So if events associated with El Nino do forecast disruptions in "normal" weather, it gives forecasters a handy tool.

Schultze says the more extreme events of El Nino give the best indication of coming disruptions. So if the ocean temperatures are way out of line and the ocean area affected is larger than usual it is probable a very dry season is on the way.

D'Abretton says that in mid-December oceanographers noted the current was stronger than usual. This should have given South Africans a warning of what was coming.
Another year, another drought

the government has much money available to spend on agriculture. On the other hand, one has to be cautious about the special pleading of vested interests. For instance, farmers' groups have been calling for selling off the R1.8-billion or so of debt that hangs over the farming community. And they have been warning of widespread renegotiations. The banks are unlikely to rush into renegotiations. Those banks involved in agriculture hardly need to have more unrealistic property on their books. They would rather leave the farmers on the land to repay their debts.

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From a strategic point of view farmers' call for drought relief must gain sympathy, as long as it doesn't extend beyond drought assistance, and is confined to debt relief related to production rather than the farmer's own speedicut.

What the drought has shown, though, is the need from different angles for fundamental restructuring of agriculture. The official attitude to agriculture has changed, and prices are more market-related, but much more needs to be done. As one example, the role and composition of the controversial agricultural marketing board must be looked at carefully.

Questions arose over many years in agriculture from various kinds of subsidies of a strategic industry and the political clout of the farmers. So, for example, farmers grew maize where they should have grown sunflower or ground nuts. This kind of production is a nuisance to South Africa. The present round of talks of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs is supposed to take another step towards world trade free from subsidies and protection. But it has been nobbled by powerful farming lobbies in the European Community, and the US itself is not completely innocent when it comes to subsidies. Subsidization of farm crops overseas affects domestic agriculture in various ways. It can be cheaper to import certain products, even though they are plentiful in South Africa.

Nonetheless, restructuring must be undertaken in South Africa for economic and environmental as well as political reasons. The political rationale for some kind of affirmative action for black farmers is well known. The Development Bank made substantial progress some years ago by recommending that land which could not be farmed by white farmers without massive subsidies could be given to black farmers.

Lyster points out that in areas where maize farmers have not relied on a few risky but potentially more profitable high-input farming techniques, they have had good crops. But he cautions against a romantic view of smallholder farming. It wasn't necessarily helpful if food production simply to hand ever farmers from failed white farmers to small black farmers, for instance.

Moves towards a more rational economic approach have already been made. The Development Bank has advocated a land reform programme, encompassing politics, the economy, social, technical and environmental aspects. Its approach should include affirmative action for black farmers.

The restructuring of agriculture has to be sweeping.

Lyster sums up: "We have to try to move to a more sustainable environment.

planning alleviate much needless suffering? REG RUMNEY reports
In a land of dry stalks, dreams of tall fields of green

The old ways were the best ways say the black farmers of Goedgevonden — and economics appears to support their argument. FERIAL HAFJAJEE and PAUL STOBER report

OD seems to have lain a reproachful finger on the western Transvaal. For endless miles all you see are dead and dying meadow fields and stunted sunflowers.

Goedgevonden, near Ventersdorp, is a dry and dusty expanse of land where nothing grows and the only moving objects are children fetching water in discarded two-litre Coke bottles.

But the people of Goedgevonden have not given up despair. They have visions of tall meadow fields and healthy watermelon patches stretching to the horizon and of grazing lands filled with fat cattle.

Before they were forcibly removed from their land in 1978, the Goedgevonden community practised communal farming. Last year they moved back to the land, after the scrapping of the Land Acts, expecting to resume where they had left off.

Prevented from doing so by ongoing negotiations about whether they will be permitted to stay on the land, they are now challenging the government and surrounding farmers to let them farm in the way they know best. Goedgevonden’s former farmers this week told The Weekly Mail how they used to farm.

Each family had a homestead with a garden and a pen for their livestock. The community shared four grazing camps and one large piece of grazing land.

A committee, or kgoita, allocated the land. The kgoita was also responsible for vaccinating animals and for the general administration of the community.

Most families were allocated five morgen of land, but others had as much as 200 morgen. The bigger farmers usually had tractors and other equipment and for a share of the crop, they would plough the land of the smaller farmers.

Each family contributed to the cost of all that was communally owned and cash was brought into the community by migrant workers and the sale of surplus crops.

Now the community is itching to put these practices to work again. “We want to make a competition with the white farmers. We taught them to farm, they did not know this land could produce food. We can produce the same, and better than them,” says 57-year-old Levy Segopola.

Mshak Mbandese is about 75 years old. “I can work better than the white man. I can plough, I know how deep to plough and I know how much fertilizer to put in,” he says.

Mbandese’s friend, Edward Lesedi, nods his head in agreement. When he was a farmer, he says, the menials were as tall as he could stretch his arms — not short like they are now. When we point out that the stalls are dying because of drought, he shrugs his shoulders, saying: “One year you get rain, one year you don’t.”

“We never knew a year when nothing came from the land,” adds Segopola. In the old days, they stored enough maize to see them through droughts.

Harold Winkler, of the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (Trac), comments: “The Goedgevonden social system proved very resilient even in periods of drought. The balance between migrant wages and agricultural crops assured that if either suffered a set-back, people could survive until the next period of rain.”

Winkler adds that this method of farming supports wider economic goals like providing housing and food for extended families. It can also reduce the rate of urbanisation and strengthen the rural economy.

The system has checks and balances built into it. By practising rotational grazing, limiting the head of cattle a family could own and planting trees, sustainable land use is ensured and the capacity of the land is not exhausted, says Winkler.

The department of agriculture, however, favours the idea of dividing the land into 21 units for as many families. Each of these families would be allowed to keep two more families as farmworkers.

Segopola says about this plan: “The people of Goedgevonden have decided to farm communally, not individually. We want the government to give us a chance for five or six years. The community is willing to accept a leasehold on the land for five years and if their methods are not successful, they can be reassessed.

The Goedgevonden farmers hope to show that their traditional communal approach is the way for drought-stricken farmers to survive the dry seasons — and their plan can work if the state and agricultural industry back them up.

“The most successful efforts to develop peasant farming involve industry providing financial, technical and marketing support,” says David Cooper of the Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG).

A good example of this is Daggakraal in the eastern Transvaal. According to Star Motswele, a fieldworker for Trex, white farmers from Hammersfort helped black freedhold farmers to form an association which has negotiated a two-year training programme with the department of development aid. The programme, which is only a few months old, aims to increase the productivity of the freeholders’ land.

“Training is essential for developing black farmers,” say representatives of the Development Bank. Programmes in which the bank is involved include production, literacy and community development.

While there are other examples of successful training of black farmers, the EMG’s report points out that only state departments, the Development Bank and a few non-governmental organisations are actively involved in helping black farmers.

“Some of these projects are doing good work on an experimental basis, but they are not making much of an
Another year, another drought

Will it hurt city types? Alas, it will

The drought will not only hit farmers. It will cause food prices to rise and in turn push up inflation in general. It will reduce export revenues and diminish the surplus in the current account of Balance of Payments, or how much money a nation we have in the kitty.

It will have a percentage cut or so off the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the broadest measure of the country’s wealth.

Volkskas economist Adam Jacobs points out that agriculture only contributes six to seven percent to GDP. But because of economic linkages with agriculture, drought has a wider effect. “It’s quite clear that we will be lucky to see 1 percent growth this year,” he says.

The drought could not have come at a worse time both economically and politically. The economy is at the lowest point for years of an already long, drawn-out recession. Politically, the country is undergoing huge adjustments and changes.

Mark Lyster, of the Development Bank of South Africa, reckons 100 000 farm labourers could be put out of work. Multiply this by eight or nine dependents and you have a million people homeless or jobless.

Should they move to the city, the problem of finding land for informal settlement and paying for it will be so much worse. In general, increasing joblessness and rising crime will be given another boost, making it that much more difficult for South Africa’s haves to cope with change.

Moreover, the drought has hit not only the maize farmers, such as the Western Transvaal, but other farmers as well. National Maize Producers Organisation (Nampo) general manager Giel van Zyl puts it bluntly:

“The drought is devastating the summer rain crops countrywide.”

While dry-land farming has been hit, irrigation farming is by and large not affected. The sugarcane crop will be affected. So will, among others, sunflower seeds, dry beans, sorghum and potatoes.

Mealsies, a staple food for much of the population, has been hardest hit. Cowies says South Africa might have to import two to three million tons of meat — despite having carried over one million tons of maize from last season. At a world maize price of R450 to R500 a ton, that means R1-billion to R1,5-billion of precious foreign exchange flowing out of the country. In good years, maize exports from South Africa are a boost to the trade balance.

The urbanite view of farmers as molliccoddled Mercedes Benz drivers is wide of the mark, stresses the Development Bank’s Mark Lyster. A decade of moving agriculture towards a more market-related set-up, where demand matters as much as supply, has taken its toll. For instance, the real (adjusted for inflation) price of maize hasn’t risen in the last six or seven years.

Lyster is careful to emphasise that the bank empathises with the plight of many farmers. There is real suffering out there, he says. Some farmers will be driven off the land. Lyster doubts planning alleviate much needless suffering? REG RUMNEY reports

.. another big surprise. Why?

the government has much money available to spend on agriculture.

On the other hand, one has to be cautious about the special pleading of vested interests. For instance, farmers’ groups have been calling for writing off the R18-billion or so of debt that hangs over the farming community. And they have been warning of widespread sequestrations. The banks are unlikely to rush into sequestrations. Those banks involved in agriculture hardly need to have more unsaleable property on their books. They would rather leave the farmers on the land to repay their debts.

Lyster supposes it wouldn’t help much to write off the debt without addressing the underlying problem: farmers would merely build up debt again.

From a strategic point of view farmers’ call for drought relief must gain sympathy, as long as it doesn’t extend beyond drought assistance, and is confined to debt related to production rather than the farmers’ car or speedboat.

What the drought has shown, though, is the need from several different angles for fundamental reshaping of different agriculture. The official attitude to agriculture has changed, and prices are more market-related, but much more needs to be done. As one example, the role and composition of the controversial agricultural marketing boards must be looked at carefully.

Distortions arose over many years in agriculture from various kinds of subsidisation of a strategic industry and the political clout of the farmers. So, for example, farmers grew maize where they should have grown sorghum or groundnuts. This kind of problem is not unique to South Africa. The present round of talks of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs is supposed to take another step towards world trade free from subsidy and protection. But it has been nibbled by powerful farming lobbies in the European Community, and the US itself is not completely innocent when it comes to subsidies. Subsidisation of farm crops overseas affects domestic agriculture in various ways. It can be cheaper to import certain products, even though they are plentiful in South Africa.

Nonetheless, restructuring must be undertaken in South Africa for economic and environmental as well as political reasons. The political rationale for some kind of affirmative action for black farmers is well known. The Development Bank made itself unpopular some years ago by recommending that land which could not be farmed by white farmers without massive subsidies could be given to black farmers.

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But he cautions against a romantic view of smallholder farming. It won’t necessarily help food production simply to hand over farms from failed white farmers to small black farmers, for instance.

Moves towards a more rational economic approach have already been made. The Development Bank has advocated a land reform programme, encompassing politics, the economy, social, technical and environmental aspects. Its approach should include affirmative action for black farmers.

The reshaping of agriculture has to be sweeping.

Lyster sums up: “We have to try to move to a more sustainable environment.”
Farmer threatens to shut school

A FARMER near Lanseria Airport is set to jeopardize the future of hundreds of children by refusing to let them attend the school on his property.

Swartkop Valley School, according to parents, was built by the previous owner who died. The farm was then sold to a BA Billiet.

Billiet is reported to have demanded that the school be bought by the Department of Education and Training (DET) or anybody else, failing which he would stop children from attending.

He has carried out his threat. He has reportedly barred children from attending the school on several occasions since last year.

Last Friday he reportedly chased the children away and only re-admitted them after he was given an undertaking by an unnamed Pretoria DET official that the school would be bought.

However, parents claim that either the DET or the principal of the school are dragging their feet in addressing the issue.

The expulsion of children was reported to have started earlier last year and the principal, known only as Bogatsu, had constantly refused to make the issue public. He argued that the department would fire him if it was known that he had taken the issue to the people or institutions other than the department.

Neither the department nor the farmer were available for comment, but PUPILS' FORUM learned that Billiet had undertaken to expel the kids again should the department fail to settle the matter urgently.
Drought is an inherent part of the South African climate, says a report to the Water Affairs Commission by Professor Walter Zucchini and Mr. P.T. Adamson.

"Statistics prove that not a single year passes without drought in some part of South Africa," concluded Water Affairs hydrologist Mr. Stefan van Biljon.

But three periods dominate, when vast areas of the country were affected: the early 1930s, from 1948-1949 and the major drought from 1978 to 1983.

In 1963/4 and 1965/6 the Eastern and Northern Transvaal experienced some of their driest years. By 1972 the coastal areas of the southwestern Cape and the southern interior were in the throes of their worst drought.

In this context Water Affairs figures indicate the total amount of water in dams throughout the country has dropped seven percent below the overall 72 percent recorded last February.

Several individual reservoirs have fallen by as much as 20 percent.

But there are major exceptions, including 27 dams in the Western Cape (which today average 57 percent compared to 39 at the same time last year), and the Boegoeberg Dam on the Lower Orange River which remains full.

Natal is well supplied with water, the total level only slightly down from last year's 75, to 74 percent. At least four of the 18 major dams are 100 percent full and most stand at well over 90 percent full.

At the other end of the scale the critical state of Eastern Cape water resources has seen dam capacities dwindle to the 33 percent mark from 48 this time last year.

Although parts of the Western Transvaal are in the throes of a crippling drought, the 17 dams in the region were just over half full this week, averaging 53 percent, only one percent lower than February 1991. This includes the popular boating venue, Hartbeespoort Dam, down from 93 to 59 percent full.
New moves to rescue drought-stricken farmers

MICHAEL MORRIS
Political Staff

MEASURES to hasten financial relief for drought-stricken farmers and to fend off imminent sequestrations are being taken by the government.

These are among the main points to emerge from a crisis meeting between the Minister of Agriculture, Dr Kraai van Niekerk, and the president of the South African Agricultural Union, Mr Boet Fourie, yesterday.

In a joint statement the ministry and the SAAU said "everything possible" would be done in the short term to fend off imminent sequestrations and, in the longer term, to bring about more general financial relief.

The following actions have been agreed on:

- Forming a task group under the leadership of the president of the SAAU and the superintendent-general of the Department of Agricultural Development to establish an assistance network and gather information.
- The Land Bank and the Agricultural Credit Board to be instructed to prevent, as far as possible, sequestrations.
- Negotiations with financial institutions involved in the agricultural sector, to be launched on February 24.
- Establishing joint local committees in magisterial districts in which all parties involved in financing agriculture will be represented. Farmers have been asked to file applications for financial aid with magistrates.
- Measures to avoid food shortages. The importation of maize is "receiving urgent attention".

More reports on the drought — page 18.
Deadly drought plagues millions

As southern Africa reels in what could become the most devastating drought in a century, millions of people face famine as crops are laid waste and watercourses dry up. HANS-PETER BAKKER of the Argus Africa News Service reports from Johannesburg.

Milk crisis looms in dairy revolt

The dairy industry is under threat in drought-torn Zimbabwe and producers have warned that unless prices paid to them are doubled, the country will have no milk.

ROBIN DREW, Argus Africa News Service, reports from Harare.

ZIMBABWE, under the lash of a devastating drought, erratic shortages of water and food and gathering inflation, is faced with the threat of the collapse of the dairy industry.

Grain-faced dairy producers have warned that the country will have no milk if they are not paid double the present price.

The chairman of the National Association of Dairy Farmers, Mr E W Frick, said at a packed meeting: "In a few short years we have been reduced to a subsistence farm world dairy industry to one of subsistence and mere survival."

"Dairy cattle are today worth more as meat than they are as milkers."

Many producers had dropped out and more were about to follow.

"If the system used for deciding producer prices for milk is not immediately revised, we will end up with no milk," said Mr Frick.

A leading economist, Mr E W Bloch, said although droughts had contributed to the downturn in the fortunes of dairy farmers, by far the greatest and overriding cause had been the total lack of realism relating to prices.

Dairy farming had once been a lucrative industry but in the past five years it had steadily declined.

The crisis was made that the entire future of the dairy industry was in jeopardy and the health and well-being of the population was being put at risk.

Zimbabwe has less than 300 registered producers, production is falling and input costs are rising dramatically, a seminar to devise strategies for survival was told.

The milk crisis comes when the morale of commercial farmers is low, the economy is in recession and the white-owned farming land is being turned over to black farmers.

Zimbabwe now has less than 300 registered producers, production is falling and input costs are rising dramatically, a seminar to devise strategies for survival was told.

In Mozambique, ravaged by more than 20 years of war, the drought promises to take a high human toll with many hundreds of people already displaced by the war and the critics holding little promise of survival for the stricken rural population.

Mr Regis Mugwane, co-ordinator for food security on the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) region, warned that the damage from the drought to survival and food security in the region is not getting through to policy-makers in the area.

He said his task was quantifying the extent of the drought to enable countries in need to apply for assistance.

But, there is danger that everyone will ask for food aid at the same time."
Banks ready to aid stricken farmers

SOUTH Africa's commercial banks stand at the ready to save farmers from the devastating drought.

That's the good news to emerge from two of the banks heavily involved in loans to the nation's agricultural sector.

While the drought will undoubtedly send some farmers to the financial wall, commercial banks are ready not only to set up a safety net for others but also to allow efficient operators to expand through "creative" finance packages which allow them to buy out bankrupt enterprises.

Spokesmen for the banks said there was little likelihood that they would foreclose on victims of climatological circumstance.

Instead, they would examine each case on its merits, using pure business criteria and a sympathetic approach to keep as many farmers as possible on the land.

Such an attitude is viewed as stemming partly from a call by Dr Kraai van Niekerk, Minister of Agriculture, for a lenient approach from suppliers of credit to agriculture.

"We have been very accommodating in the past when farmers have been in difficult circumstances and I do not anticipate that we will react differently in the current situation," was the encouraging response from Prans Venter, chief agricultural advisor to First National Bank.

However, he warned that those farmers who found themselves in financial difficulties because they had become involved in injudicious schemes would not find support from the banks.

Yet in spite of the assistance many farmers would receive from the banks, the drought could have serious implications for the rural economy.

"You merely have to drive to such areas as Koster, Lichtenburg and Deareville to observe the effect. Shops are standing empty already and they were not built by speculators but because there was a demand for them."

Mr Venter said many of the workers of farmers who could not survive would find themselves destitute. There were already reports of labourers offering to work without pay, on the proviso that their families were given food and shelter.

He said the cost of importing maize to make up shortfalls had not yet been fully appreciated.

"Standards of purity on world markets are not always up to the standard of those on our domestic market. This means we may incur considerable costs in screening it to ensure it meets our requirements - over and above the cost of transporting it from our harbours to where it is required."

Additional costs could also have a knock-on effect on food prices, since many animal feeds incorporated maize.

He did not believe there would be much to be gained, in efficiency terms, from corporate farming organisations buying up bankrupt farms, since local experience had shown that big was not necessarily better - as conventional wisdom in the US would have it.

Economists suggested this week that in view of the pragmatic approach to farm debt by the banks, consumers could be harder hit than farmers in the current situation. This was because food prices would undoubtedly rise as the gap between demand and supply grew.

While the farmers might find a sympathetic ear among creditors, consumers could not expect similar treatment.

Econometrix's Tony Twine said a major cause for concern was the plight of subsistence farmers. In times of normal rainfall, aggregate demand for maize fell, since farmers were able to grow their own crops in dryland conditions.

However, in times of drought they were forced to buy in their requirements. There was a significant threat that those who were unable to survive the onslaught of the elements would swell the flow of people to the urban areas, where employment was not readily available.
Rain won’t wash away the problem

IT IS difficult to look beyond the immediate problems caused by our climate — the havoc wrought on agriculture by the drought, the imminent collapse of rural communities and the inevitable squeeze on State coffers to bail farmers out.

But even if the heavens opened tomorrow, agricultural experts agree that the deeper difficulties facing South African farming won’t be washed away by rainwater alone.

They also agree that this country is no farmers’ paradise, something that may surprise city people accustomed to seeing rolling fields whenever they head down to the coast on holiday.

Marginal land

“We have very limited high-potential land in this country,” says Professor Mchiel Laker, professor of soil science and plant nutrition at the University of Pretoria. “It represents about 3 percent of the land and a lot of that is gobbled up for non-agricultural uses. Another 12 percent is arable, but much of that is marginal.

“We also have very difficult soils in South Africa,” Professor Laker says. “They are often very shallow, they compact easily and they are highly erodible. It also doesn’t help that we have so few soil scientists to provide agriculture with the detailed information it desperately needs.”

Professor Laker warns that droughts have caused long-term ecological damage. “My main concern is with grazing areas where the ground has now been eaten clean. Without cover, the ground can harden and seal.

“That means rain cannot penetrate and water catchment areas dry up, there is greater erosion, and the quick run-off of water can lead to flash floods, which we see more and more. The farming system will also have to adapt to long-term weather patterns.”

Those patterns, it would seem, are not easy to predict. “Long-term predictions are not really possible at the moment,” says Dr Janette Lindsey, deputy director of the Climatology Research Group at the University of the Witwatersrand. “We are working on the possibility of accurate seasonal predictions and we are getting close.”

Professor Roland Schulze, professor of hydrology at the University of Natal, believes there is sufficient climatic information available for “us to know what nature can give us in each place and time”.

“There is no doubt that droughts will recur and the areas that are climatically risky for maize — which needs rain in a very particular phase of its growing period — are highly identifiable. Our agriculture should be in harmony with our natural environment, rather than fighting against it.”

There would be little disagreement with that ideal, but how precisely to attain it is a matter of some debate.

Indigenous crops

One view is that growers of maize — which was brought here from North America — should switch to indigenous African crops such as sorghum and millet which are more drought resistant.

“In drought and sorghum and millet have an infinitely better chance of surviv- al,” says Mpho Mauchemi, deputy director for relief and development for Operation Hunger. “People used to grow sorghum only for beer, but now they are turning back. I believe that we can get people to grow traditional crops. They will not return to maize.

“This is not good country for growing maize, but it was always a strategic issue that South Africa should be self-sufficient in food,” says Dave Cooper, an agriculturalist with the Group for Environmental Monitoring. This system, Mr Cooper says, was then propped up with subsidies to farmers which have only recently been cut back.

Andries Botha, a successful maize farmer in the Free State for 31 years, insists he is planting the right crop. This year, he says, even the most adapted indigenous thing, the grass, has perished. “But we have to think of the future. Maize produces a much higher yield and is far more profitable. Besides, sorghum is far more vulnerable to aphids and quelea finches.”

High risk

Professor Schulze believes “there are areas with high potential for maize production and these should be encouraged. But we are sometimes practising agriculture in areas where the risk is too high.

“There are areas where you get one or two crops every five years, and those farmers then run to the State for aid.

It is these “marginal lands” that are the biggest bone of contention. The Government has been running a land conversion scheme for a few years now, whereby subsidies have been given to farmers to switch fields from maize production to grazing. According to the Government, some 400 000 ha have been turned around, but after November, no more ap-
NO FARMER'S PARADISE: Only 3 percent of land has high agricultural potential and another 12 percent is arable — but much of that is marginal and difficult soil, which is shallow, compacts easily and is highly erodable.

GOOD YEARS: Maize yields can be high, but SA is not suited to cultivating this crop, which needs rain at a specific time in its growing period.
Drought plan for farmers

By ANTHONY JOHNSON

The government and the SA Agricultural Union yesterday agreed on an urgent action plan to save hundreds of drought-battered farmers from looming bankruptcy.

The Minister of Agriculture, Dr Kraai van Niekerk, and the president of the SAAU, Mr Boet Fourie, said after a crisis meeting in Cape Town that everything possible would be done for farmers in the short term to fend off imminent sequestrations.

In the longer term, joint efforts would be necessary to bring about more general financial relief for farmers, they said in a joint statement.

The actions agreed upon at yesterday’s meeting include:

- The Land Bank and the Agricultural Credit Board would be instructed to prevent, “as far as possible”, imminent sequestrations.
- The Minister of Agriculture and the SAAU would begin negotiations with senior representatives of financial institutions involved in agriculture aimed at saving farmers from bankruptcy.
- The immediate establishment of joint local committees in magisterial districts in which all parties concerned with finance to agriculture would be represented, with local agricultural credit committees at the nucleus.

All farmers experiencing financial difficulty should file applications for financial assistance with local magistrates.

- Measures are being taken to avoid food shortages among farmers and their labourers.
- The establishment of a committee of government ministers to take responsibility for the planning and co-ordination of relief.
- A task group under the leadership of the president of the SAAU and the superintendent-general of the Department of Agricultural Development was formed to take urgent steps to quantify problems facing farmers countrywide.
Drought sows the seeds of despair for stricken farmers

FOR the drought-stricken farmers of Delareyville, the saddie-saddie is over — now they can dance only with the dust devils that swirl across their barren maize fields.

With no chance of saving their crops they say they have pinned their hopes on God and the government.

As farmers’ total debt soared beyond R17-billion, these Delareyville farmers — once the wealthiest in the land — buckled under individual debts topping R1-million.

In the Delareyville district alone four farmers have been sequestrated since December — two remain unemployed and a third is in Westkoppies Hospital.

Hammer

Churches, co-operatives, the Farmers’ Union and the SA Vroue Federasie are distributing food and clothing parcels to white families without incomes on the farms and in the towns, according to Mrs Makkie Uys.

“A boer can no longer make a plan. I’ve tried and tried, but if they don’t help me now I’m out,” said Delareyville farmer Friskie Marais, 60.

In an attempt to wrest the auctioneer’s hammer from above his head, Mr Marais, once an established maize farmer and breeder of racehorses, sold all but 50ha of the farm where he was born.

But as the sun blazed from a clear sky on to stunted mealies little bigger than potplants, Mr Marais’ back is wedged against the wall more tightly than ever. He cannot even afford to mend a broken lounge win-

dow let alone tackle a loan of R639 252.60.

Jan van Niekerk, who meticul-
ously records and calculates his farming operation on computer, had to auction 46 prize beef cattle on Thursday at a rock-bottom price of R390 a kilogram.

After seven years of drought Frans Joubert, 43, is mortgaged up to his eyeballs. His 10-year-old son is so depressed that he doesn’t want to come home from boarding school, his wife quit the local Vroue Federasie to save the petrol and his pumpkins burst open in the heat.

Broken farm implements lie idle because there is no money to repair them, his car has more than 350 000km on the clock and his small dairy herd is producing half the milk it did in 1988.

“This is the crunch; we are all in big trouble,” said Mr Joubert, the recipient of eight 60kg bags of emergency mealie meal to feed nine families living on his farm.

“You could buy a new tractor with 1 000 bags of mealies 10 years ago. Today that won’t even pay your deposit,” said farmer Winston Sumner.

Delareyville Agricultural Union chairman Flip Kotze said that only three percent of Delareyville’s 350 farmers were able to fend for themselves. Without government aid about 60 percent would collapse.

The crisis is not confined to the farmers. The newly formed Delareyville emergency fund is supplying rations to the families of about 500 labourers, Mr Kotze said.

Some workers have already been laid off and the jobs of many more hang in the balance — although some farmers vow they will never “get rid of people who have stood by us for all these years”.

Mrs Poppie Schoele, 40, headmistress of the Boraso farm school, said her pupils were fainting in the classroom because of heat and hunger.

Malnutrition in the black community, already 83 percent, is expected to increase.

Also gasping for breath are the small businesses in the platteland towns.

Temperatures

Delareyville Chamber of Commerce chairman and local supermarket owner Chris Olivier said 10 of the town’s 100 businesses would close within a month as store owners lost most of their black trade and could no longer extend long lines of credit to overdue farmers.

In Natal, drought and soaring temperatures have affected farms in many areas, with farmers around Ladysmith, Bergville, Winterton, Estcourt, Greytown and Weenen among the worst hit.

Many large maize farmers have already lost 75 percent of their crop, and if there is no rain within the next 10 days they could lose 95 percent. Some of them claim they have already lost between R300 000 and R500 000 because of the drought.

In the Eastern Cape, drought has ruined hundreds of farmers and could cripple the Fort Elizabeth-Uitenhage industrial complex.
Drought closes Fedfood plant

By DON ROBERTSON

THE drought and low demand for frozen vegetables have forced Fedfood to close its Harvest Time plant, in Port Elizabeth.

Chairman Dirk Jacobs says farmers will not have sufficient water for irrigation this year.

Some freezing facilities will be used at the plant and packaging and distribution will continue.

Several workers and produce from some farmers will be sent to the Table Top plant in George.

As announced in the last interim report, the Patoma sub-tropical fruit processor will be sold. Three buyers are interested.
Farming folk despair as crops wilt

As the sun beats down on the Free State, it is met by the rising heat from the baked soil. And, as the weeks pass without rain, the drought takes a rising human toll. PAULA FRAY reports.

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 Mills says about 50 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 refractions at factories in the smaller towns.

Throughout the Free State, fields of mealies present fool's gold for the hopeful. Their green appearance belies one of the worst droughts the country has ever seen.

As more and more farm labourers move to the cities, squatter communities, organisations such as Operation Hunger are straining to cope with the increasing number of malnourished children. Kwasiokor 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 no harvest," says Operation Hunger regional director Judy Mokgete.

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.

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 malnutrition.

"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 Mokgete.

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.
Nampo expects a ‘calamitous’ crop

PRETORIA — The drought-ravaged maize crop could shrink to a ‘calamitous’ 3-million tons or less, even if late summer rains fell, Nampo said at the weekend.

Massive damage had been inflicted on all summer crops and SA was facing the probability of having to import up to 4-million tons of maize.

Nampo GM Giel van Zyl said SA’s transport system was capable of handling only about 3-million tons, which meant food shortages were looming in SA and the rest of southern Africa. The whole of the sub-continent was in the grip of an unprecedented disaster which meant tens of thousands could face starvation. Zimbabwe would be short of about 600,000 tons of maize.

Van Zyl said while the plight of the commercial farmers was known, there also were between 500,000 and 750,000 black subsistence farmers whose crops had been destroyed.

Our political staff reports from Cape Town that government and the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) on Friday agreed on an urgent action plan to save hundreds of farmers from looming bankruptcy.

Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk and SAAU president Boet Fourie said after a crisis meeting that everything possible would be done to help farmers fend off imminent sequestrations in the short term.

In the longer term, joint efforts would be necessary to bring about more general financial relief for farmers.
Hunger as drought worsens

By Paula Fray

This is the face of hunger as drought ravages South Africa. STAR 17/2197

Severely malnourished,
Daniel Modise is one of thou-
sands of children in the Free
State alone who would have
died by now but for help
from Operation Hunger.
When nurses first saw the
toddler about a month ago
with the distended stomach
and stick-like legs, they did
not think he would live more
than two days.
Since then, medical staff
at the Thumenben clinic have
been checking up on him and
his family at the Lusaka
squatting camp each week.
But conditions are far
from ideal.
The family lives in a one-
room tin shanty which brings
little protection from the
boiling heat. Around them
little grows and there is no
work.
Nearby, 32-year-old Mapa
kiso Mokashane — herself
malnourished — is strug-
gling to raise five children
who also need weekly care.
The squatting camp,
swelled by recent migrants
from the farms, has more
than 90 percent, unemploy-
ment, according to Opera-
tion Hunger field co-ordina-
tor Anthony Mfia.
About 76 percent of Lusa-
ka's children under five
years are malnourished.

However, according to Op-
eration Hunger Free State
regional director Judith
Mokgetle, while the inci-
dence of malnutrition is ris-
ing in Lusaka, other Free
State towns such as Addin-
ton and Bethlehem are in
an even worse situation.
In the entire Free State,
says Mr Mfia, about 55 per-
cent of children between five
and 15 years are malnour-
ished — most of them from
the farms.

Malnourished … Daniel Modise is one of thousands of children suffering in the drought. Picture: Alf Kumalo

More reports — Page 11
Cattle farmers hit by crime wave

THE crime wave sweeping the country was also affecting farmers, with particularly heavy losses in ranching areas, an SA Agricultural Union spokesman said at the weekend.

It appeared that stock theft syndicates were operating, but thieving by individuals was increasing, the spokesman said.

Thefts took place at gathering points, during transportation to slaughtering and marketing points, as well as at abattoirs.

A committee consisting of members of the Meat Board, abattoir authority Abcor and the Red Meat Producers' Organisation has been formed to monitor the threat, the spokesman said. Professional assistance had also been sought to develop counter-measures.

Police figures show that stock theft in 1990 increased by 8% from 1989 to more than 21 000 incidents. The 1991 figure will be disclosed in the police commissioner's report to be tabled in Parliament later this month. It is expected to be significantly higher than the 1990 figure.

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LANGKLOOF & ASS 09561
Listing is cherry on top for Langeberg

LANGEBERG Holdings will complete its transformation into a public entity with a listing on the JSE before June 30, two years after being the first agricultural co-operative to be privatised.

Cape-based Langeberg is one of the world's largest food canning operations and has an annual turnover of more than R546m.

Langeberg Holdings spokesman Der du Toit said the decision to list was based partly on the wish by minorities to trade their shares on the open market.

Tiger Oats has a controlling 56% stake in Langeberg Holdings through wholly owned subsidiary Langeberg Foods. Langeberg Co-operative — mainly made up of the farmers who are Langeberg's prime source of raw materials — holds about 30% of Langeberg Holdings while about 14% is made up of minority shareholders.

The decision to go public was also to a large extent based on a clause in the contractual agreement between Tiger Oats and Langeberg Co-operative which was drawn up in July 1983 on Tiger Oats' acquisition of its stake in Langeberg. The clause stipulated that an attempt be made to list Langeberg by June 30 1992, said Du Toit.

Langeberg MD Ray Brown said in a statement the company had nine food processing and canning operations and exported a large variety of canned fruits, vegetables and other food products.

It processes 380 000 tons of raw produce every year, consuming 25 000 tons of sugar and using more than 400-million cans, bottles and jars. Its products include brand names such as Koo, All Gold, Silver Leaf, Hugo and Natulite.

Brown said the Langeberg board decided the time was appropriate for a listing in view of the strong financial performance of the company and the buoyancy of the stock market.

In the 1991 Tiger Oats annual report, Tiger chairman Robbie Williams commented on Langeberg's increased profitability: "Very encouraging results were achieved by the group's recent acquisitions, particularly Langeberg."

Langeberg Holdings' 1991 annual report showed the company increased turnover by 15.4% to R545.6m in the financial year to September 1991 when compared with the same period in 1990. Earnings more than trebled to 155c. Consequently, dividends increased from 11.5c a share to 43c a share over the same period. The report forecast a further improvement in Langeberg's performance in 1992.

Brown said drought in the northern regions of SA would have no effect on Langeberg's profitability. The past three years had seen drought affect pineapple crops in the eastern Cape, but farmers there expect to improve this year.

Fruit crops were mainly in the western Cape and were safe from drought. Pea crops were slightly affected by drought last year and only 70% of Langeberg's requirement was produced. Brown said drought was a natural occurrence in SA and the group experienced such conditions with at least one crop a year.
AWB agrees to clear squatter area

By Peter Wellman

Farmer Sarel Swanepoel has called in the AWB to demolish squatters' shacks on his Krugersdorp farm - because he says the authorities won't do the job.

Yesterday Mr Swanepoel confirmed he had asked the AWB's Wenhkommando for help "because the authorities say this is the New South Africa, and they won't take action".

The AWB would not give a date for the shack-busting yesterday, but said it would do it because Mr Swanepoel's farm had been occupied by about 30000 illegal squatters.

Mr Swanepoel had received no compensation, he said. A building contractor, Mr Swanepoel originally invited blacks to live on his land, as tenants in low-cost housing about two years ago.

"The accommodation was planned for a few thousand, but in no time squatters had overrun the place," he told The Star last night.

Mr Swanepoel said police had refused to take any action against the squatters.

Refusing to disclose whether he was an AWB member, he said: "That is not relevant. I have paid a lot of money to the Government, but only the AWB would help me of all the avenues I explored."

About 18 months ago Mr Swanepoel's shotgun was forcibly taken from him by squatters in a confrontation.

The PWV region of the ANC yesterday condemned the AWB's threat to forcibly remove the squatters and called on the Ministry of Law and Order to "take appropriate action".

Bid to stop demolition of homes

By Jo-Anne Colling

Members of a western Transvaal rural community yesterday turned to the Pretoria Supreme Court to prevent their homes being demolished as allegedly advocated by Conservative Party deputy leader Dr Ferdi Hartzenberg.

Paul Tsate Masie (64) from Welverdiend near Lichtenburg, brought the application as one of 105 families on the farm.

The PWV region of the ANC yesterday condemned the AWB's threat to forcibly remove the squatters and called on the Ministry of Law and Order to "take appropriate action".

Refusing to disclose whether he was an AWB member, he said: "That is not relevant. I have paid a lot of money to the Government, but only the AWB would help me of all the avenues I explored."

About 18 months ago Mr Swanepoel's shotgun was forcibly taken from him by squatters in a confrontation.

The PWV region of the ANC yesterday condemned the AWB's threat to forcibly remove the squatters and called on the Ministry of Law and Order to "take appropriate action".

The community has been there since the farm was declared a diamond digging in 1926 and Mr Masie's counsel will argue that residents are not squatters as defined in the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act.

The court issued an interim order preventing Welverdiend's owner, Willem Johannes Mouton, from "demolishing or threatening to demolish" his home. Mr Mouton consented to the interim interdict which holds good until March 3.

According to Mr Masie's affidavit, after several warnings that he would take action under the Squatting Act, Mr Mouton and his brother destroyed 25 homes with a bulldozer on December 18. They were accompanied by police.

Mr Mouton allegedly stated that the remaining dwellings were to be vacated by mid-February, failing which they would be demolished. He also pressed squatting charges against 33 residents in January.

Mr Masie said he and Igpal Motola of Lawyers for Human Rights were invited to a meeting of the WestVaal Squatting Committee on Friday.

Committee chairman Sampie Steyger called for a two-week halt to demolitions to allow for discussions and empha-
Hopes of economic recovery this year have been dealt a severe blow by the drought.

Central Statistical Service (CSS) said at the weekend that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fell by 0.6 percent last year after an 0.5 percent drop in 1990.

Economists had generally expected growth would recover to a positive 1.5 percent in 1992, but they are now scaling down their forecasts in the wake of the drought.

Economist Dr Azar Jammine estimates that the loss of agricultural production will be R2 billion to R4 billion.

While the contribution of agricultural production to GDP is no more than five percent, such a loss implies a decline in the projected economic growth rate this year of 0.5 percent to one percent, Dr Jammine says.

He now expects overall GDP to record a mere 0.5 percent growth.

The most immediate impact is that the country will have to import up to four million tons of maize, resulting in a foreign exchange loss of R1 billion to R2 billion.

However, given the record trade surplus of R18 billion last year and renewed access to foreign capital markets, the loss does not represent a significant blow to the build-up in gold and foreign exchange reserves.

Food prices

More significantly, Dr Jammine says, the drought means that certain food prices may rise as a result of the shortage.

Agricultural production fell by 1.3 percent last year, despite slight increases on a quarterly basis, according to CSS.

The majority of business and financial sectors showed a drop in output over the year.

The list was headed by construction, where output plunged 4.5 percent. This was followed by manufacturing (-2.4 percent), transport (-1.5 percent), mining (-1.5 percent) and commerce (-0.6 percent).

On a quarterly basis, GDP growth fell by 0.5 percent in the fourth quarter of 1991.

In the third quarter GDP rose by 0.5 percent, but this was preceded by seven quarters of negative growth.

The decline in South Africa's national output in the last two years was alarming and should be seen by all as a clear warning that time was running out for the country, said Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Mike Cato.

Sapa reports that Mr Cato said the year had not started well in economic terms with the drought bringing serious threats to national agricultural output.

"Whilst recent surveys have indicated a slight improvement in general confidence levels among businessmen, they have also shown that slack capacity will have to be filled before the levels of employment will rise," he said.
Farmers meet banks, govt to plan aid deals

SHARON WOOD

AN AID package for drought-stricken farmers will be negotiated between senior commercial bank representatives, the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) and Cabinet Ministers when they meet early next week.

The meeting is part of the six-point plan adopted at a top-level Cabinet meeting in Cape Town last Friday to prevent farmer sequestrations.

Bank spokesmen said it was too early to speculate on what aid packages would entail, but a possible solution might allow the repayment of interest but not the capital portion of agricultural loans.

Bankers said aid would be based on sound business principles. Banks could not be expected to make an exception of the agricultural sector when other sectors also had problems.

Banks have said they would remain sympathetic and patient with farmers’ problems and assist customers on an individual basis. The long-term viability of the individual farmer remained a priority and short-term problems would be accommodated.

Standard Bank agricultural senior manager Rudi Wilsnach said a top-level delegation would attend the meeting. Volkskas spokesman Willie Roux said the bank had been informed but not officially invited. Absa representatives would attend the meeting.

Nedbank, with limited debt exposure in the agricultural sector, would send representatives to the meeting but would not take a lead in any viewpoint, said corporate banking senior GM Mike Leeming.

SAPA reports that Nampo chairman Cees Claassen said yesterday maize farmers appreciated the assurance from President F W de Klerk that financial aid would be given to agriculture.

He said government had to decide on the reallocation of state funds and make an announcement before the agricultural sector could do any meaningful planning.

Claassen said government’s commitment to aid reassured farmers that government realised the important economic role played by maize producers.
The Government last night warned the AWB to stay out of the Swanieville squatter row at Krugersdorp. Deputy Law and Order Minister Johan Schreepers said the policy would not allow the AWB to destroy shacks on the farm at the request of owner Sarel Swanepoel.

"I am convinced that arriving at a solution to this problem, which was created by Mr Swanepoel himself, will be made more difficult by the involvement of any third party," he said.

Mr Swanepoel told The Star yesterday that the ANC had taken over his farm and his rents. That was six months ago. There are 20,000 to 28,000 squatters.

The authorities have not given me clearance for a black housing project and they refuse to act on the squatters' situation that has developed as a result. "So I went in the end to the AWB. Where else was I supposed to go?"

They are the only ones who said they would protect me and save my farm," he said.

Waiting for Swanepoel. Swanieville residents want delivery on promises made by the farmer. Some residents say they paid R100 to secure a plot and monthly rental for "no facilities".

Pictures: Joao Silva

Keep out. Sarel Swanepoel says squatters have named him from his own farm. He says the last time he went to the squatters was 18 months ago — and he was cut by a knife thrown at him.

R50 a month in rent "for no facilities at all". As he spoke another woman chimed in: "Here is proof" — and produced a receipt for R100 marked "rent". The signature was not clear.

The atmosphere was calm and friendly, and there were cheers at Mr Swanepoel's ANC claims.

One was that ANC officials were selling his land for R200 each at a barber shop in Swanieville One. The owner of the shop, Stephen Sgwaba, has his hair cut and shined, simply laughed.

Residents said they had refused to pay rents from December last year. They would resume when Mr Swanepoel delivered on his promises.

Cross a dip of open void, Swanieville One has a pro-ANC reputation. 27 residents were massacred there last May. It was more tense and an ANC presence was obvious.

No one would talk with "the comrades" say a group of young men, apparently ANC officials, said briefly but politely that they would answer questions at a press conference today. But they confirmed residents were also boycotting rent to Mr Swanepoel.

Neither section of Swanieville had the tension common to squatter camps, and residents said many people had jobs in the area.

"But some of us have come from as far as the Transkei because of Mr Swanepoel's promises," was the parting shot as we drove away.
The owner of the controversial Swanieville farm near Kagiso yesterday told why he approached the AWB to demolish the shacks in the area.

The Government last night warned the organisation it would not allow it to go ahead with its threat to pull down the shacks.

This was after the AWB announced it had been given permission by owner of the farm, Mr SJ Swanepoel, to pull down the shacks.

Swanepoel said the African National Congress had "taken over my farm and my rents".

There are 26 000 to 28 000 squatters.

"The authorities have not given me clearance for a black housing project and they refuse to act on the squatting situation that has developed as a result."

"So I went in the end to the AWB. Where else was I supposed to go? They were the only ones who said they would help me, and I have sent that message to the State President. There is going to be a bloodbath.

"I can't even go onto my own land any more. The last time I went to the squatters was 18 months ago. I was cut by a knife thrown at me and a security guard with me was beaten to death, but no one has been arrested."

He warned journalists would face a hostile reception at Swanieville.

Deputy Law and Order Minister Mr Johan Schepers said the situation, which he said had been created by Swanepoel himself, would be made more difficult by the involvement of any third party, including the AWB.

"The police will not tolerate any irregular conduct. I therefore urgently call on Mr (Eugene) TerreBlanche not to allow the AWB to become involved in any action that could possibly result in confrontation and violence," he said.

Part of the row is whether the people there - estimated about 15 000 - are squatters at all.

They say they moved into Swanieville over the past two years at Swanepoel's invitation because he had promised cheap but good housing and toilets, plenty of water and a school.

Mrs Agnes Mlambo, whose husband died recently, is expecting her six children, ranging from seven to 25, to move into her one-roomed mud shack allocated to her by Swanepoel.

Like others, she says she had to pay R100 to get a plot, then R30 a month in rent "for no facilities at all".
By IKE MOTSAPI

FOREIGNERS should not be allowed to buy land and property in South Africa and those in possession should be compensated.

This was said yesterday by callers to the Sowetan Radio Metro Talkback Show when voicing their concern and displeasure at foreigners who owns, among other things, properties when the question of land distribution had not settled.

Most callers felt that South African citizens should be the only people allowed to buy land, especially when a section of them were denied this in the past.

The ANC’s expert on the land issue, Ms Bongiwe Njobe, told listeners that some foreigners acquired land unfairly in the past.

She said blacks were denied the right to buy property and land in the past but that this had changed.

Njobe however warned against foreigners buying land and property in South Africa because they “will be contributing towards investment in the country.”

She said the ANC was busy discussing the issue.

Joe Mthimkhulu from Sebokeng said land should not be sold to foreigners because “it could be used to meet the increasing challenges of providing houses to the needy”.

He said: “Population explosion demands that certain steps have to be taken to house the millions and millions of people needing accommodation.”

Fatima from Cape Town said foreigners who owned property and land in the country should be refunded the money they spent for their purchases.

She added: “Consideration should be given first to people who seriously needed houses.”

Jimmy Petersen from Eldorado Park said: “The issue is very complex in that the land rightfully belong to blacks.

“Blacks in South Africa suffer because they had been prevented to buy or acquire what is rightfully theirs.”

Joe Pearce said he was against land and property being sold to foreigners.

He said: “There should be a moratorium on the land owned by foreigners. “The land has to be bought back from them and placed in a trust. “Once this has been done local people can team up and buy it.”

He said foreigners bought land for cheap and sold it for huge profits.
Drought is driving farmers to ruin

DROUGHT is driving hundreds of South African farmers to ruin, but ecologists say they should blame themselves and not the weather.

"This drought is the worst ever in the Free State," said Mr Piet Gous, president of the agricultural union in the province, part of South Africa's main maize growing area.

"On my 900 hectare farm we will harvest less than one ton of maize this season."

Maize is South Africa's most valuable field crop and in a normal year the harvest totals about nine million tons with yields of about two tons a hectare.

Department of Agriculture spokesman Mr Frans Lood said farmers would be lucky to achieve half that which they harvested this year, and the country would have to import maize, one of its staple foods.

Maize fields in the Free State and western Transvaal are shrivelling in mid-summer temperatures that have broken 30-year records in some parts of the country.

Some farmers unable to grow enough food for their own families, are surviving on handouts and some have left their farms for jobs in towns.

Laid-off black workers are heading for the cities with their families, swelling shanty towns of jobless and homeless people that are already primary sources of crime and political unrest.

"Most farmers in the Free State face financial ruin because of the drought," said Gous, a member of the rightwing opposition Conservative Party.

"They cannot afford to plant a crop next season. If they are driven from their farms, South Africa will permanently become a net importer of food."

He cited South Africa's total farm debt of R18 billion.

Lood, however, said the situation was not that bad and the banks holding the debt were unlikely to force a mass exodus from farms.

"South Africa has a healthy farm trade balance and our agricultural resources are adequate until the year 2020... This is not the first drought in South Africa, and it won't be the last," he said.

Indeed, droughts and prayers for rain are a frequent phenomenon in South Africa.

The weather bureau said the present lack of rain is no worse than the last serious drought nine years ago or two severe droughts in the 1970s.

Ecologists said the problem is that farmers, encouraged by Government subsidies, are using the wrong techniques and growing the wrong crops for South African conditions.

"If you go for mono-agriculture, you go for big disasters," said Mr Keith Cooper, an ecologist with the Southern Africa Wildlife Society.

"Farmers with a mosaic of different crops will suffer less from natural disasters."

Cooper said farmers do nothing to protect their lands once the harvest is in, so when it does rain the water washes off in floods that carry away precious top soil.

"Low rainfall is normal here. The western Transvaal is better suited to farming species that are adapted to drought, like gembok and springbok."

Mr Clem Sunter, senior executive with Anglo American Corporation who has studied economic and environmental scenarios for South Africa's future, agreed.

"The western Transvaal does not receive enough rain for maize. We should put game farms there and import maize from countries with the right conditions for it, like Zimbabwe."

Agricultural economist Mr Theo Kleynhans said maize and wheat farmers are in serious trouble because their costs are rising much faster than the prices of their products.

"Climatic conditions haven't deteriorated, but economic conditions have," he said.

Government aid which kept farmers afloat in the past is declining.

"As white farmers lose the land, it will be taken over by black squatters," said Kleynhans.

"They have lower economic expectations than whites and can survive on much lower incomes." - Sapa-Reuters.

Mangope talks to rights

BOPHUTHATSWANA President Mangope held talks this week with leaders of the rightwing Afrikaans Wouerstandsbeweging during which self-determination featured prominently.

Mangope said the movement's spokesman for the homeland Transkei, Mr Gideon Cronje, had told him the homeland had living conditions to prove it.

"The homeland movement is not as radical as the Afrikaners," Mangope said.

"We should discuss the issues of self-determination and the right to self-government with the Afrikaners."

Mr Andre van Wyk, Afrikaner leader, said later that Mangope had made "very useful statements regarding South Africa's black leaders' desire to establish a parliament that would include" Afrikaners.

"This is the first time that a black leader has made such statements," he said.
Farmers 'shocked into action' after sixth death

ADRIAN HADLAND

Free State farmers have convened a special congress next week to discuss security after the murder of another farmer by armed intruders in the Thembelihle region yesterday morning.

Thys Martins, 48, a farmer living near Thembelihle in the Free State, was shot dead after discovering suspected burglars in his kitchen.

The slaying, the sixth violent death on a Free State farm since December, had shocked the farming community into action, said Orange Free State Agricultural Union representative Gerald Steyn.

The union has called a special congress for Tuesday. The main aim of the congress was to discuss, 'at the request of Free State farmers, the safety of farms and to pass suitable resolutions in this respect', a statement said.

A man alleged to have been involved in the murder of Martins shot himself in the head yesterday after being pursued by police in the Thembelihle district, Free State police liaison officer Lt-Col Johann Fourie said.

The suspect was in a critical condition in a Welkom hospital yesterday.

The other two suspects were apprehended by police yesterday afternoon.

Steyn said the easy availability of arms and growing unemployment in the region had contributed to the escalating violence and theft.

Farmers had been patrolling the more isolated farms since last year, said Steyn, but the agricultural union felt it necessary to raise farmers' awareness of the issue and plan specific proposals to counter the threat to farmers' lives.

Police arrest five after killing of two officers

MARITZBURG — Police have arrested five suspects in a major breakthrough in their investigation of the execution-type killing of two teenage police constables last month.

Police yesterday disclosed that round-the-clock investigations by the Maritzburg murder and robbery unit led to the arrest of five suspects wanted in connection with the brutal killings of Constable Jacques Wilken and Wysbrand Smith, both aged 19.

The two constables, who had been in the SAP for only two months, were stationed at C R Swart Square police headquarters in Durban.

Hospital

Their bodies were found back-to-back on the Eulione-Hawick road, near the Mpolomulo township, on January 11. They had been shot at point-blank range. The policemen's wristwatches, two bags and shoes and socks were missing.

Maritzburg Murder and Robbery Unit head Col Willie van den Berg said the first arrest was made on Friday. On Sunday, two more suspects were arrested and on Monday night a suspect who fled to Kokstad was arrested.

A fifth suspect is under police guard in hospital. He was shot and wounded during a clash between two groups recently.

Police have taken possession of three guns.

Van den Berg said more arrests were expected. He said detectives led by Det-Sgt Danie Reyneke were busy with investigations. The motive for the killings had not been established.

The two policemen, who completed their training in November, were on their way to Newcastle to visit Constable Wilken's parents. They were hitch-hiking. Const Smith's parents live in Vereeniging.

The killing of the two young policemen shocked colleagues and the SAP immediately offering a R25 000 reward for information leading to their arrest and conviction.

Meanwhile in Vosloorus, on the East Rand, municipal policeman Const D B Nkosi was shot dead on Monday night.

A police spokesman said three Vosloorus municipal policemen were visiting a woman's hostel when four men entered the reception area.

One of the men fired several shots at the policemen. Two managed to escape but Nkosi was hit and died. — Sapa.
OFS farmers vow to fight murderers

By Peter Davies

There is “an undeclared war situation” in the Free State farming community, with farmers poised to take the law into their own hands after Theunissen farmer Thys Maartens became the 15th victim of 11 separate attacks on farmers since December 1 last year.

Dr Pieter Gous, president of the Free State Agricultural Union, said yesterday: “We must look at the reasons for these attacks.

“They are nothing to do with economics or survival, but are gruesome, brutal, planned murders. They are a planned effort to scare farmers from their land.

And the political forces are trying to play down the seriousness of the situation.”

Police on Tuesday arrested three suspects in connection with the killing of Mr Maartens — one of whom allegedly shot himself in the head as detectives closed in, said a police spokesman.

The man, aged about 26, is in a critical condition in the Welkom Hospital. He also had a bullet wound in the right leg, allegedly inflicted during the shootout with Mr Maartens (48) and his wife, Maria Jacobs (43), on their farm Groothoek.

Mr Maartens was killed in the exchange.

A second suspect, aged 23, was later arrested in the Theunissen district, said Lieutenant-Colonel Johan Fouche.

By evening, police had picked up a third man on his way to Bultfontein.

Dr Gous said: “We are in an undeclared war situation. These guys are trained killers and can handle weapons better than most farmers.

“I can’t stress it enough that the farmers are tired of being hunted like wild animals. If the law can’t help it’ll take just one more murder for this situation to explode.”

Koos Pienaar, chairman of the Theunissen farmers district union and brother-in-law of Mr Maartens said: “We are more ready than ever after this attack.

“We’ll fight for our lives. We are more determined to protect ourselves and criminals must take note of this.”

There will be a top-level conference on farm security in Bloemfontein on February 25 attended by Law and Order Minister Hercules Kriel, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk and Deputy Defence Minister Wynand Breytenbach.
Sad days for struggling towns up in the north

BY DIRK NEL
Northern Transvaal Bureau

LOUIS TRICHARDT — Several northern Transvaal towns are threatened with economic ruin because of the devastating drought and recession.

“The profit margins of many businesses here have been decreasing in recent years, and now farmers’ cash flow problems, unemployment and the closure of some major industries have lowered the buying power of the general public,” Len Lemmer, chairman of the Louis Trichardt Sakekamer, said in an interview.

Stringent water restrictions are in force in the town, with the nearby Altasini Dam only eight percent full. It has been confirmed that Tongaat, the countrywide cotton processors, is one of the industrial firms which are closing their Louis Trichardt branch.

“I get depressed when I receive half a dozen sequestration notices a week for publication”, said local newspaper editor Johan Du Plessis. The victims were mainly farmers and small businessmen.

Necessity had forced the local business fraternity to devise strategies to survive, Mr Lemmer said.

Special commercials on radio in Zimbabwe, sponsored by the Sakekamer, had attracted many buyers from across the border, and this had kept businesses afloat. He claimed the town was offering some of the best bargains in South Africa. Many shops were cutting their prices by as much as 50 percent to sell old stock.

Meanwhile, The Star found the situation of farmers in the Steelpansberg district was still critical. Cattle farmers have reduced their herds drastically due to a lack of grazing. Game ranchers have had to resort to providing feed for wildlife on their farms.

The situation is not much better in neighbouring Messina. However, no water restrictions were in force there because the town was well-served by a pipeline from the Limpopo Valley, town clerk Johan Kok said.

Messina Mayor John Genis said businesses in the town were surviving well, mainly due to the settling of an increasing number of De Beers Company workers employed at the new Venetia Diamond Mine.

In other respects the future of Messina seemed bleak, because its 100-year-old copper mine would soon be closed, businessmen told The Star.

Mr Genis pointed out that unemployment in the area was being complicated by a continuous influx of illegal immigrants. No statistics in this regard could be obtained from police or immigration sources.

Regional Development Chairman Jack Klafl has put forward a three-point plan to transform the Steelpansberg district into an economically viable entity:

- Rebuilding of the border post at Beit Bridge, to streamline trade with Africa.
- Urgent attention to the development of an international water scheme on the Limpopo River.
- The immediate upgrading of the N1 route north of Pietersburg.

“Unfortunately our appeals seem to be falling on deaf ears, despite an undertaking from private sector sources to provide a percentage of the capital needed,” Mr Klafl complained.

Smaller towns such as All-days and Dendron were experiencing their worst ever economic slumps, while Potgietersrus, a major agricultural centre, was particularly hard hit, The Star was told by commerce leaders.

Pietersburg, the region’s major town, seemed set to weather the crisis because of its strong infrastructure and established public sector activity, a municipal spokesman said. No water restrictions were being considered at the town at present, he added.
Emergency water scheme set to commence

PORT ELIZABETH. — An emergency water scheme which comes into operation here next month will not necessarily benefit the city's domestic and bulk water consumers.

The R3 million scheme, in which water pumped from the Orange River to the Sundays River will then be pumped to temporary water treatment works at Motherwell, just outside the city, comes on-line on March 1.

But according to assistant city engineer Mr. Tom Proudflock, the current restriction of 300 kilolitres a household a day will remain.

Mr. Proudflock said the only thing which might change was the allocation of water from the city's main supply, the Paul Sauer Dam. At present about 40 percent of the dam's water goes for irrigation purposes and 60 percent is allocated to city consumers.

The Orange River scheme has caused controversy in the past. — Echo.
Bank attempts to halt farm auctions

CAPE TOWN - The Land Bank is to "urgently investigate" whether auctions of its creditors' farms can be halted with the aid of government contributions.

Deputy Finance Minister Japie van Wyk said in a statement yesterday that where auctions were scheduled or being arranged, the bank would see whether it would be possible for clients to be "further accommodated". This was so the bank "would not be compelled to proceed with its recovery procedures during this time of crisis".

Van Wyk said the bank applied its financing policy as leniently as possible because of the serious drought.

Climatic conditions could lead to financial embarrassment for farmers and they deserved "sympathetic treatment" to enable them to recover, he said.

Various internal measures had already been instituted to assist clients, such as the granting of liberal extensions for the meeting of commitments, the consolidation of arrear interest, the suspension of capital redemption and the extension of the loan period.

The bank also consented to clients taking up temporary employment, or the leasing of all or part of the bank's security, in order to enable them to supplement their cash flow.

Unfortunately, Van Wyk said, it was inevitable in some circumstances that a client's debt-loan would be of such an order that even with the bank's internal measures "he cannot be rehabilitated".

But, he stressed, "the bank acted against a client only after all possible alternatives for administering his financial positions has been thoroughly investigated and it is clear that there is no further hope of financial recovery".

Van Wyk said the bank would "in these present critical times" give its full co-operation to assist clients where possible.

"Any coordinated actions, with the object of keeping the farmers on their properties, is strongly supported by the bank, and the Land Bank wishes to give the assurance that in no way will it haphazardly act against its clients by taking drastic measures."

Sapo reports the SA Agricultural Union's emergency and disaster aid committee will meet next week to discuss measures to assist farmers worst affected by the drought.

Spokesman Steve Shone said while rain and cooler weather had brought considerable relief to farmers in Natal, the heat stress had reduced yields by up to 100% in some cases.

Farmers with late crops, he said, would benefit from the recent rains. Shone said although grazing and stock watering conditions in east Griqualand and southern Natal were satisfactory, conditions in far northern Natal varied from extremely poor to critical.

The Red Meat Producers' Organisation (RPO) yesterday expressed concern at the expected failure of the maize crop and the fact that millions of tons of yellow maize would have to be imported at a high cost.

RPO chairman Gerhard Bron said in Pretoria that the increase in transportation costs for yellow maize, and the resultant similar trends in production costs, would have adverse effects on the slaughter stock and weaner industries.
Farmers ready to kill

THERE is "an undeclared war situation" among Free State farmers who are poised to take the law into their own hands after Theunissen farmer Mr Thys Maartens became the 15th victim of 11 separate attacks on farmers since December 1 last year.

Dr Pieter Gous, president of the Free State Agricultural Union, said yesterday: "We must look at the reasons for these attacks. They are nothing to do with economics or survival, but are gruesome, brutal, planned murders.

"They are a planned effort to scare farmers from their land. It's a classic example of the PAC's 'one settler one bullet'. The political forces are trying to play down the seriousness of the situation."

He added: "We are in an undeclared war situation. These guys are trained killers and can handle weapons better than most of our farmers."

"The farmer is expected to behave in a civilised way, but the rules of the game will have to change; or we'll soon see people hanging from trees."

"I can't stress it enough. The farmers are tired of being hunted like wild animals. If the law can't help, it'll take just one more murder for this situation to explode like a thunderflash."

Mr Koos Plenaar, chairman of the Theunissen farmers' district union and brother-in-law of Mr Maartens, said:

"What can we do? We are more ready than ever after this latest attack. It could lead to something the opposite of what they are trying to do at Codesa. We'll fight for our lives. We are more determined to protect ourselves."
Hundreds of farmers ask for financial help

By Helen Grange  
Pretoria Bureau  

More than 350 farmers have applied for long-term financial assistance to the Department of Agriculture since the beginning of the year — and up to 1,500 farmers are on the Government’s disaster aid scheme.

Disclosing the statistics yesterday, a Department of Agriculture spokesman added there were more applications for aid in the pipeline in the wake of the devastating drought which has destroyed any hope of this year’s maize crop meeting local needs.

Relief measures for farmers, including the possibility of bank policy towards farmers being changed to alleviate their plight, are to be discussed by the SA Agricultural Union and Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk at a meeting in Pretoria on Monday.

Meanwhile, the Land Bank has attempted to halt farm auctions pending developments in government circles concerning aid measures.

The Agriculture Department spokesman said 317 applications had been received since January 1 for long-term assistance to consolidate debt.
Food scheme to follow poverty investigation

THE introduction of a food intervention scheme during this year’s Budget was one of the Cabinet decisions resulting from a poverty study undertaken by a working group of the Department of Finance, the Minister of Finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, said.

In reply to a question by Mr Jasper Walsh (DP Pinelands), he said the working group headed by the Deputy Director-General (Financial Planning) had not tabled a report, but had submitted memoranda to the Cabinet on its findings.

Decisions taken on the basis of these memoranda would be reflected in the Budget, Mr Du Plessis said. — Sapa.

Farmers deeply in debt

AT the beginning of last year farmers had owed the Land Bank R33-million in instalments which had been overdue for more than 12 months, the Auditor General said in his report on General Affairs accounts tabled this week.

This included 1 467 cases involving R10 000 and more.

Total overdue instalments on December 31, 1990 was R250,9-million.

The Bank held 124 properties it had bought out and more than half had been held by the Bank for more than a year. — Sapa
Swanieville fight will go to court

Swanieville residents near Krugersdorp say they are not squatters, and are going to court to prove it. PETER WELLMAN reports.

GUGULUZI: versus Molana at Sun City, Swanieville versus Swanie at Krugersdorp. One for a title to take home, one for a place to call home.

The ring for the Swanieville fight will be a courtroom where residents are trying to stop farmer Sarel Swanepoel evicting them from his 376ha farm.

The Swanieville shack dwellers decided yesterday to go for a court interdict against him after a dignified meeting in a cement floored community hall they built themselves, among the tidy shanties, to hold about 100 people.

Fifty were there including a noisy delegate who ruined the dignity several times, shouting “Viva!” and demanding that everybody present, not just the convener, should get a chance to talk.

He was ignored, then allowed to have his say. Comrade Viva became more insistent, and louder, as he spoke, shuffling sideways into the centre of the hall with rising confidence.

There were a few laughs, and he was tolerantly told by the convener “OK, sharp, com!” before others, less tolerant, told him to shut up and sit down.

Did residents have receipts to prove Mr Swanepoel had received money from them, asked the convener. Yes, bundles of them, and they were sorted and counted on the spot.

The decision taken, the meeting turned to the arrest of 15 residents overnight on Monday.

Eleven were later released, and SAP liaison officer Captain Henrietta Bester said four faced allegations of kidnapping and assaulting three of Mr Swanepoel’s workers.

Swanieville on January 31.

Then several ANC officials arrived to tell journalists that a claim by Mr Swanepoel, that ANC members were selling his land for R200 each to new arrivals, was not true.

Mr Swanepoel had a copy of a handwritten offer, but there was nothing to link it to the ANC.

Advocate Matshole Molaleka, a local government expert, said the original offer was Mr Swanepoel’s and it had not yet been rescinded. He was probably correct technically, although Mr Swanepoel has called on the AWB to destroy the “squatter shacks of the 25,000 to 28,000 people who have assaulted me, and barred me from my own land”.

Mr Molaleka also said any Swanieville resident might have put up the handwritten notice “to tell others about it”.

People going there are desperate. Next door is a sewage plant flanked by a company advertising instant lawn. If they use what comes naturally the claim is probably true.

Round one was when residents’ boycotted rent payments of up to R50 a month to Mr Swanepoel last year, demanding he fulfil promises of proper homes, enough water, and other amenities.

Round Two was the AWB threat – the Government has warned them to stay out of the fight.

Round Three was the arrests.

Round Four – Mr Swanepoel says residents have also threatened to burn down his indulgent, luxurious home where his wife, Joey, wears a ring with a diamond so big that Id hate to have to say it, let alone get through customs.

Round Five will be the interdict application. This fight will go the distance.

Waiting for Swanepoel . . . Swanieville residents say he must deliver on his promise before he gets any more rent.

Picture: João Silva.
No clouds and no silver lining

Just how bad is the drought? A simple test is that it has passed the point where it will be felt by only the 7 000 farmers in the summer rainfall areas, who rely on maize for most of their income, and farmers in the eastern Cape and parts of the Karoo.

Steve Shone, director of the Natal Agricultural Union, says parts of the Midlands and southern Natal have had sufficient rain to ensure good grazing and maize crops. "But everything has stopped growing everywhere else. Stock farmers are having to get rid of their breeding stock, which is creating surpluses and depressing prices. That will lead to financial problems later."

Jan Humm, deputy GM of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, says: "It's bad right across the Transvaal. Two weeks ago, Bronkhorstspruit and Delmas (one of the most fertile areas in the Transvaal) looked reasonable, but no rain has fallen since then and we're talking of a 20%-30% crop there now."

SA has been ravaged by many crop disasters over the decades. But this time, with the country in the midst of a political transition, the implications are social as well as economic. And little rain is expected until the next rainy season begins in October.

Food prices will continue to rise sharply. While there won't be a shortage of maize, imports will mean an erosion of foreign exchange reserves. Milk will cost more because it will cost more to produce. So will potatoes — and only those grown under irrigation will come to market. The 17 000 ha dryland crop in the Orange Free State and eastern Transvaal highveld "appears to be a total disaster," according to the Potato Board's Gerrie de Jager.

Inflation will remain high and so will interest rates as the banks find resources stretched to assist their agricultural customers. All of this is apart from the burden the State will pile on the taxpayers by way of new relief schemes.

The SA Agricultural Union estimates that 1.1m blacks are employed on farms. On average, every worker supports another five people. And when farmers and farm workers are hurting, the villages and towns that rely on the farms for their existence also suffer.

In the eastern Cape, some farm workers are already receiving humanitarian aid. "It isn't just food; they need clothes and medical care too," says Roy O'Moore, GM of the Eastern Cape Agricultural Union. He says many farmers have exhausted their resources and can no longer pay their workers, but are allowing them to stay on their farms until they get other work. But there is no other work and, without aid, they would starve.

Poverty whites are appearing in bigger numbers. Some once-wealthy farmers in the western Transvaal are living off mealie meal donated by church groups. Many, unable to produce a crop this year, face sequestration and the loss of their farms.

Already deeply in debt, they will not be able to repay the credit they raised last year to plant the crop that failed this year.

Lulu de Jager, GM of the Free State Agricultural Union, doubts the maize farmers in the Free State north of Bloemfontein will produce a total of 100 bags (10 t). He estimates that a third of the Free State's farmers "have big financial problems but can pull through if they get help; another 15% to 20% are heading in that direction, but it's curtains for 10%.

The future of those forced to leave their land will be bleak. They lack the skills needed in an urban environment — and there is no longer a labour-hungry golden mining industry to cushion unemployment. The few choices left include sharecropping on absentee landlords' farms or as foremen for farmers who weather the drought.

De Jager does not know what will happen to their farms. Many are probably bonded to the Land Bank, which repossessed 326 farms last year and resold only 70.

It is possible that black organisations could demand that vacated or abandoned farms be given to black farmers, which would be politically explosive. But how long before that land could be returned to commercial use is problematic?

Farmers' collective debt exceeds R17bn. They owed commercial banks more than R5,2bn at the end of last year. Some of the burden falls on smaller institutions, such as Boland Bank, but an estimated 40% was owed to the Absa group, 28%-30% to Standard and 25%-30% to First National Bank. The farmers also owed R3,5bn to the Land and Agricultural Bank at the end of last year and R3,7bn to agricultural co-operative societies at the end of 1990 (see table on page 67).

O'Moore explains that the extended agricultural credit committees that are being set up in drought-stricken areas to save farmers from immediate sequestration will consider only farmers that have the potential to recover.

They will not recommend that more credit be granted to farmers they believe are either too deeply in debt to be saved or to those whose production records in even the good seasons prove they are incompetent.

The help will be expensive. Farmers will need seed, fuel, fertiliser and pesticides if they are to start producing again. They will also need labour.

That is why it is important that State money must be given up front — and the criteria for its granting must be made public.

No covert aid must be given, nor clandestine deals struck. After all, any State assistance will be with taxpayers' money. Any that the commercial banks give will be shareholders' funds, which means that, in considering their existing exposure, they will have to be extremely cautious about any additional aid that they grant to farmers.

Rudi Wilsnack, Standard Bank's senior manager, agriculture, says "droughts and cyclical tendencies of prices are the norm for agriculture and should not be considered the exception." The bank has advised branches in drought-stricken areas "to be sympathetic to their [farmers'] problems, provided they are solvent, have the ability to service their debt within a reasonable period and they have long-term viability — given conservative but realistic prices for their products."

Some estimates put the total cost of the drought at about R3bn. Koos du Toit, the SA Agricultural Union's chief economist, regards the figure as unrealistic — it accounts for only the obvious losses.

"If maize farmers are lucky," he says, "they will harvest 3.5 Mt this year. They harvested 7.2 Mt last season, which was not a good one. We need 6.5 Mt. We will have to import 3 Mt this year. That means a R1,5bn loss in potential income to our farmers."

"The 3 Mt we will have to import will land at more than the maize Board's price to millers and most will have to be transported inland, which will add to the costs. Add losses in grain sorghum, ground nuts, dry beans and fibre and you have your R3bn."

Along with other economists, Du Toit predicted 2% growth in the economy this year. If SA had enjoyed a normal year, agriculture would have contributed half of that.

Now the vast infrastructure established to service and distribute agricultural products will be underused. Like an idle factory, it is not earning anything and costs money to maintain. Industries such as the agricultural implement and tractor sectors that rely on farmer sales will go through a torrid time.

Du Toit estimates that it will take a decade or more of reasonably good seasons for farmers to recover financially and rebuild their herds and flocks to where they were just two or three weeks ago. It was believed then that the livestock had almost recovered from the 1983 drought.

David Ponce
As the drought devastates farming production, a time bomb in bad debt is building up for banks with big exposures to the agricultural sector. Says First National Bank's Viv Bartlett: "Bank reporting later in the year may have to make significant provisions for agricultural debt."

Volkskraal's Chris Mostert says the bank will make an initial assessment of the damage after the SA Agricultural Union releases the results of a survey next week. But the full extent of the maize losses in the summer rainfall areas won't be known until August, says Frans Venter of First National's agricultural division — "when the crop is harvested, or not, as the case may be" (see page 68).

Meanwhile, banks are anticipating the problem and attempting to limit the ultimate damage to their balance sheets. The situation is not new and banks have traditionally allowed potentially viable farmers time to recover when they are hit by recurring droughts. But, last year, when the accumulated impact of more than a decade of bad crops hit Petrusburg, 80 km west of Bloemfontein, creditor banks "became pro-active in assisting ailing farms," Venter says.

They gained representation on local agricultural credit committees, launched by the Department of Agricultural Development and chaired by local magistrates. Also represented were other creditors, including local co-operatives, the Land Bank and the Department of Agricultural Development.

"In many instances," Venter says, "we could set up a rescue package, lending them more money for the next season." This applied to farmers ranked as category one or two: those who were solvent and potentially viable given a reasonable season. Farmers with more dubious prospects were ranked in category three. "In this case we liaised with the Directorate of Financial Assistance in the Department of Agricultural Development."

### Farming Debt Shock

#### How the load is spread

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year to end</th>
<th>Land and Agricultural Bank</th>
<th>Commercial banks</th>
<th>Agricultural co-operatives</th>
<th>Department of Agriculture and Water Supply</th>
<th>Private persons</th>
<th>Other financial institutions</th>
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<td>600,0</td>
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*Estimated ABSA ± 40%. Standard ± 30%. FNB ± 30%.*

Source: Directorate Agricultural Economic Trends.

says the directorate's Dirk Henricus: "In such cases we try to negotiate a package that suits all creditors and to keep the farmer in production."

Venter says the scheme achieved "a notable success in Petrusburg," carrying farmers through until the situation was retrieved by September rains and a satisfactory crop. He believes that the scheme can now be implemented on a larger scale should the drought prove as damaging as expected — though ultimately, success will depend on an early return of rain. "We will encourage branches to start liaising earlier than the renewal date on credit limits and expect things to get under way in about April."

The problem for banks, Venter says, is the overhang of farm debt from previous droughts. "We have not had a really good season since 1981. Since 1983-84, when banks were asked to hold back on sequestrations, farmers have been accumulating debt. Now there will be further debts and at some point there will be a Doppler effect as each wave of debt begins to have an impact on the next."

Those farmers who do manage to produce crops will benefit from higher prices, which will help their cash-flow situation.

Venter says the nature of farm debt is different now from what it was in the early Eighties, when farmers put huge sums into capital equipment in order to exploit high grain prices. Since then, many farmers have diversified into livestock. This will provide a short-term cash flow when they slaughter stock as grazing crops run out.

Though farming is still capital intensive, farmers have exercised more caution in their decisions on capital outlays.
Protest over farm debts planned

BY EVE VOSLOO

FARMERS are threatening to organise a nationwide protest campaign which may include driving livestock into towns and cities to block roads.

The farmers are demanding that their rapidly increasing R1.7-billion debt and interest payments of up to 24 percent be frozen for two years.

Meetings were being organised around the country to mobilise farmers, said Mr Leonard Venter, chairman of Farmers' Crisis Action and vice-chairman of the Potgietersrus District Agricultural Union.

He said if farmers' demands were not met they would consider withholding produce, driving their livestock into cities or blockading roads.

Hungry

The threat was issued after a meeting in Graaff-Reinet this week at which farmers heard that:

- South Africa would have to import nearly five million tons of maize this year. About seven million tons of maize is consumed in SA annually and this year's crop may amount to less than two million tons. If five million tons is not available for import, people will go hungry.
- Eight hundred farmers were being forced off their land every month by liquidations or sequestrations.
- High interest rates were crippling farmers and putting them into debt which they could never hope to repay.
Zambia offering SA rich rewards for aid

By Derek Tomney 24/2/92

SA stands to gain huge benefits from helping Zambia overcome its problems.

The message was driven home by Michael Sata, the Zambian Minister of Local Government and Housing, in a weekend interview.

He said Zambia wanted to build a million houses a year and planned to nationalise everything the Kuanza Government had nationalised — which amounted to 80 percent of the economy.

When Mr Sata arrived in Johannesburg last Monday hardly anybody had heard of him. But after a series of whirlwind visits to businessmen he had become the talk of the town.

Mr Sata signed two "memoranda of understanding" while here.

One was with Murray & Roberts, which was attracted by the plan to build a million houses a year. However, Mr Sata also paid visits to LTA.

The second memorandum was with Investec Bank. It provides for the investigation by Investec of restructured existing government debt, the provision of finance for infrastructural development and the privatisation of government-owned enterprises.

What is likely to be of great interest to South Africa will be the fate of Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines (ZCCM).

Reports from Zambia say it is likely to be split into its previous constituents — Nchanga Consolidated Copper Mines and Roan Consolidated Copper Mines — before being privatised.

The new Zambian government, which assumed power only last November, is under pressure to start delivering a better standard of living for its seven million people.

Unless it does so quickly it runs the risk of being dumped itself.

One of its top priorities must be to restore a greater degree of efficiency to the mines. So it seems that privatisation is not far away.

Since the beginning of November representatives of several major SA and foreign mining houses have been looking at the mines.

At the moment the hot favourites to take them over are Gencor and Anglo American.

Gencor was invited by former President Kenneth Kaunda last August to make a study of the mines. Anglo, through Zambia Copper Investments (ZCI), has a 27 percent stake in ZCCM.

However, neither of these, nor any other company, is likely to rush in blindly.

Any improvement in the efficiency of the mines will require heavy capital investment, not just in the mines, but in Zambia's infrastructure. Moreover, the groups will want some guarantee that they will get back this money.

Some of the problems facing the mines were highlighted in the last ZCI annual report.

Production was hit by a shortage of trucks and mining and mobile equipment caused by a shortage of foreign exchange.

A shortage of locomotives and other problems on the railway affected movements of copper and inter-mine metallurgical materials.

On top of making good these deficiencies, any new owner would have to tackle the unions which, with government help, have secured a privileged position for their members.

Some guarantee would probably be needed against a change of government in Zambia not leading to re-nationalisation.

The bad decline in efficiency at the Zambian mines after the state take-over is probably one of the reasons why foreign investors are concerned at the prospect of any similar nationalisation moves in SA.

With better times on the copper belt possibly just around the corner, Zambian ZCI shares have risen from 64c to 110c.

They are, however, a long way below their 1989 peak of 230c.

Sanlam urges aid for farmers

Sanlam has called for a special assistance plan to counter the disastrous effects of the drought.

Without a thorough long-term plan, says Sanlam chief economist Johan Louw, the serious consequences of the drought will also impact on food supplies, employment and on the balance of payments.

Sanlam has already announced its own measures to assist farmers.

These include drastic cuts in the assurance premiums paid by farmers for the duration of the drought — while levels of cover remain the same.

In his economic survey for February, Mr Louw also deals with the Minister of Finance's annual budget.

He concludes that Minister Barend du Plessis will have little opportunity to decrease taxes.

Sanlam estimates that Government income from taxes will be by about 13.5 percent in the 1992/93 financial year, while the Minister will budget for increased expenditure of roughly 12.5 percent.

This is lower than the expected inflation rate because of attempts to control expenses.

The net result will be a fairly large budget deficit of around R15.6 billion, or about 4.5 percent of GDP.

If Mr du Plessis does intend to lower some taxes, Sanlam says, it simply means he will have to raise other taxes.

Mr Louw's expectations include:

- A drop in the top marginal personal tax rate from 43 to 42 percent. Rates at lower income levels may also be decreased — but not enough to counterfully the effects of inflation (bracket creep).
- An increase in the fuel-price levy, meaning more expensive petrol.
- No increase in the VAT level.
- Increased excise duties.
- Although the Government wishes to scrap the import surcharge, Sanlam doubts that the Minister can afford it.
- No change in company tax, but an extension of investment allowances.

Sanlam expects the Budget to be mildly stimulatory. — Sapa.

Mixed results from Picardi

Finance Staff

The Picardi group produced mixed results in the six months to December, with Picordial raising earnings a share 50 percent to 12c, while Picapell's earnings were barely changed at 25.5c (27.5c) a share.

Picordial, which has cash resources of R7.5 million and holds 69 percent of Picordial, lifted share earnings to 12c from 6c.

Chairman Jan Picard, sen, says improved efficiency and lower interests costs offset Picordial's 13 percent drop in turnover due to product rationalisation and lower consumer spending. But higher tax resulted in barely maintained earnings.
Help the farmers, Sanlam urges

Business Staff

SANLAM has called for a special assistance plan to counter the disastrous effects of the drought raging through many parts of the country.

Without a thorough long-term plan, says Sanlam chief economist Johan Louw, the serious consequences of the drought will also impact on food supplies, employment and on South Africa's balance of payments.

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The net result will be a fairly large budget deficit of around R15 600 million, or about 4.5 percent of gross domestic product.

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- A drop in the top marginal personal tax rate from 43 percent to 42 percent. Rates at lower income levels may also be decreased — but not enough to counter fully the effects of inflation (bracket-creep).
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- No increase in the VAT level.
- Increased excise duties.
- Although the government wishes to scrap the import surcharge, Sanlam doubts that the minister could afford it.
- No change in company tax, but an extension of investment allowances.

Sanlam expects the Budget to have only a mildly stimulating effect on the economy.

As a result, monetary authorities will be able to relax slightly its present strict policies. A prime overdraft rate of 17.5 percent is foreseen for the end of 1992.

Economic growth is still performing poorly, and Sanlam believes the drought will retard a recovery.

A real growth rate of around 1 percent is foreseen for 1992, as against a real decrease of 0.6 percent in the 1991 gross domestic product.

Inflation may come under upward pressure from the expected increase in the fuel price. The drought may also increase food prices.

However, the inflation rate is still expected to decline gradually in the second half of the year.

At this stage, an average inflation rate of roughly 14.5 percent is foreseen for the year, compared with last year's 15.3 percent.
A dried bough, which became entangled in overhead electric wires a year ago while drifting in floods, today hangs like a sentry over a dried riverbed that is the Limpopo.

Beneath it, where fish and crocodiles once frolicked and bred and swam infinitely, the caked ground lies cracked in a pattern that signifies the lean years that 1992 is a part of.

The hanging bough is a relic of the years of plenty when the Limpopo river flooded and broke its steep banks, leaving tales of destruction and hanging debris in its wake.

That was then. Today, the Limpopo River fish at the Pontdrift border crossing are long dead. They were the first victims of the ongoing drought that is turning South Africa’s rural areas into barren fields that may soon be scattered with carcasses of dead animals and later even (Heaven forbid) of people.

Two hours before we got to Pontdrift and the dead and dried Limpopo, we spoke to 72-year-old Mr Wilson Mathabuke at the Krieland farm, 40km Southeast of Alldays.

An overseer at the cattle ranch, Mathabuke earns R120 a month supplemented with a bag of mealiemeal.

The cattle he looks after are still far from being affected by the drought, but Mathabuke is a worried man.

“Until it rains, until August, it will be big trouble here. The white meats may take his cattle away to other, better areas and it will be the end of us. I have been working for 10 years here and I have never seen anything like this.

“We pray for rain ever day and, when I walk alone in the field, I gaze into the skies to see if the few patches of clouds are coming together and may form rain,” Mathabuke said.

Holding a sack of the last seeds he had kept over hoping it might rain, Mathabuke said he had already started eating the seeds.

“I do not know what to do now. I will do what I have to do when I have no other choice.”

He said despite claims by the Drought Crisis Committee that farmers and their labourers as well as dependents were being given free food, none had been supplied at the farm. Nor had he heard of any such food deliveries at the neighboring farm.

The food distribution, mentioned by DCC chairman Mr Wilie Lewies in an interview with Sovetan, could not be confirmed anywhere we went throughout the Far Northern Transvaal, which is one of the areas hardest hit by the drought.

A common theme among farm workers is their abysmal pay. From Vivo to Alldays, and from Pontdrift through Messina to farms just 40km north of Pietersburg, the pay was the same - R110 to R120 a month plus a bag of mealiemeal.

Even in the best of times, when there is no drought or recession, these people literally scrape through on an existence that can only be believed when seen.

Family men with up to eight children and over 24 years of service to one farmer earn R110 a month. For the workers, the greatest fear right now is that, with no other home that they know of, if farmers sell off their stock and leave for the bright lights of the city, seeking work, they will remain on the farms and starve.

Mr Lekwapa Piet Mokwena, of the farm Ruigedraai outside Pietersburg, has been working on the farm since he was born. He does not know his age, but is emphatic that he has been working there for 65 years.

“By winter there is no rain, the cattle here will have to be taken somewhere and then I do not know what will happen to us. At a farm nearby, the new cattle were brought in last week from, I think, Alldays.

“The new cattle are still safe here but what has happened to the people who used to look after them where they were? This thing troubles me a lot because I can see that it can happen here soon.

“You cannot put your trust in these farmers because, when they see that the farm is going down, they pack up and leave. When you are like me, old and knowing no other job except looking after cattle, where do you go?” Mokwena said.

Mrs Linah Ramohela says she has not contemplated the possibility that the farmer might leave.

“What can we do? We cannot even go to the black areas because you need money to build houses there. With what the men are paid here, you must just forget about that.

“If it happens, I do not know what will happen to us. God will see,” she said.

Sixteen-year-old Joey Ramohela looks after goats and earns R50 a month. He never went to school and, unlike the elders, receives no perks. His fate is signed and sealed, linked to the fortunes of the farm.

He says the R50 is too little. All he wants is to buy a tape recorder, but worries that he may not be able to maintain it with batteries should he ever save enough to buy it.

The effects of the drought in white farming areas are not yet evident, as the cattle still have water from boreholes and fodder is brought in through help from agricultural cooperatives.

With the white farmers facing financial hurdles on all fronts many institutions, including the Government, are giving them support to stave off permanent ruin.

But there is no assistance for the black peasant farmers who produce the bulk of the food in the bantustans.

With no extra-natural facilities such as boreholes, their crops are purely in nature’s hands. If it does not rain, their crops and cattle die. It has not rained and the rivers are dry.

The mealies that were planted have shrivelled under the intense heat of the bushveld. People are facing death as available water is rationed for human use only.

Cattle, on which you can do a skeletal count with no problem at all, stand under the withering trees in the summer heat, perhaps also wondering when it will rain.

For these animals, there is no borehole water or imported feed.

And as the urban dwellers grapple with a future of projected higher food prices, out on the farms and in the rural areas, the disaster is not in the future but in the present.

Unless the heavens open up, many a family may soon face the Biblical prospect of the last flour and the last oil which should be prepared and prayers said while waiting to starve.
ADE price freeze may benefit farmers

ATLANTIS Diesel Engines (ADE) will freeze the prices of all its tractor engines until year end, which may help the depressed farming sector, says MD Fritz Korte. GIPDAY. 242912

Korte said the move was equivalent to a price cut of 33% on ADE models since July 1999. He said ADE was confident tractor manufacturers would pass the benefits of this price freeze onto farmers.

The reduction would result in the engine representing only 15% of the expected retail price of tractors by the end of the year.

This compares favourably to the 17% figure of June 1999, Korte said.

He said ADE was able to implement the engine price freeze because of the success of its current cost-cutting programmes.

While 1992 retail tractor sales forecasts were currently set at 2 800 units, compared with 2 860 units sold in 1991, ADE was confident the market would show a gradual long-term improvement.
R8-m payout to dead – witness
OWN CORRESPONDENT

More than R8 million in pensions might have been paid out to dead people in Lebowa because of corruption and inefficiency, the De Meyer Commission of Inquiry into corruption heard yesterday.

Commissioner O.A. de Meyer heard from special investigator W.A. Bester that millions more could still be siphoned illegally from the homeland pension fund as control in the department was “chaotic”.

Mr Bester said he had looked into four problem areas with pensions. The first was that people who had died long ago were not removed from the pension pay sheet.

He said a sample of 1.6 percent of pensioners’ files had revealed that R133,252 had been paid out to dead pensioners.

With 143,008 pensioners presently on the list, calculations had revealed that about R5.3 million had been lost through this method alone.

Drought will push up food prices – warning
BY SHIRLEY WOODGATE

Consumer organisations have warned the public to prepare for soaring inflation this year unless the drought is broken soon.

“Food prices will surge to unprecedented levels if the rains do not arrive,” said Housewives League president Lynn Morris.

Consumer Union president Lillian Moolman said: “Prepare for a crisis if we are faced with soaring food prices combined with the current lack of buying power, particularly among the black people.”

Commenting on the latest Consumer Price Index released by the Central Statistical Service yesterday, Mrs Morris warned against false optimism on a slowdown in price rises.

The overall CPI increased by only 1.1 percent in January.

The inflation rate for the month was unchanged at 16.2 percent and food price increases declined for the first time in seven months, down to 0.2 percent, with the price of meat showing a 1 percent drop.

Mrs Morris dismissed the slight decline in food price increases from 28.3 percent to 25.2 percent as insignificant.

“The increases remain above 25 percent, pushing up the overall inflation rate.”

The continuing drought would affect meat and vegetable prices, she said.

“South Africa is already preparing to import maize and unless we have sustained rain soon, the summer rainfall region vegetable and wheat farmers will delay planting and the meat sector will struggle to feed its animals.”

“Even if the rains come and farmers can plant their crops, there is a danger that people will not be able to afford to buy,” she said.
PRETORIA — Commercial banks and other financial institutions were yesterday urged by government to hold back on forcing debt-ridden farmers into bankruptcy.

The appeal was made, it is understood, at a meeting between bank executives and Agriculture Minister Kriel van Niekerk.

The SA Agricultural Union estimates between 2,000 and 3,000 summer grain farmers are in a vulnerable position and will need “sympathetic” handling by the banks if food production is not to be seriously threatened.

The industry owes about R17bn of its more than R17bn debt to commercial banks.

Van Niekerk also met leaders of the cooperatives, which are owed about R10bn by farmers.

They got the same message: wherever possible keep efficient farmers threatened by drought on the land.

Also yesterday the SAAU’s disaster emergency aid committee met to determine the extent of the disaster and the strategy needed to rescue the industry from permanent harm.

The issue of the 1992/93 summer crops was also raised at yesterday’s meetings.

Meanwhile Van Niekerk said the bulk of maize needed for domestic consumption would have to be imported.

Government has already given the Maize Board the go-ahead for the immediate importation of 300,000 tons.

Nampo GM Giel van Zyl estimates the crop could fall below 2.5-million tons, necessitating the importation of more than 4-million tons at a cost of about R2.5bn.

SAPA reports that the Transvaal Agricultural Union’s Dries Bruwer said SA did not have the capacity to handle the amount of maize imports required, which he put at 4.5-million tons.

Bruwer said it would take almost a year to distribute 3-million tons of grain.

Farmers had to be informed immediately if they would receive any assistance with the planting of winter grain as they needed to begin planting now, he said.

Reuter reports that Sanlam has called for a special assistance plan to counter the disastrous effects of the drought.

Without a thorough long-term plan, said Sanlam chief economist Johan Louw, the serious consequences of the drought would have an impact on food supplies, employment and on SA’s balance of payments.

Sanlam has already announced its own measures to assist farmers, including drastic cuts in their assurance premiums for the duration of the drought — while levels of cover remain the same.

Sanlam believes the drought could retard an economic recovery.
Marike to attend summit

PRETORIA — Marike de Klerk, wife of the President, has accepted an invitation to a summit meeting of wives of heads of state on Economic Advancement of Rural Women in Geneva this week, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

The ministry said De Klerk was invited by the president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development. The summit meeting is being held under the auspices of the fund.

The Ministry said the purpose of the summit was to mobilise international political will to advance the economic development of the developing world's rural women. — Sapa.
Another elderly OFS farmer murdered

By Guy Jepson and Bronwyn Willinson

A farmer was murdered on his farm yesterday as furious Free State farmers were demanding protection from the Government at a Bloemfontein meeting.

Wessel Odendaal (68), who was stabbed to death at a kraal on his Katdoring farm near Reitz, was the seventh victim to die in attacks on Free State farms since December.

Angry farmers believe the attacks are part of an orchestrated terror campaign designed to drive them off their farms.

Police have launched a massive search for the farmer’s murderers and arrested a man and a youth some 25 km away only hours after Mr Odendaal was killed.

Free State police liaison officer Captains Johlene van der Merwe said Mr Odendaal, who had lived alone on the farm for about 30 years, went to a kraal at about 5 pm, where he was stabbed several times and left to die.

The Free State Agricultural Union has demanded that the Government implement a comprehensive security package to protect farmers.

Hundreds of angry farmers from across the Free State, as well as politicians and top SAP and SADF officials, attended yesterday’s special congress in Bloemfontein, which had been called by the union.

To loud applause, union president Dr Pieter Gous told the congress that farmers were no longer prepared “to serve as targets for terrorists and heavily armed criminals”.

Deputy Minister of Law and Order Johan Scheepers was jeered during his address.

The delegates, many of them obviously right-wingers.

From Page 1

OFS farmer murdered were:

- That the number of policemen employed in the Free State countryside be drastically increased.
- That the authorities provide farmers with the financial support to buy 24-hour radio equipment and safety fences, to pay for farm guards and patrols, and to make it easier for farmers to legally own automatic weapons.
- That anti-trespassing legislation be actively promoted by farmers’ associations and more stringently applied by farmers.
- That illegal squatting be prevented.

- That the Government be requested to allow national servicemen who have completed their basic training to do further military duties in their own areas in the countryside.

Deputy Minister of Defence Wynand Breitenbach appealed to farmers to join the SADF’s Commando system to help fight crime.
Public warned to tighten their belts

CONSUMER organisations have warned the public to prepare for soaring inflation this year unless the drought is broken immediately.

"There is absolutely no doubt that food prices will surge to unprecedented levels if the much-needed rains do not arrive," said Housewives League president Mrs Lynn Morris.

Consumer Union president Mrs Lilibeth Moolman said: "Prepare for a crisis if we are faced with soaring food prices combined with the current lack of buying power, particularly among the black people."

Commenting on the latest Consumer Price Index released by the Central Statistical Service on Monday, Morris warned against false optimism over the slowing down in price rises, with the overall CPI increasing by only 1.1 percent in January.

The inflation rate for the month was unchanged at 16.2 percent and food price increases declined for the first time in seven months, down to 0.2 percent with the price of meat showing a 1 percent drop since December.

But Morris dismissed the slight decline in food price increases from 28.3 percent to 26.2 percent as insignificant.

"What is alarming is that the increases remain above 25 percent, pushing up the overall inflation rate.""

"Ideally we would like to see food reduced to the same level as the CPI, not 10 points higher."

However, there was now no doubt that the continuing drought would affect meat and vegetable prices, she said.

"South Africa is already preparing to import maize and unless we have sustained rain soon, the summer rainfall region vegetable and wheat farmers will have to delay planting while the meat sector will struggle to feed their animals," she warned.

Moolman said drought-hit farmers would have to realise that the financial crunch would make consumers even worse off than the agricultural sector.

"Even if the rains come and farmers can plant their crops, there is a danger that people will not be able to afford to buy," she said. - Sowetan Correspondent.
Free State farmers vote to join labour law talks

BLOEMFONTEIN — The Free State Agricultural Union will join the SA Agricultural Union in talks with government on labour laws for the agricultural industry.

At a special congress yesterday the FSUU authorised its executive committee to form part of an SAU delegation in talks on possible amendments to the Basic Services Conditions Act, the Unemployment Insurance Act, the Labour Relations Act and the Wage Act.

The congress's decision reverses a resolution taken at a special congress on June 11 1991 which summarily rejected the application to agriculture of the Acts and prevented the union from taking part in negotiations on their possible amendment.

SAUU chairman Boet Fourie told the congress yesterday the SAUU wanted the authorities to reconsider the legislation and not impose the four Acts on agriculture, but rather to incorporate the principles in an "agriculture-friendly Act" and to abolish the "archaic" concept of a Wage Act that stipulated minimum wages.

Referring to recent attacks on farmers in the eastern Free State, FSUU president Piet Gouws told the conference that farmers were no longer prepared to be targets for "terrorist assaults".

He said farmers had come to the conference to tell the authorities and the media that they were not satisfied with the security situation.

The congress was attended by about 300 delegates and observers, some of whom carried arms.

Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk told the congress that farmers had to be re-established in at least the financial positions they had held before being hit by the current drought.

But it was not only the situation before the drought that had to be considered, otherwise debt would be regarded as being the norm. Instead, a way had to be found to determine the ability of a farmer to survive — although this did not mean a recipe for keeping all farmers on the land, Van Niekerk said.

He said it would take a great deal of government money to get farmers to the position where they could continue farming as before. But if other "role players" in the sector did not play their part it would not matter how much money was provided by the government.

Unconventional ways had to be found to ensure farmers did not incur more debt, he said. — Sapa.
Pre-dawn farm shifts to beat N Tyl heat

By Dirk Nel
Northern Transvaal Bureau

PIETERSBURG — With record midday temperatures of more than 40 deg C sapping the energy of farm northern Transvaalers, many farmers are opting for a 4 am to 8 am shift to beat the heatwave.

"Well, you know, all a cattle farmer needs to do is check that his bull is okay and that the windmill is working," said Soutpansberg Agricultural Union president Manie Eloff, still displaying a sense of humour despite the heat and drought.

In more serious vein, he said farming operations in the heat of the day were becoming increasingly difficult, especially when it involved lengthy tasks such as herding, loading and dipping of cattle.

Limpopo River vegetable farmer C. C. Fisher said it made a lot of sense to rise at 4 am and do his most strenuous work until 8 am. Office work and packing-shed operations then received attention until sunset, when outdoor activity could resume again.

Another border farmer, Willie Esterhuyse, said half his cotton crop simply had to be written off due to the merciless sun. "I try to avoid going out in the midday sun. Sometimes when I travel short distances on my motorcycle, I can actually feel the hot air stinging my face," he said.

Record maximum temperatures were recorded in the far north this week. The mercury registered 38 deg C in Pietersburg yesterday, the highest in the town for 50 years.

But this was mild compared to Messina's 44.5 and Phalaborwa's 43.5. And the 42.8 degrees at the Tshikondeni coal mine in Venda on Tuesday made it one of the hottest spots in the country this year.

Other places which sweltered yesterday in the unprecedented heatwave were Hoedspruit (43 deg C), Maruleng (42), Thohoyandou (40) and Ellisras (39).

Free State Administrator Dr Louis van der Walt yesterday called on businesses to allow employees to attend a day of prayer for an end to the drought tomorrow.

The South African Agricultural Union yesterday announced the establishment of an emergency fund to assist the drought-devastated agricultural community.

SAAU president Boet Fourie said farmers and their workers would be assisted by the fund, to be managed by a board of trustees in co-operation with the SAU's provincial affiliates.

The Vaal Dam is now only 38 percent full, a drop of 22 percent since the start of the summer rainfall period.

The total amount of water in all the dams serving the PWV area is also down from 83 percent at this time last year to the current 68 percent, according to the latest Rand Water Board bulletin.

Only 68 mm of rain has fallen over the Witwatersrand this month, which is well below the 169 mm recorded in February last year.
Crop farmers whose livelihoods are exposed to the vagaries of the weather should diversify into dry beans, for which there is an excellent demand, particularly among black consumers.

This point was made by several speakers at a recent seminar on dry-bean production at Potchefstroom.

Professor Piet Nieuwenhuizen of the Rand Afrikaans University's economics department said dry beans were among the best and cheapest foods available for human consumption.

"As a protein-rich food it is an important substitute for meat, which is not always within reach of the broad population of the country."

Nutritionist Renata Coetzee urged that greater publicity should be given to the health value of dry beans. She said the beans lowered cholesterol.

"The black market displays a receptive attitude to dry beans which have been popular with them for centuries.

"White consumers complain about the tendency of dry beans to form gas, but this can be easily avoided simply by soaking the beans in water overnight," she added.

Seed merchant Colin Levy said if the dry-bean markets of Britain and Europe were handled correctly the prospects of exporting South African supplies would be excellent.
Marike in plea to aid rural women

Marike de Klerk yesterday committed South Africa to give rural women in Africa "a better place in the sun".

She was delivering an address in Switzerland to the Summit for the Advancement of Rural Women.

Mrs de Klerk urged the international community to help alleviate the plight of millions of women in Africa who live in adverse rural conditions.

Sympathy for the suffering of African women was not nearly enough, she said.

"They need help. In seeing that they get it, I believe that we, the more privileged women of this world, have an indispensable part to play.

"In this context I believe in the wisdom of the Chinese proverb: 'Teach a man and you teach an individual. Teach a woman and you teach a family and a nation'."

She said the answer to many of the problems of Africa and other parts of the developing world — particularly those affecting rural women — lay in helping them to help themselves. — Sapa.
Farmers find no compromise

HARARE — Zimbabwean commercial farmers had reached the end of the road in the search for a compromise over President Robert Mugabe’s proposed Land Acquisition Bill, Commercial Farmers’ Union director David Hasluck said yesterday.

As food experts called for the immediate introduction of rationing to avoid riots, Hasluck said a meeting with senior government ministers had failed to find a formula for averting confrontation on the plan to expropriate 6-million hectares of the “maize and tobacco belt” from 4 500 white commercial farmers.

Hasluck last week held a three-hour meeting with Mugabe, who proposed shelving the Bill while amendments were discussed.

Yesterday they were presented with some proposed draft amendments, which were explained, “and we were unable to negotiate a further coming together for a common cause”, Hasluck told journalists at a briefing yesterday. He predicted a disastrous slump in commercial farming confidence and production.

The Bill is expected to pass through Parliament in the next two weeks.

Hasluck said proposed amendments announced to CFU representatives by Agriculture Minister Witness Mangwende, Justice Minister Emmerson Mnangagwa and Attorney-General Patrick Chinamasa would give Mangwende total discretion over what was “fair” compensation.

An innovation was payment of some compensation for assets such as greenhouses or tobacco barns not needed by incoming peasant settlers, but the government still refused to pay market values.

Hasluck appealed to the 147 ruling Zanu (PF) party MPs who dominate the 150-seat legislature to think of the national interest before enacting the Bill.

In an emotive debate yesterday, however, backbenchers claimed the CFU was sabotaging the national economy and Zimbabwe’s status as an independent country by continuing to resist plans for resettlement on commercial farms of the 600 000 peasant families from communal lands.

“The land hunger which has been deepening since 1980 threatens to cause a major revolt,” said MP Johnson Ndlovu.

In a report issued yesterday, the Southern African Foundation for Economic Research warned that ports and railways would only be able to handle 1.7-million tons of the total 2.7-million tons of food Zimbabweans would need to survive to the next harvest.

Beira Corridor group founder Eddie Cross last week predicted armed men would have to be put on trucks delivering food.
Farmers refuse to be targets

FREE State farmers are no longer prepared to be targets for terrorist assaults, the president of the OFS Agricultural Union said in Bloemfontein yesterday.

Farmers had come to the conference to tell the authorities and the media that they were not satisfied with the security situation and what was being done about it, said union president Dr Piet Gous.

The congress was attended by about 300 delegates and observers, some of whom openly carried arms.

The conference had been called to take binding decisions which had to be implemented. Unless quick action was taken the situation would - in the words of a former State President - be too ghastly to contemplate, he warned.

This was an agricultural and not a political gathering, it was emphasised.

Referring to accusations against the SA Police and SA Defence Force, Gous called for a show of hands by those who had family members in the SAP and SANDF, and who were themselves in the Commandos.

Noting the many union members responding, he said security force members were “our people”, and called for accusations against them to stop. - Sapa
SA agriculture ‘hit hard by high rates’

PRETORIA — Much of SA’s agricultural industry had been hit by declining profitability caused by high production costs and high interest rates, the Commodity Control Boards said. The boards will table their annual reports to the Agricultural Outlook Conference (Agrocon) in Pretoria today.

The cotton industry has been pinpointed by the SA Agricultural Union’s report as one sector in particularly serious trouble. Its survival was in the hands of government, which had to make decisions on protection, the report said.

Without protection the textile industry would be further weakened.

The National Cotton Committee has asked for a one-channel marketing system. According to the Maize Board report, SA will have to put up with regular maize shortages in years ahead, and crops would have to be supplemented by imports.

The fact SA was no longer an exporter of maize meant the marketing system would have to be adjusted.

Profitability would have to improve drastically and producers would need adequate access to production credit.

Continued weakened profitability had resulted in less land being planted to maize, the Maize Board said.

Causes included the withdrawal of government subsidies to the industry, high inflation and interest rates, producer prices which failed to take production costs into account, and government’s land conversion scheme to planted pastures.

Gross value of deciduous fruit produced last year increased 7% to a record R1 177m.

Production climbed 0.3%. The gross value of fruit exports increased 9% to R541m, with a 3% volume increase.

Declining profitability in the industry was due to high inflation which drove production and export costs up by 14%.

The deciduous fruit harvest is expected to beat the record set in 1991.

But heavy competition was expected from southern hemisphere countries, particularly Chile.

Local market prices would rise by less than the inflation rate due to the unfavourable economic climate and decreased consumer spending.

SA’s high inflation rate and resultant fast-rising production and export costs had resulted in a weakened competitive position against countries with lower rates.

SA wool production for the 1990/91 season was estimated at 59.3-million kg.

A price decline of 20% was expected for the season.

Export earnings totalled R189m, with prices dropping 31.3% from last season to R6.92 a kg.

SA wool production in the 91/92 season was likely to decline to 58-million kg.

The SA Sugar Association said the crop expectations for 1991/92 was 19.8-million tons — almost 10% up on the previous season.

The 1992/93 crop had got off to a great start with early summer rains, and near perfect growing conditions.

The proposed opening of new cane areas and the establishment of a new mill in the Onderberg region of the eastern Transvaal was the most significant expansion project for more than 20 years.

Total area under cane was likely to rise to 420 000 ha, the association said.

‘SA must be competitive overseas’

BLOEMFONTEIN — It was critically important for SA to compete economically overseas. If it did not, the country’s political situation would be negatively affected. Trade and Industry director-general Stefaan Naude said yesterday.

He was giving the opening address at the Free State congress of the National Woolgrowers’ Association.

He said SA had the ability to recover economically, provided the country became stable, restored the confidence of overseas investors and became a full player in the international economy.

Despite sanctions and other trade restrictions, however, the country had had export successes since the middle 1980s, Naude said.

The association’s unanimously re-elected Free State president J A Neethling said the discrepancy that had developed because farmers’ producer prices had not kept pace with the inflation rate was one of the main reasons for farmers’ poor financial position.

He called on government to make it possible for long-term interest rates to be adjusted in accordance with the income from farmers’ capital investment.

— Sapa.
Bankorp executive chairman Piet Liebenberg has outlined a three-part plan for saving South African agriculture from ruin.

South Africa's farmers are under severe financial pressure due to accumulated debt, made worse by the drought.

Speaking at the Agricultural Outlook Conference '92 in Pretoria yesterday, Mr Liebenberg said South African agriculture was suited to a "debt-equity swap" whereby farms and other agricultural assets would be transferred to companies.

Farmers and farmworkers would then become employees of the institutions concerned. He urged Parliament to examine the legal aspects of such restructuring during its current session.

Secondly, Mr Liebenberg recommended a State-initiated job-creation programme in rural areas, linked to the revival of infrastructures.

He suggested that a new water project be considered so that water from the Zambesi and Congo rivers could be channelled to the western Transvaal.

Thirdly, Mr Liebenberg recommended that a plan be instituted to encourage small business development in rural areas. The Small Business Development Corporation could play an integral role in this.
If the huge government intervention in agriculture helps farmers at all, it should be to ease the impact of the droughts that hit every few years. But this year's severe dry spell is focusing attention on the industry's myriad structural weaknesses that were created by government and that are now aggravating the drought's effects.

The drought is certainly a disaster. Instead of exporting maize, SA may have to import R2bn worth, with farmers losing their R1bn investment in production inputs. And the bad news extends to cotton, sunflower (hundreds of thousands of tons of oil and oilcake must be imported), soya, dried beans, sorghum, red meat, groundnuts, tropical fruit and vegetables. The estimated cost to the economy: R4bn.

An expected 3 000-4 000 farmers will be forced to leave agriculture. But this probably won't happen, for once again taxpayers will have to fork out massive amounts in farm aid, adding to a national farm debt that's heading for R20bn. This is the rub of the problem — instead of getting weeded out, the marginal farmers get bailed out while the best farmers are hamstrung by the controls and restrictions that prevent them from doing better.

The El Nino phenomenon in the Pacific Ocean, which disturbs global climatic patterns and set off this year's savage drought, certainly would hurt farmers no matter how prepared they were. But a government hands-off policy for agriculture would certainly lessen the effect.

University of Natal agricultural economist Lieb Nieuwoudt says market forces must be allowed to send correct production signals to farmers who still operate their businesses in high-risk areas or grow the wrong crops.

"We need to stop discouraging farmers from using crop disaster insurance, forcing them to accept the risk of farming high-risk areas, such as the western Transvaal and Free State, and to weigh premium costs against the possibility of getting a bumper crop. This would result in more realistic crop expectations, reduced input costs and diversification into lower-risk outputs.

"But, through its massive drought aid schemes, the State effectively rewards farmers for their risk-taking losses. This is wrong — the State should not subsidise the farmer's risk-taking in a drought-prone country," says Nieuwoudt, who studied crop insurance in the US. And comprehensive crop insurance would help prevent a repeat of the past decade's R4bn taxpayer bail-out of struggling farmers.

Other obvious structural deficiencies in agriculture worsening the effects of recurring droughts are the one-channel marketing systems for maize and wheat, as well as the Meat Board's heavily regulated meat scheme that distorts market signals to livestock producers.

Sam Knox, a farmer from southern Natal, says Natal farmers can get up to 5 t a hectare (compared to an average 2 t/ha in the Free State and Transvaal) — "but we are discouraged by the Maize Board from farming maize."

The reason for this is complex — but also simple.

The board's single-channel marketing system (operated in terms of the Marketing Act) forces all maize farmers to sell and market their crop only through the board, which annually fixes the producer and consumer prices. The difference between the two prices is made up of storage, handling and finance costs at centralised grain silos, as well as projected "export losses" on surplus production beyond the local market need of about 6.5 Mt/year.

Farmers must pay levies of about R130/t to the board to make up these costs. Until two years ago, southern Natal farmers were excluded from this scheme and freely sold their maize to neighbouring consumers in KwaZulu, Transkei and Lesotho. But since they were pulled into the scheme, such sales are illegal — unless sanctioned by the board and subjected to levy payments.

"But, due to our much higher production costs, the board's levies made maize production uneconomical," Knox says. "And we receive little marketing benefit from the board — the nearest maize silo to my farm is about 200 km. Because we are now prosecuted for illegal sales unless we pay the board's levies (used to subsidise upcountry farmers' losses — Natal is a net maize importer) a clear signal has been sent to discontinue production in Natal."

With global climatic change threatening to make maize production in the driest western areas even more of a risk in the future, this system will have to change. The obvious solution would be to deregulate Natal (and..."
the rest of SA) and allow farmers to maximise production (and profits) and give consumers the benefit of cheaper maize — minus the board’s compulsory levies."
Growth 'threatened by drought'

PRETORIA — The expected positive growth rate of SA's economy could be “obliterated” in the second half of the year because of the drought in summer crop areas, Agriculture Minister Kranie van Niekerk said yesterday.

He warned the Agricultural Outlook Conference (Agrocon) the commodity control boards would have to be privatised in a market-driven economy.

“We cannot privatisé the functions of government but we can and must deregulate and privatise the control boards.”

This move was aimed at reducing government involvement in the economy and boosting business opportunities for the private sector.

Van Niekerk said that in the development of the present marketing systems some industries had been over-protected, preventing the optimal use of market and business opportunities.

Van Niekerk said much more than the previously predicted 3-million tons of maize would have to be imported during the 1992/33 season.

Bankorp official warns of vast unemployment

PRETORIA — A sharp increase in unemployment would be the most serious of a whole series of adverse consequences flowing from the disastrous drought in the summer grain areas, Bankorp executive chairman Piet Liebenberg said yesterday.

Speaking at the Agricultural Outlook Conference (Agrocon) he said it had been expected total jobs in the economy would increase by 50,000 this year. “We must now rather expect a further decrease of between 50,000 and 100,000 jobs.”

This meant that with 300,000 new workers entering the labour market the number of jobless could rise by about 400,000.

Rural areas would be worst affected.

There was a danger of a large scale migration of homeless families to urban areas, exacerbating the squatter problem.

Liebenberg said drought conditions would have a dramatic impact on virtually all aspects of the economy this year.

Apart from the direct impact of a massive drop in production, the indirect effect on other sectors would be more serious than any other drought since the end of the Second World War.

Although the agricultural sector made up only 8% of the economy, negative effects on it had a ripple effect on many other sectors, including manufacturing, banking and transport.

Agriculture's direct and indirect contribution to the economy was about 10% which made it comparable to gold mining.

Many farmers had come to the end of the road and their spending in other sectors would drastically decline.

The drought would have an intense detrimental effect on economic sub-systems of the northern Free State and the western Transvaal.

Liebenberg said low PPI growth was an indication of financial balance and the softening of underlying inflation pressure.

The CPI increase could fall to 12% by the end of the year and about 10% by the middle of next year.

A growth rate expectation at the end of last year of between 1.5% and 2% would have to be scaled down to 6% to 9.5%.

There was also a risk of a third successive year of a shrinking GDP for the first time since the Second World War ended.

On these grounds, banks' lending rates ought to decline by about three percentage points in the coming 15 months.

The downward phase in the business cycle, which started in 1988, had lasted through 1989 and 1990 and had deepened in the past few months, Liebenberg said.

The domestic downsizing could not be associated with the political changes of the past two years.

The recession was more likely the result of excessive domestic credit provision and sharp increases in imports in 1988 and 1989 in a framework of financial sanctions and large scale capital outflow, he added.
Activities: Investment company with interests in mining, agriculture and property in Africa and
the US.

Central: Conafex 53.1%.


Capital structure: 3.8m ords. Market capitalisation: R18m.

Share market: Price: 500c. Yields: 6.4% on dividend; 3.9% on earnings; p/e ratio, 26;
cover, 0.7. 12-month high, 660c; low, 500c.

Trading volumes last quarter, 20 shares.

Year to Sep 30 88 89 90 91

Turnover (US$m) .... 18.7 20.7 32.4 44.0

Pre-tax profit (US$m) ..... 2.5 3.1 2.0 1.9

Earnings (SaB) ...... 68 129 113 17.8

Dividends (SaB) .. 22.6 23.4 26.3 26.9

Net worth (SaB) .... 1 057 1 417 1 200 1 372

About the best that can be said of Afex’s performance in the year to September is that
it successfully continued its stated aim of getting out of Africa, but the profits suffered
in the process.

Key statistic, according to chairman David Marshall, is that 43.5% of the company’s
net assets at year-end were located in the US or elsewhere overseas, compared with 27.5%
the previous year.

Major contributor to that swing was last year Afex got permission from the SA Reserve
Bank to transfer to Luxembourg the share portfolio held in SA by wholly owned
subsidiary Sussex Securities, through a special dividend in specie. Afex is registered in
Luxembourg.

Market value of that portfolio at September

30 was US$7. Sales from the portfolio

since the year-end have realised profits of

$3.6mn which are now in the bank, according

Included in the portfolio is Afex’s 26% stake in Zimbabwe gold producer Falcon

Mines, which is listed separately on the Lon-
don and Johannesburg stock exchanges.

Marshall emphasises the group has no intention
ing the selling that stake.

Falcon is doing very nicely, thank you,
even if only a quarter of the taxed profits can
be remitted from Zimbabwe in any one year
and then at the discretion of the Zim-
babwian authorities. The value of the Zim-
babwian holdings in Afex’s books have been
taken at a conservative figure.

Marshall says he is now happy with Afex’s
balance of investments in and out of Africa.
The group will “play with the chips” with
what it has left in Africa, while overseas the
aim is to hold investments in blue-chip equi-
ties and a property portfolio in America,
which at present is concentrated in freehold
property in southern California.

However, Afex has not found the invest-
ment market in the US easy. The directors’
report shows a market value of the US invest-
ment portfolio at end-September of

$2.44m, compared with a book value of

$1.6m, but that is after providing $500 000
against a “permanent diminution in value.”

The trouble is that last year’s poor profit
performance could be followed by a worse
one this year. Both SA and Zimbabwe re-
main in the grip of recessions and the severe
drought in both countries will hit Afex’s
agricultural businesses.

In the US, the property market has been
affected by the recession, interest rates are
near record lows, and equity markets have
done surprisingly well . . . so far.

Marshall acknowledges Afex’s poor profit
performance is of concern but points to the

combination of the group’s asset value as compensation. He feels

the share should be viewed as an asset play,

which is confirmed by shareholders’ taking
four-fifths of the June dividend declaration
in additional shares rather than cash. That

option is available for the 1991 dividend
distribution and Marshall expects a similar
take-up.

The share has limited attractions for SA
investors. Main beneficiaries of the group’s
operations are the Marshall and Latilla-
Campbell families which control it. Only 20
shares were traded on the JSE over the past
three months because they are so tightly held
and because they are really only half a rand
hedge stock.

The future of holding company Conafex is
of interest. Its sole asset is the holding in
Afex plus some cash. Marshall says Cona-
fx’s role as holding company is not really
required because the direct and indirect
holdings of the Marshall and Latilla-Camp-
bell families are sufficient to retain control of
Afex. He says "something may be done"
with Conafex but declines to provide details.
YOU may pay for drought!

DAVID CUMMING
DURBAN. — The drought will cost taxpayers in the region of R130 million in interest-rate subsidies if past procedures are followed.

But it could also cost banks, the Land Bank and co-operatives billions of rands in debt write-offs.

Dr Koos du Toit, chief economist of the SA Agricultural Union, said he believed huge debt write-offs in the coming months were a strong likelihood.

"In many cases sequestrating a farmer would see the creditor concerned receiving only 10c in the rand. It would make far more sense to write off the debts of potentially efficient farmers."

"This would provide them with immediate relief and keep them in business. It would also mean that at some time they could once more become valued clients of banks and the other institutions."

Dr Du Toit said current agricultural debt was R17 billion, 97 percent of it in short-term loans from commercial banks which were subject to fluctuating interest rates, causing farmers much hardship.

If the State followed past relief procedures, it would institute a five percent subsidy on Land Bank loans, bringing the effective interest rate down to 12 percent.

Last year such a scheme was introduced subject to a R26 000 maximum. The average farmer who qualified received R8 000 in subsidies and the cost to the State was R126 million.

The same scheme now would probably cost in the region of R130 million.

"However, there have been suggestions that the scope of the scheme should be extended to those who do not have Land Bank loans.

"If they can provide proof that their interest-rate bill is related to mortgage bond credit, rather than a straight overdraft, they too will be eligible for relief. If this suggestion is adopted the cost to the State would be substantially higher."

The increasingly desperate financial plight of farmers has led to a complete overhaul of the State's role, which will see it gradually withdraw as primary supplier of credit to farmers.

In future it will leave this role to the Land Bank, commercial banks and agricultural co-operatives.

"Instead, says Dr Frans van der Merwe, superintendent-general of the Department of Agricultural Development, it will aim to use the funds at its disposal to provide farmers with relief from the high interest rates which they are unable to afford — particularly those who have had crops ruined by drought.

To ensure that all concerned play their full role in allocating relief, agricultural credit committees are to be extended to bring the creditors of applicants into the decision-making process. This means such organisations as the Land Bank, commercial banks, co-operatives and the regional representatives of organised agriculture will be involved in assessing a farmer's relief application.

They would meet under the chairmanship of the local magistrate and would ensure that every application was treated strictly on individual merits.

Observers said this week that this would be particularly welcome news for efficient farmers who were merely the victims of economic and climatic circumstances.

There was now every possibility that their skills would not be lost to agriculture because of bankruptcy and these skills would be retained to play a vital role in the new South Africa — supplying the nation with food.
Cracked mirror convinces farmers of 'ANC terror war'

WHEN two burly farmers unveiled a cracked mirror in Bloemfontein this week, any doubts that the plateground was at war were swept away.

The mirror, from a house burgled in Verkeerdevlei last week, was daubed with the letters "ANC".

Farmers at the Free State Agricultural Union's special congress on security are convinced the ANC is waging a terror campaign to drive them from their farms.

This week they streamed into Bloemfontein by the hundreds to vent their anger and frustration at what they see as spin-offs of the new South Africa — squatters, crime and murder.

They believe lawlessness has been boosted by the return of political exiles and the early release of convicted criminals.

A top-level police delegation assured them there were no political motives or ANC involvement in the attacks, but the surprise unveiling of the mirror — cracked en route from Verkeerdevlei to Bloemfontein — was all that was needed to strengthen the farmers' views.

The message from congress delegates was: "A war is on — and we won't take it lying down."

They gave the authorities six weeks to implement a list of demands, which included:

- Financial support for protection measures such as a radio network, security fences around homesteads, farm guards and patrols;
- The use of national servicemen for protection in rural areas;
- An increase in the number of policemen in rural areas.

In the conference centre on the campus of the University of the Orange Free State, security companies snatched the opportunity to display their wares — electric fences, alarms and intricate lighting systems.

At the start of the congress, union president Dr Piet Gous appealed to delegates to "play the ball, not the man".

But, for many, the three government representatives on stage proved a far more appealing target than the issues under discussion.

They were Minister of Agriculture Dr Kraai van Niekerk, deputy Minister of Law and Order Johan Scheepers and deputy Minister of Defence Wynand Brydenbach.

Dr Van Niekerk was coolly received, but there was no heckling when he got down to the nitty-gritty of the government's drought-relief scheme.

As one delegate remarked: "We don't like him or his government, but it doesn't help to bite the hand that's going to feed you."

Law and Order Deputy Minister Johan Scheepers was jeered loudly when he suggested the government's reform moves had led to the lifting of sanctions.

Momentarily losing his cool, he bit back by saying the people should then vote in the referendum.

A representative from the Parys Farmers' Association, Mr Nick Kemp, described the terror campaign as the "final wave against farmers and Christianity".

A speaker from Vrede said the outcome of the battle would decide whether there would still be farmers in the Free State by the end of the decade.

Reflecting the mood of the congress, Dr Gous said the issue was not about solving the murders and attacks on farms, but about the survival of farmers, their families and labourers.

He said farmers were facing a determined and planned attempt to drive them from their land.

"This is a political-military problem which cannot easily be blamed on only economic factors," he added.
Drought dooms top family

ONE OF South Africa's best-known farming families has been driven off the land by the drought and crippling interest rates.

This week, the 15 farms owned by brothers "Cato", "Bunny" and Dave Cloete, who ran one of the biggest farming operations in the country, were sold by public auction at Adelaide in the Eastern Cape.

Another two giant farming operations in the Karoo are also threatened by the agricultural crisis.

On Friday, 17 000ha of prime land on which the Cloete brothers ran merino sheep, mohair goats and a dairy herd, fetched R4.5 million.

Their main farm, Malanskrans, comprising 2 710ha, was sold for R4.5 million. It included a "walking" irrigation system.

Blakely, comprising 1 300ha, went for R275 000 a hectare — a total of R375 250.

Threat

The other farms were sold for between R70 000 and R135 000 a hectare.

Last year, farm land in the same area was selling for R1 000 a hectare.

Other Karoo farming tycoons under threat are Mr Teddy Birch and his son, Syd, who farm near Grahamstown, and Mr Filip Murray of Graaff-Reinet.

Both have applied for protection under Section 21 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1966 in terms of which approved farmers with the ability to recover are protected from any legal action for between six months and two years, while they reorganise their operations and repay their debts.

Syd Birch and Son farm 26 000ha and until recently were the biggest ostrich farmers in the world, with 10 000 birds, and the biggest mohair producers in South Africa with a herd of 25 000 goats.

Mr Syd Birch said yesterday he had sold all his ostriches except 6 000 and all goats except 6 000.

This allowed them to pay R5 million of their R15 million overdraft with Standard Bank, he said.

Mr Murray — who owns a 80 000ha operation — has the distinction of regularly clipping the most wool in South Africa. He was also the first farmer to produce stock feed cubes for farm animals.

He started buying and selling his own sheep as a child of five and sold his own wool in London when he was 16.

He owes First National Bank about R10 million.

A farmer at the Adelaide auction said this week: "If farming operations this image are under threat.

Three brothers watch as their farms go under the hammer

what's going to happen to the rest of us?"

The Cloete farms were sold by the Bloemfontein Board of Executors and First National Bank in "agreement with the Cloete brothers". The sale is subject to confirmation and the names of the purchasers have not been revealed.

Family members have refused to comment on their plight.

Bloemfontein chief executive Colin Hillinga said yesterday no farmer was immune from the prolonged drought, high interest rates and increased production costs, coupled with depressed prices.

Prices of farmland are low because the drought reduces the farmers' creditworthiness, causing banks to call up overdrafts which many are unable to pay off because of high interest rates and depressed prices for their produce.

Boreholes save stricken town

OUTSIDE the drought-stricken town of Graaff-Reinet lies a vast stretch of cracked, sun-baked mud.

It's the Van Rynsewold's Pans Dam which has been drying up for two years. This week it was virtually empty — one percent full, according to town officials.

The dam previously irrigated 3 000 ha of feed crops for sheep on Farms along the Sundays River.

Graaff-Reinet's town clerk, Mr Janse de Vries, said this week although the town had a quota of one million litres a day from the dam, it had been unable to draw any water since September 1990 when it began drying up.

The town is being supplied by boreholes tapping underground water, but faces water rationing this month unless it rains.

In Pretoria this week, top-level talks took place between the Minister of Agriculture, Dr Krais van Nieuwerkerk, the South African Agricultural Union and representatives of commercial banks on ways to resolve the growing crisis which is forcing many farmers off the land.

Dr Koos de Toit, chief economist for the SAAU, said the farmers' debt burden had been growing since the 1980s.

Because of the drought, this year's summer grain harvest was "a total disaster", and there are between 3 000 and 5 000 farmers in serious difficulties.

Mr Frans Louw, public relations officer for Dr Van Nieuwerkerk, said income from agriculture in large parts of the country was so low that many farmers were unable to pay the interest on their debts.

The crisis was so bad that the state could not provide the capital to consolidate loans, he said.

This week's meeting was held to decide what help could be given to farmers and which farmers to help.

"Each one will be considered on merit," he said.

Extended agricultural committees had been set up all over the country in which banks and co-operatives, creditors and farmers met to gather information and quantify the predicament of individual farmers, he said.

One of the possibilities discussed was for the state to subsidise interest repayments "until the situation is manageable".
Land must be given back – PAC

By Helen Grange

The Pan Africanist Congress was serious about seeing "each and every square inch" of the land returned to the African people, PAC president Clarence Makwetu said yesterday.

Speaking at an Institute for Multi-party Democracy conference held at the University of the Witwatersrand, Mr Makwetu said the repeal of the Land Acts had not changed the fact that a minority group owned most of the land.

"How are we to buy it back from whites without the economic resources?" he asked.

Political democracy without economic democracy was an "empty shell" and people had to be assured not only of a vote, but of land and economic resources.

Mr Makwetu said the PAC would vigorously work for a constituent assembly as an antidote to the illegitimate rule of a minority, adding that majority rule in a democracy did not exclude minority rights.

Commenting on white teachers who have been intimidated and attacked by PAC youths in Reef townships, Mr Makwetu said he was opposed to actions against whites but not actions against white dominance.

Azanian People's Organisation president Pandelani Nefolovhudwe restated Azapo's unwillingness to take part in Codesa, saying constitutional negotiations should be at a neutral venue under an independent and impartial mediator.

Commenting on the pending referendum, Mr Nefolovhudwe said: "Before the calling of the white referendum, the reform process was said to be irreversible. But after the announcement, it is doubtful whether the process cannot be reversed by a Conservative Party victory."
PORT ELIZABETH.—The levels of two of Port Elizabeth’s three main water supply dams have risen after hard, penetrating rains in the catchment areas in the past few days, while run-off water is expected to reach the third dam today.

The Churchill dam has risen by 2.6% and is now 45.1% full, compared with 42.3% last Thursday, while the Charlie Malan dam has risen by 6% to 28%. And water is still flowing into the dams.

Gamtoos Irrigation Board spokesman Mr Pierre Joubert said yesterday that although good rains had fallen in the Paul Sauer dam catchment area, no run-off water had reached the dam yet.

The Paul Sauer dam is the city’s largest water supply dam and also supplies water to Gamtoos Valley citrus and vegetable farmers.

"With the dam at only 13.8% at present the rise will be quite significant. If we can get a nice strong downpour of about 100mm soon, the level should rise quite sharply, as there is a lot of moisture in the ground."

Mr Joubert said it was important to note that farmers would not be drawing as much water for irrigation now as they were before the rain.

Mr Joubert said the rain came just at the right time for the area’s farmers. "It will help a lot with the citrus crop and many farmers will now be able to prepare their lands for cash crops, something they could not plant for quite a while, because of the drought."
Farmers not to blame for food inflation — economist

PRISTORIA — Producers were not to blame for rocketing food prices, statistics showed, and the culprits behind food inflation must be sought elsewhere, agricultural economist Johan Willemsen said at the weekend.

He told the Agricultural Outlook Conference that producer prices had increased by an average of 5.8% in 1991 against an increase of 19.6% in food prices. Producer prices, Willemsen said, had declined steadily since the beginning of the '90s.

The producer's share of the consumer rand had declined from 33% in 1980 to 39.4% in 1991 — which meant the non-producer share increased from 47% to 60.8%.

Sharp rises in food prices in the last two years were not caused by rising producer prices, Willemsen said.

The reason had to be sought in price margins.

National Chamber of Milling chairman WJ de Kock told the conference that stagflation, high interest rates and a weakening international exchange rate would lead to increased costs of capital goods and financing.

One result of this would be higher-wage demands from trade unions. De Kock claimed that high food prices were not the cause of high inflation, but a symptom of it.
LEIGH, a Chartwell housewife, snips irritably at the edge of her lawn with a pair of black garden shears. "Well, I suppose I'll be voting 'yes' in the referendum," she says. "If we vote 'no', we'll all be branded racists again."

Leigh is in her mid-thirties, and spends most of her time at home, barricaded behind two rows of spiked iron railings, scattered armed security warning signs and three small but loud dogs.

Leigh says she resents the way the media turned the recent controversy over a group of several thousand squatters, camped on the Zevfenfontein farm next to Chartwell, into what she calls a racial issue.

The squatter problem, she says, is an inevitable consequence of the end of apartheid. But when Chartwell residents go about their daily business of having squatters 'dished' on their doorstep, it didn't necessarily mean they were advocating a return to apartheid.

"What happened before was evil, and I would never vote to return to it — even if the CP could reconstruct apartheid, which it can't."

The mood is reflected by other residents in the quiet, sprawling suburb.

Most of the sounds in Chartwell are of dogs barking, but there is life behind the forbidding gates and long front gardens.

Most residents said they agreed with the essence of President F W de Klerk's reforms, but that specific problems during the transition, like the squatter question and associated security problems, needed to be addressed more carefully.

But was it not inconsistent to vote to support the end of apartheid's racial boundaries on the one hand, and to complain about poor black people moving in nearby on the other?

Several residents replied that the majority of Chartwell residents had not campaigned against the Zevfenfontein squatters because they were black, but because they were poor and uneducated — that their arguments against the squatters were supposedly "class-based and not racially motivated."

"These people, they said, would be voting 'yes' as it was the minority of blatant racists who would vote 'no'."

Lance, a local estate agent, said Chartwell residents were worried about crime.

"Do you think we like living in fortresses with barking dogs?" But, he said a "no" vote would not stop crime.

"A 'no' vote would bring the CP to power, but they won't stop crime. Oh, sure, they'll impose a short-term military solution, but that's not a solution at all, because there'll be a civil war soon afterwards."

In the run-up to SA's most crucial vote, Business Day will be taking the pulse of white voters in towns and cities across the country. We start the series today with a look at Chartwell, near Johannesburg — an affluent, predominantly white area which has been at the centre of a controversy over the nearby Zevfenfontein squatter camp. DARIUS SANAI reports.

Lance says he voted NP in the last general election, and would do so again. He says he agreed with the path De Klerk has taken.

"The only way for SA to get anywhere is through negotiations. To stop them now would be to step back goodness knows how many years." Johann was fiddling with the clutch cable on his Volkswagen Jetta when I accosted him. Unlike Leigh, he opened his gates, restrained his dogs and invited me in to talk.

A researcher with a large mining house, Johann says he voted DP in the last election, and, despite what he calls "a significant shift to the right in my feelings", would definitely vote "yes" in the referendum.

"What the government is doing is a good thing," Johann says. "But there is much accompanying uncertainty, particularly about security."

Johann says his job takes him away for long periods, and he gets very concerned about the safety of his wife and small child when he is away.

"Did he not blame government policies for the recent rise in crime rate?"

"Oh yes, I'm sure the CP would get security right," he says with a wry smile.

"I have no doubt about that. But what would happen then? The sanctions would mean economic suicide."

"And 25-million blacks have smelled freedom. What does the CP propose to do with them? Shift them to homelands?"

"It would be an impossible situation."

He then articulates an emotion, a reason for his intention to vote "yes", which the other Chartwell residents, all white, reasonably affluent and English speaking, have only hinted at.

"Look, besides everything else, even if we have to put up security gates and carry guns — isn't it time we gave the black people a chance?"

PRETORIA — The right-leaning Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) has deployed fund-raising campaigns by business organisations for a "yes" vote.

A TAU spokesman said at the weekend that the TAU was disappointed that some financial institutions were involved in collecting substantial funds to market a certain political direction in the coming referendum.

This "incoherent action" came at a time when organised agriculture was establishing an emergency fund to provide drought-distressed farmers and their workers with basic necessities.

The TAU appealed to all financial institutions, church organisations and sports bodies not to allow themselves to be involved in public and financial support for the furthering of specific political directions. "This shocking action by certain financial institutions ought to be stopped immediately," it said.

The TAU said "SPAR" that SA World Cup cricket viewers will be urged to vote "yes" in the forthcoming referendum when faced with a Private Sector Referendum Fund advertising at the matches in Australia and New Zealand.

What Precedent was a vote in South Africa in 1992, the Private Sector Referendum Fund had managed to secure advertising space at three of SA's World Cup cricket matches, fund joint chairman Chris van Wyk said at the weekend. The advertising would appear at the matches between SA and Sri Lanka, West Indies and Zimbabwe.

The fund, launched early last week to promote a "yes" vote, had been inundated with offers of financial support from all sectors of the business world. It had received about R1.6m by Friday, said the fund's joint chairman Van Wyk and George Thomas.

"The response has been overwhelming. We have had offers of assistance from all kinds of businesses, ranging from companies interested in tractors to telecommunications, to printing concerns and finance houses," Van Wyk said.

At the weekend the Private Sector Referendum Fund and the National Party advertised extensively on M-Net and took up full page advertisements in the Sunday Press.
The Argus Foreign Service

WASHINGTON. — The United States has launched an international relief effort to avert "a major humanitarian crisis" in Southern Africa caused by the drought, and may help by sending millions of tons of emergency food.

State Department spokesman Miss Margaret Tutwiler said that teams would be sent to 10 countries to assess the impact of the drought on food supplies and to determine what help the US and other potential donors could provide.

"Preliminary estimates from our missions in the region and from the Food and Agricultural Organisation indicate that food imports to the region could top 7 million metric tons from August 1992 to May 1993, compared to normal importation requirements of 2 million metric tons," she said.

While more than half would be met through commercial purchases of food, primarily by South Africa, "considerable donor assistance will be needed to avert a major humanitarian crisis in the region."

**Intensive talks**

She announced that "the US had begun "intensive consultations with other potential donors to develop a co-ordinated response."

Since early February the drought has been monitored by the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, the Office of Food for Peace, the Famine Early Warning System, the Agency for International Development's Africa Bureau, the US Department of Agriculture and the State Department.

"Later this month... we will be in a better position to gauge how we can best respond. We are exploring all available funding options."

Miss Tutwiler said that in some areas the drought was the worst this century and had come at a time when food reserves were already low due to poor harvests last year.

Affected areas, to which teams from the Agency for International Development would be sent, included Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

International aid specialists estimate that the present US budget for food aid to some countries of Southern Africa would have to be greatly increased if there was to be a significant impact.

There is a 1992 budget allocation of about $128 million (R414 million) for direct food aid to Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia.
Hard-hit farms battered again

Staff Reporters

Torrential rains, hailstorms and whirlwinds have caused damage amounting to millions of rands to eastern and far-northern Transvaal areas, further hammering farmers already reeling from a devastating drought.

On Monday a hailstorm destroyed crops and left a trail of destruction through two Tzaneen suburbs.

Tzaneen town clerk Jan de Lang said the storm had caused damage amounting to "a few million rands".

On Friday storms in the Piet Retief district wrecked crops, ripped roofs and windows from buildings, disrupted telephone links and caused extensive damage to many homes.

Farmers in Tzaneen and Piet Retief said they were devastated by the heavy hailstorms, which ruined tomatoes, banana, orange, mango and tree crops.

"This is the worst thing that could have happened," said a farmer near Tzaneen.

Soya bean crops in Dirkiesdorp, Thabo Springs, Kiplwal and Trustgebied — among the worst hit areas — were flattened.

Five farmers in Sulphur Springs in Moolman lost 150 hectares of crops, said farmer Wimpie Scheepers.

Rain, hail and wind wiped out the soya bean crop, which was worth about R700,000, he said. Up to 80 percent of the melonies had been knocked to the ground.

Two irrigation systems were also knocked down.

"The extent of the rest of the damage is difficult to assess at this stage. Some damage cannot be assessed. How do you value 100-year-old trees which have been blown over?" he asked.

Only one farmer in the area had insurance while the others had gambled with the weather, Mr Scheepers said.

Although some places recorded up to 100 mm of rain, the Weather Bureau has warned that "the drought has not been busted". The rain has moved across to Zimbabwe and no rain was forecast in the Transvaal.

On Monday night at least 100 houses in Aqua Park and Premier Park in Tzaneen were damaged by hailstones. Roofs of two houses were blown off and low-lying areas were flooded. Power lines were smashed and scores of cars were damaged by falling trees.

Aqua Park resident Shep Lubbe said: "This is the first time in my life I have seen a block wall completely blown away by the wind."

Up to 100 mm of rain fell in less than an hour, but very little was recorded in the catchment areas of major dams in the district.

Emergency services were busy from 1 am and by late yesterday, municipal workers were still removing large trees.

Although rain was desperately needed in the northern Transvaal, many maize farmers did not plant this year because of the unseasonal drought and those who did have suffered irreparable crop damage.

The 35 mm in Pietersburg had not been enough to ensure the survival of the veld.

Rainfall of 92 mm in the Hoedspruit district has flooded the Molohlapi River.

More than 50 mm was measured in the Kruger National Park. Other figures were: Hazyview 60 mm, Nelspruit 40 mm, Volksrust 80 mm, Witbank 33 mm, Belfast 37 mm and Witrivier 40 mm.

Hugh Robertson reports from Washington that the United States has launched an international relief effort to avert "a major humanitarian crisis" in southern Africa caused by drought and may provide tons of emergency food supplies.

State Department spokesman Margaret Tutwiler said teams would be sent to all 10 countries of the region to assess the impact of the drought on food supplies.

AFFECTED AREAS INCLUDED: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe, said Miss Tutwiler.
Domestic workers now on agenda

Govt nod for labour laws to cover farms

TWO key labour laws could be extended to cover SA’s 1.2-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 Eiki 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 Workers’ Compensation Acts can be solved. Marais also agreed to convene a meet-

Labour laws

ing of union 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 overburdened with cases.

He said there had been a noticeable improvement in relations between labour and the ministry. “There is more of an understanding of the department’s problems on their part, and we have a better understanding of what the unions want.”
Winter crop plight eased by light rain

TOS WENTZEL
Political Staff

PROSPECTS for grazing and winter crops in the drought-stricken areas have improved slightly, but more rain is needed, says Dr FJ van der Merwe, superintendent-general of Agricultural Development.

This year less than 40 percent of the normal maize crop would be harvested.

There had also been an inverted pattern of rain falling in winter rainfall areas, but not in the normal summer rainfall areas.

Last week the Newlands area had 69 mm, Ceres 45 mm and Kirstenbosch 55 mm, while the maize producing and summer-rainfall areas such as Heidelberg in the Transvaal had 4 mm.

Dr Van der Merwe said that from August to January rain in the drought-stricken Highveld area was far below average — 230 mm instead of the usual 500 mm.

This had coincided with a heat wave that had led to maize plants not being pollinated and few seeds being formed.

Rain now would not save the maize crop, but would improve grazing.

Farmers in the Free State and Transvaal with winter crops such as wheat would also benefit.

Stock farmers would face a serious grazing and fodder problem later in the year unless there was good rain. There had been too little so far.

Rain was also needed to top up dams.

Dr Van der Merwe said that while the position had improved slightly, the serious drought was by no means broken.

The drought had come unexpectedly after a wet cycle had been foreseen. It was the last straw for many farmers who had been hit by drought and high interest rates in the 1980s.

This was why the government was planning aid programmes at a high level and urgently.
Govt gives R20-m for food aid

Staff Reporter

The Government yesterday announced that R20 million would be made available for a food assistance programme for farmers and their labourers as a result of the drought.

To implement the programme, the Minister of National Health and Population Development, Dr Rina Venter, yesterday handed a cheque to the value of R20 million to the Federale Vroueraad (Federal Women’s Council) which will divide the money between its affiliated associations.

The women’s associations will make the funds available to district aid committees which will "immediately" be established in each magisterial district to determine the need for food assistance as well as the availability of resources.

If necessary, the district aid committee will apply for funds from the affiliated women’s organisations. Farmers in need of assistance can also apply for assistance directly from their local aid committee.

These committees will consist of representatives of the welfare components of the provincial administrations as well as the following departments and institutions:

- The Department of Agriculture.
- The Algemene Kommissie vir Dien en Barmhartigheid (Commission for Service and Charity) of the Ned Geref Kerk.
- The SA Vroue Landbou-unié (Women’s Agricultural Union).
- The South African Agricultural Union.

Dr Venter said that the public could contribute to the assistance rendered by the Government through the SA Agricultural Union Relief Fund, Box 1508, Pretoria 0001. Cash payments could be made countrywide to the Schoeman Street branch of Volkskas (account number 142-049-0815).

Further inquiries regarding the guidelines for the allocation of funds can be made through the Federale Vroueraad in Pretoria.

- Drive for lower food prices — Page 6
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, subject 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
Govt gives R20m for drought aid

Pretoria — Government has allocated R20m for a food programme aimed at drought distressed farmers and their workers, National Health and Population Development Minister Nita Venter said yesterday.

A cheque was handed to the Federals Vrouenaad yesterday morning. The R20m will be divided among the four affiliated women's associations which will distribute the cash to district aid committees.

The committees are to be established immediately in affected magisterial districts.

If resources prove inadequate the committees can apply for additional funds from affiliated women's organisations.

Venter said the public could contribute to the assistance programme. Contributions may be sent to the SA Agricultural Relief Fund, P.O. Box 1508 Pretoria 0001.

Sapa reports Durban harbour will handle most of the 4.5-million tons of maize to be imported by SA, starting in April. The port will handle 3.4-million tons, Cape Town 475 000 tons and East London 380 000 tons.

Portnet rejected speculation it did not have the capacity to handle more than 3-million tons.
Afrikaner oasis on the Orange

AS THE referendum battle hots up one of the options being debated is that of a "white homeland". MICHAEL SPARKS visited the only existing example a year after it was founded to see if has lived up to expectations.

ORANIA, like many rural towns, is not one that sleeps late. The sounds of people working come through the window soon after the first rays of sunlight.

The difference here is that the people doing all the physical work — mixing cement, emptying rubbish bins, sawing wood, hammering nails — are white. The residents would not have it any other way.

They see themselves as pioneers, the vanguard of an Afrikaner Volkstaat they hope will extend far beyond its present 2700 ha in the northern Cape, 150 km south of Kimberley.

At first sight the town seems to be growing rapidly. The original 200 ha town was bought on January 31 last year for R1.5 million and was officially opened in mid-April with 11 people living there. The remaining 2 400 ha was bought in August for R46 000.

Below the surface, lie seemingly intractable problems, easily uncovered by just a few questions.

There are 350 people living in Orania — well up from the first few dozen real pioneers — with more coming in all the time.

Town Manager Renée Steyn is convinced that by the end of March there will be more than 400 permanent residents, with nearly 100 attending the school which opened in June.

Water is the key to survival of the town, which lies close to the banks of the Orange River.

For R50 a month residents can have all the water they need. It means the town looks lush and green compared to the dryness of the Karoo just a few kilometres away. Homes can be bought for between R31 000 and R46 000.

Each new family has brought a new skill to the area, resulting in new businesses opening regularly. An ostrich farm, a hardware store and supermarket, a guest house whose owner moved to the town from Hillbrow.

Desiree Adendorff says many people have a misconception of life in the Volksstaat.

"We do not want to chase other nationalities into the sea and suppress the blacks. We are not interested in being white separatists."

See Pages 5 and 6 just after a quiet place where the Afrikaner can put his head down — like the other races in South Africa.

"There is a shortage of good labour here, which means you sometimes have to wait a while until the person you want to do the work is free," she said.

At the tiny school, one of the first projects tackled by the emerging state, Afrikaner roots enter the space age as barefoot kids are taught via a computer-based education system.

The town has its first doctor, but possibly because of the healthy lifestyle, he spends most of his time in neighbouring towns — treating mainly black patients.

"You have to be the first or don't come at all, because there certainly is not enough work for more than one doctor," Dr Steph Nel said.

Esther Swanepeul runs a hair salon from her home, which she says is not as busy as it would be in the city, "but that means I have the time to clean the house, and do the washing or the ironing between customers."

None of the small businesses seem the kind that could maintain a positive balance of payments if the dream of an independent Volksstaat becomes a reality.

There is much talk in the town of the need to attract factories to the area, which will provide jobs and in turn attract more people. But although no factory roofs or assembly lines are looming on the horizon, no one seems too concerned about the economic reality.

"Remie van Reensburg, a shareholding in the Orania management service which currently runs the town, echoed the sentiments of many when he said he wanted to turn it into a first world town.

"There is a study group looking at the long-term economic issues, and they see no problem with it. Our own people are warning us against going for big factories, but the potential is there. Compare this with what happened in Israel. We can do it. We need to find something new that we can make which does not exist, which we can export," he said simply.

"If the will is there and the water is there and the land is there, then we can succeed. We have to, we have no option."
US family plants roots in Orania

YANKEE Doodie has arrived in South Africa and is alive and well living in Orania.

The all-white town, which describes itself as the kernel of the Afrikaner volkstaat, a few weeks ago welcomed their first non-Afrikaner family — all the way from the United States.

Tim Vaughan and his wife Brenda immigrated to South Africa with their three children 18 months ago, and another baby has arrived since then.

Mr Vaughan, who has a degree in fruit technology, plans to start a fruit nursery in Orania, which he believes would be ideally suited to the conditions.

"The climate is perfect, the land is inexpensive and for R50 a month you can get all the water you can use," he says, talking in a strange mixture of an American accent, with a strong, guttural rolling of the r's which he has picked up through speaking Afrikaans.

"We are very happy with the school system, and most people are Calvinists like we are or have been affected by the Calvinist ethic," he says.

Mrs Vaughan adds that the people are very friendly and helpful and no one has laughed at their pronunciation of the Afrikaans words they know.

One reason for leaving the United States was that they found life there depressing. "Even homosexuals living together are allowed to adopt kids," Mr Vaughan says.

Danie van Rensburg, a shareholder in the Orania management service, admitted it would be hard for the American family to adapt to life in an Afrikaner volkstaat.

"I really can't see them becoming Afrikaners in the true sense of the word, but that is not important. As long as they see how the Afrikaner lives and study it, and see what an Afrikaner is, and then just go for it. If they adopt the Afrikaner view of or approach to life, then it should be okay."
NOT ALL FARMERS FEELING THE PINCH

FARMERS and those in related industries make up half of all South Africans earning above R500 000 a year, the 1991 Census discloses.

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 sportmen 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. 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 92 "domestic workers" earn above R500 000. They must work for the Oppenhetmers.
DROUGHT WILL HIT COMMERCIAL SALES

SALES of commercial vehicles to the agricultural sector are expected to plummet this year as a result of the devastating drought affecting most of the grain producing areas of South Africa.

"It's a very serious situation," says Adolfo Menzies, managing director of Mercedes-Benz of South Africa. "Farmers have been hard hit by the drought and they will be pulling out of the market as potential buyers."

He says that farmers, along with the food industry network that emanates from agricultural activities, have traditionally contributed in the region of 15% of sales in the over 7500 GVM vehicle category.

"I predict their contribution to the truck market will be almost nil this year," he says.

Frank Pretorius, managing director of Toyota Marketing Company, agrees that the drought will adversely affect sales and particularly so in the bulkie sector.

DECISION

"Farmers have always played a very important role in the diesel 1-ton segment of the market. Our past owner profiles show that more than 40% of diesel pick-ups were sold to farmers. This has decreased lately, but it is still in the region of 25% - so sales in this sector will definitely be adversely affected," he says.

Toyota has taken the decision to cut back on the production of diesel pick-ups by 5%. However, this decision was taken in the light of all the factors, of which the drought was one," says Mr. Pretorius.

Not all South Africa's farmers are in trouble. Those who are in the drought regions who are doing well and who will be the same this year.

As regards the impact on Toyota's medium and heavy commercial vehicle sales, he does not see this to be substantial. "We sell between 15% to 20% of our heavy vehicles to the government and the majority of the balance to fleet owners. The contribution of farmers to medium vehicles sales is more significant, but even here they do not constitute a major portion of our sales," he says.

Of concern to Mr. Pretorius, however, is the ripple effect the drought will have on other components of the economy. This concern was echoed by a number of other industry players, including Nico Vermeulen, director of the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa (NAAMSA).

"The effect of the drought is expected to reduce the increase in gross domestic product in South Africa by 0.5%. Inflation is also expected to rise by at least 2% as a direct result of the drought," he says.

"Vehicle sales and GDP have traditionally had a close correlation, so instead of, say, a 5% rise in unit sales for the year ahead, this will only be in the order of 3.5%," says Mr. Vermeulen.

It has been estimated that some R1.5 billion will be spent on importing maize, which will be reflected in the surplus on the current account of the balance of payments.

The concern here is that all this will delay any reduction in interest rates, which is seen as a key input leading towards an improvement in vehicle sales.

SLOW

"Even without the effects of the drought, any recovery in the current depressed conditions will be a slow process and a modest improvement in the various sectors is only likely to occur once interest rates start their long-awaited decline and domestic economic activity levels record some improvement," says Mr. Vermeulen.

Another effect of the drought on the commercial vehicle market is that cash-strapped farmers are expected to sell off their existing vehicles.

EASY RIDE... now that the access roads to the Katse dam site, part of the Lesotho Highland Water scheme, have been built, contractors such as J&G Transport have switched to vehicles which offer a smooth ride with maximum payload. This is one of J&G’s new Mercedes-Benz 2444/30 Powerliners on its way to the dam construction site...
Drought aid welcomed

PRETORIA. — The South African Agricultural Union yesterday welcomed the government’s R20 million drought-aid programme.

The money is being made available for the implementation of a food programme for farmers and farm workers in drought-stricken areas.

A further R15 million has been granted to Operation Hunger’s feeding development scheme.

A cheque for the amount was presented to Operation Hunger director Mrs Ina Perlman by the Deputy Minister of National Health, Mr Fanus Schoeman, at a function in Pretoria yesterday. — Sapa
‘White land’ policy explained

DURBAN — The Conservative Party land negotiations started with leaving the self-governing territories and homelands for specific ethnic groups.

Party leader Dr Andries Treurnicht told a Durban audience last night that land outside these areas was "white territory", although the CP was prepared to negotiate final borders.

Before negotiating "our people out of land" the CP would, however, go back to the white electorate.

Land outside the homelands historically belonged to whites and that would be the CP's starting point in negotiations with ethnic leaders, Dr Treurnicht told about 600 supporters at the Exhibition Centre.

The CP stood for the modern concept of a commonwealth of nations which would be politically independent and economically interdependent with co-operation in defence and foreign affairs.

The time for black or white domination was past and the CP did not want to dominate black people... "we want you (blacks) to govern yourselves", he said.

His party would not reimpose apartheid if it came to power, but the principle of self-determination would necessitate the reintroduction of laws such as influx control "to secure our own way of life".

Several khaki-clad AWB members and others sporting AWB T-shirts were seen among the enthusiastic crowd, and the organisation's southern Natal leader General Nick Fourie addressed supporters briefly describing the Ystergarde as soldiers who fought for God and white people, not as thugs as the press depicted them.

Earlier, four black students from Natal Technikon who were covering the meeting as part of a project were refused entry to the hall.

Asked to comment later, Dr Treurnicht said it was not CP policy to refuse anyone entry to meetings although with large groups tension could arise. — Sapa.

(Report by C. Dooman, 36 Westgard House, Gardner St, Durban)
Govt 'hunger' grant enrages rightists

By Dirk Nel
Northern Transvaal Bureau

PIETERSBURG — The Conservative Party has noted "with dismay" that the Government had donated R10 million to Operation Hunger, CP health spokesman Dr Willie Snyman said in a statement yesterday.

"Apart from the known fact that Operation Hunger has close links with the ANC, it has come to my attention that funds for the organisation are used for purposes other than those intended by its founders," he said.

Dr Snyman called on the Government to appoint a judicial inquiry or a commission representative of all parliamentary parties to investigate the activities of the organisation.

"Should the Government ignore this urgent request from the CP, the party will regard this as blatant approval by the Government of the squandering of taxpayers' money," Dr Snyman added.

An enraged Ina Perlman, executive director of Operation Hunger, reacted with an open challenge to Dr Snyman to risk "a very real libel suit" by spelling out, outside Parliament, the so-called "known facts" about her organisation.

She also called on him not to hide behind nuances and hints but to reveal in public his information about funds which Operation Hunger had allegedly used for purposes other than those originally intended.

"Perhaps before Mr Snyman spoke, he should have consulted Werk en Oorleef, a welfare group which is backed to the tune of R30 000 a month by Operation Hunger and where one of the top office bearers is CP MP Kobus Botha," Ms Perlman said.

She said Operation Hunger was taking legal advice on Mr Snyman's "scurrilous allegations".

- The South African Agricultural Union in a statement to Sapa said yesterday that overwhelming reaction had been received to its recently announced Emergency Aid Fund for afflicted farming communities.

Contributions were streaming in from individuals and organisations throughout the country. SAAU president Boet Fourie said in Pretoria.

Within days of the announcement of the fund contributions had reached nearly R400 000.

The fund would be used to contribute towards the essential personal expenses of farmers, their families and workers who were in financial need.

Contributions may be sent to the SAAU Emergency Aid Fund, Box 1508, Pretoria, 0001. The fund collection number is 02092270005.
Land redistribution is the priority

HAD hoped the column last week would generate an intense debate on the environment - how we view it and how we integrate it into our programme of action - the fight for truth and justice.

Mr Charles Ndabeni, a member of the South African Council of Churches' Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation has written an effusive response.

He argues that the fight to save our environment must be people-centred and reflect more on people and their relationship with nature. But I will not give myself the burden of translating what he said.

Here is his response:

As rightfully indicated in the article, there is an environmental apathy especially among the majority of the people in this country.

Before any blame could be apportioned to any person or organisation, some serious analysis should be done to identify the primary reasons for this state of affairs.

It should also be indicated that the struggle for environmental justice in the world, and in South Africa in particular, is a process that has been ongoing for some time now, it has been happening without greater public awareness.

Furthermore, land is central to environmental conservation in this country. There cannot be an environmental conservation without addressing the question of land - the 87 percent and 13 percent distribution.

This is precisely why the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC), a World Council of Churches initiative, at its assembly in 1983 in Vancouver called on the churches to engage 'in a process of mutual commitment to justice, peace and integrity of creation'.

The problem with such an initiative is putting it into context for particular countries especially South Africa with its multi-dimensional problems. It also goes with the kind of support it can gain within a short space of time.

But because of the long struggle against injustice by the majority of the people of this country, many structures and organisations already exist and are presently waging a strong battle against unjust laws and practices in all levels of society.

The JPIC process is not intended to operate independently of these, which includes advocacy work on injustice issues, mainly restoration of human rights and distribution of the wealth, land and other resources.

Our country is plagued with injustice, oppression, violence and destruction of the environment, thus the issue of the apathy on the already abused environment, should not be seen as an isolated incident completely divorced from the pursuit for justice and peace in this country.

Because of the disproportionate distribution of land, environmental concern or conservation has been and continues to be the preserve of whites in this country because of their standing relationship to the land.

Let us just pause for a minute and think of the following Act No 73 of 1989: Environment Conservation Act of 1989. There was no consultation for submissions from black people with reference to environment conservation in South Africa.

There is close to more than a thousand conservation, wildlife and general environmental groupings in this country and all are predominantly white-controlled.

There are very few black faces in these organisations. Surely there are good intentions and reasons for this. The only organisation well-known in the black community is the National Environmental Awareness Campaign which is unfortunately only based in Soweto.

The liberation movements have made departments already set up on environmental issues. Surely these are good signs.

But in spite of these well-intentioned efforts towards achieving environmental conservation in South Africa, the result just does not yield as yet what is desired.

This is true as we realise how disproportionate desire and results, or how separate wishes and facts could be. But still, who can stop us from wishing and desiring for a free, safe and clean environment?

JPIC calls for action on environmental issues in this country.

At no point in time than today is the concern for environmental conservation so urgent. But at the same time, we also realise how blatant and devastating our experience of apartheid is.

Maybe part of the reason for our lack of involvement and participation on environmental issues, is that people are presently preoccupied with violence and the unfolding political process, thus not giving much attention to this important issue. But we also know that our people's desire for peace in South Africa is very strong.

Poisoning of the air and water, and increasing loss of soil fertility causes more diseases, hunger and anger. Much of what is happening is the result of the apartheid system in South Africa.

We need to:

- Affirm that God is in charge of creation, and that He has coded a close bond between justice, peace and the well-being of the whole of creation.
- Work towards the creation of unity that seeks to build trust and respect for each other's differences.
- Affirm that all life is sacred and that we shall strive together to stop the violence which our country is presently engulfed in.
- We shall create areas of wilderness as sanctuaries to be preserved for human contact with nature.

Together with many others, we can advance environmental conservation in South Africa. I will certainly go along with a people-centred environmental ethic.

I also agree that our dreams for a new society cannot remain dreams, thus our envisaged freedom and liberation should include the liberation of the present unsafe environment riddled with toxic waste deposits, polluted water resources, extensive deforestation, land degradation and soil erosion.
Steel union

THE National Union of Steel and Allied Workers will meet in Atteridgeville, Pretoria, tomorrow to prepare for its forthcoming congress.

The meeting, which starts at 9am at the Atteridgeville Community Hall, will also plan for the Heroes' Day service to be held next Saturday.

Nusaaw general secretary, Mr Ndumane Tibane, said the meeting would also discuss new wage rates for its members in the iron, steel, engineering and metallurgical industries.

Focus on schools

By PHANGISILE MTSHALI

THE National Education Co-ordinating Committee will focus on the activities of the mushrooming inner city schools at a meeting in Johannesburg tomorrow.

The meeting will be held at Khanyo College and will be attended by parents, teachers and directors of the schools.

It starts at 3am, 13/3/92.

Mr Sam Mokganatsang, of the NECC, said it was hoped that the conference would set up a monitoring group that would investigate the activities of these schools.

The NECC had identified 40 inner city schools in and around Johannesburg, he said.

"Many of them charge high fees because they are not subsidised," Mokganatsang said.

"Many parents cannot afford to pay these fees and this leads to these schools becoming bankrupt. In some cases they close down and leave thousands of pupils stranded."

He said his organisation had embarked on a campaign to transform these "street academies into proper schools and establish liable management structures to counter corruption and exploitation".

Doornkop land issue

MEMBERS of the Doornkop 42 community meet in Mosterus on Sunday to discuss the response of the Commission of Land Allocation to their demands.

Strategically for the continuation of the struggle to reclaim their land will be finalised, as decided at a national workshop at Wilgespruit Fellow Centre on February 23 and 24.

Spokesman Mr Kaitshiki said Boshabele committee should also attend the meeting to "share ideas with the Doornkop people".
Changing land use laws ‘will foster secrecy’

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

DRAFT changes to the Cape’s land use planning legislation will increase secrecy and give greater powers to officials if they are accepted as law, a concerned landowner has told the Ombudsman.

Mr JohanGroenewald, a co-owner of the Groenkant private nature reserve near Still Bay, also asked Ombudsman Mr Justice Van der Walt to consider why Cape planning officials now wanted to give greater powers to the white “own affairs” minister when the tripartite system was being phased out.

Mr Groenewald said the Land Use Planning Ordinance Amendment Bill (Cape) had been tabled in parliament and referred to the white “own affairs” standing committee of the House of Assembly.

He pointed out that the new Bill followed hard on the heels of highly-critical comments by a Supreme Court judge on the secret way in which Cape provincial authorities had dealt with a development application at Langebaan.

Granting an interdict in December preventing Myburgh Park Langebaan (Pty) Ltd., from proceeding with a township development at the lagoon, Mr Justice J H Couraud expressed unease at the “alarminly secretive” way in which the go-ahead for the development had been obtained from authorities.

Mr Groenewald also reminded the Ombudsman of the controversy over CPA planning permission for a development at Ystervarkfontein near Still Bay.

According to the memorandum to the Bill, the minister would be empowered to issue conditions for township development and “the right to appeal is limited”, Mr Groenewald said.

The memorandum neglected to point out that the Bill scrapped the requirement to advertise such conditions and delegated increased powers to officials.

The Bill also contained changes to the way in which affected landowners had to be informed and in which the public was notified through the media.

These (new) definitions mean that an official can decide who will be affected by a land use application, whether he wants to inform such an affected landowner, whether he can or will obtain his address, and how he will inform this affected landowner.

As part of the normal democratic process, the process of land use planning — including decisions, departures, rezonings and changes — required that interested parties were informed, Mr Groenewald said.

However, the Bill scrapped the words “advertise” or “advertisement” in seven places and referred instead to “notify”.

This meant that advertisements in newspapers would not be necessary.

The Bill included a clause which allowed officials charged with specific responsibilities to delegate their authority to other officials. This had given rise to several controversies in the Cape.

The Bill also appeared to channel responsibility upwards to the minister away from the Administrator.
FARM DEBT

Swapping out of trouble?

With total farm debt fast approaching R20bn, can a crisis be averted by banks and other creditors taking equity in the debt-ridden farms? In the Eighties, money-centre banks traded much of the uncollectable debt they held for equity in the state-owned companies and other assets of South American countries. Now a similar scheme is proposed for SA’s failing farm sector.

Bankorp executive chairman Piet Liebenberg made the proposal at this month’s annual Agricultural Outlook Conference in Pretoria. He said the structure of the farm debt crisis suggested that the best way out would be “fairly large-scale debt-equity swaps” between farmers and their creditors, including the Land Bank and farm co-operatives.

“Debt-ridden farmers, together with a consortium of institutions, largely consisting of the Land Bank, co-ops and commercial banks, would become co-shareholders in large, new agricultural companies or several smaller companies,” he said. These companies would comprise several farms.

Farmers and their workers could be hired as staff, and farmers, who would still hold a stake in their farms, would play a significant role on the board of such companies and share in profits.

“Such a scheme would reduce (and even remove) the heavy burden of escalating interest on farm debts,” Liebenberg told delegates. “Farmers (and their employees) would remain on the land, allowing them the opportunity of starting afresh on a farming career, with no or very little debt.”

Creditors would swap their outstanding debt for equity in the companies, with the shareholding determined by their share of the debt.

And, with large institutions then playing a key role in farm management, significant opportunities would be created for “specialisation, optimal utilisation of implements, risk-spreading and tackling important land and farm conversion projects.”

Boiling over

The State. Liebenberg added, could issue guarantees that would enable banks to convince depositors that the risks of such a scheme were low. The spin-off for the State would be that farmers would be kept on the land without significant additional demands on the fiscus, he said. Over the past decade, taxpayers forked out more than R4bn to bail out debt-ridden farmers.

“Necessary legal changes should, if at all possible, be put through parliament during the current session,” he said.

Frans van der Merwe, superintendent-general of the Department of Agricultural Development and a member of a State-appointed committee to study solutions to the farm debt crisis, says the committee has noted Liebenberg’s suggestion.

“This is a strange new idea for agriculture, but we have open minds. We welcome this new thinking and will investigate it further.” Van der Merwe was to meet Liebenberg this week to discuss his proposal.

Not all agricultural economists are enthusiastic about debt-equity swaps. Frans Venter, First National Bank’s chief agricultural adviser, says: “If farming could be done more successfully by big companies, they would be doing it. We prefer minimising our risks by appointing caretakers on the farms we have bought, and then selling these off once the market turns round.”

Trust Bank senior agricultural economist Pine Pleniar says that while the scheme would be fine “if it could be implemented, the issue is who would be in charge of the whole operation, especially with various creditors involved.”

He adds that local creditor committees, appointed by Agriculture Minister Krup van Niekerk to investigate farmers’ debt problems under the chairmanship of local magistrates, might be the best solution. Forced sales would depress farm values and further harm creditors’ security.

SA Agricultural Union senior economist Johan Pleniar says Liebenberg’s suggestion needs careful consideration.

“Such a scheme might have merits, especially if a number of farms share economies of scale through the combined use, for example, of costly farm implements that are often under-utilised on individual farms.”

Bankorp chief economist Nick Barnardt, who brainstormed the debt-equity swap idea with Liebenberg, says companies could be formed in geographical areas, where the same farming conditions would facilitate joint control and planning over a large number of farms.

“Farming risk could be minimised by combining farming operations. Now, individual farmers try to do this by running a number of farming operations on one small unit — maize, wheat, sunflower, sorghum, soya, cattle and sheep. Using the corporate approach, economies of scale could be enhanced if some farmers specialised only in maize, others in sunflower and so on.”

Is this not Soviet-style collectivism in another guise? No, says Barnardt. Pooling resources to reduce risk is typical of corporate operations in the private sector, where shareholders pool their capital and share profits generated by management and workers. And the scheme would certainly not eliminate competition because thousands of farmers would remain independent.

“Farmers have tried the purely individualistic approach and in many cases it has obviously not worked in SA’s high-risk farming environment — farm debt is continually escalating.”

To assess whether any farmer could participate in the suggested scheme, the land would have to be properly valued to determine the pro rata shareholding of creditors and the farmer. “For example, if 60% of the land’s value is encumbered, this would be the joint pro rata shareholding percentage of all creditors, while the farmer would retain a share in the overall company equal to 40% of his farm value,” Barnardt says.

“Co-operation, and not coercion, would be the name of the game. Better management, controls and improved economies of scale would add to the attraction of the debt-equity swap option. And a measure of meritocracy would be brought in by allowing the most successful farmers the most say in helping to run the joint operation.”

Legal problems to be sorted out would involve the Land Bank, which often holds first bonds and might not be prepared to water down its security. But the Act governing the Land Bank’s operations, as well as the Co-operative Act, could be changed, should government decide to support the scheme, Barnardt says.

For his part, Land Bank MD Fanie Hugo says debt-equity swaps should be placed on the table for discussion by all the players in agriculture, though the State’s regional debt committees involve the same players and seem to focus in the same direction.
Govt aids farmers and needy whites

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Five days before the refer-
endum, government has announced pay-
ments of R70m to help needy white fam-
ilies pay new compulsory school fees and a
R10m concession to struggling farmers.
The R70m will help parents at the semi-
private Model C schools which will replace
most state schools on April 1. There will be
no payments to schools that opt to retain
the status quo and levy voluntary fees.
Southern Cape grain farmers are to
benefit from a R10.5m interest subsidy on
additional carryover debts and on new pro-
duction credit.

Education and Culture Minister Piet
Marais also said his department would
consider representations to retain the ser-
vices of key education personnel until the
end of the year. Between 4 000 and 11 000
teachers face retrenchment from April 1.
Marais said the R70m aid to needy fam-
ilies would be paid according to a fixed
scale. It had been made available under
extremely difficult circumstances.
Announcing the aid to grain farmers,
Deputy Agriculture Minister Tobie Meyer
said substantial crop losses in the area had
been caused by abnormal weather.
Subsidisation of rates on new production
credit for 1992 crops would be limited to
the difference between 6% and the current
Land Bank interest rate. The amount
subsidised is limited to R250 000 per pro-
ducer per year and applies only to those
with proven crop damage in 1991.
CROP INSURANCE

Welcome relief

After a good claims year, co-operative crop insurer Sentraes has handed back R10m as a discount to policyholders. It's the third time that Sentraes has made such a gesture.

Dominating the crop insurance market with a share of about 80%, Sentraes' only serious challenger is Commercial Union, which is in partnership with First Bowring to service the remainder of the market. While there is never a mention of a rate war, CU tends to quote slightly lower rates to compensate for the co-operative advantages that Sentraes offers farmers.

With CU having declared that it wants a third of the total market, Sentraes has noticeably stepped up its advertising spending in the last year. CU says that is good for the industry because it heightens awareness of the need for crop insurance.

It's a volatile business, with hail incidence...
Farmers and needy whites to get R80m

Owen Correspondent

PRETORIA — The government has announced payments of R70 million to help needy white families pay new compulsory school fees.

At the same time it also announced a R10 million concession to struggling Southern Cape grain farmers.

The R70 million will help parents at the Model C schools which will replace most state schools on April 1. There will be no payments to schools that opt to retain the status quo and levy voluntary fees.

Southern Cape grain farmers are to benefit from a R10.5 million interest subsidy on additional carry-over debts and on new production credit.

Education and Culture Minister Mr Piet Marais also said his department would consider representations to retain the services of key education personnel until the end of the year. Between 4,000 and 11,000 teachers face retrenchment from April 1.

Mr Marais said the R70 million aid to needy families would be paid according to a fixed scale.

Announcing the aid to grain farmers, Deputy Agriculture Minister Mr Toile Meyer said substantial crop losses in the area had been caused by abnormal weather.

Subsidisation of rates on new production credit for 1992 crops would be limited to the difference between eight percent and the current Land Bank interest rate.

The amount subsidised is limited to R250,000 per producer per year and applies only to those with proven crop damage in 1991.
Eager pupils with their teacher in a makeshift farm school. Since the control over farm schools was shifted from local government to farmers, dozens of these schools have been closed down.

Millions of farm children denied an education

MORE than three million children are living on white farms in South Africa, but only 440 000 of them have access to farm schools according to Ken Margo of the Rural Education Forum.

Margo accused local government of failing to provide education for children living on farms throughout the country.

The Rural Education Forum has urged the government to take control of white farmers’ school. Margo anticipates that a number of schools on white farms will be closed before the end of this year because of poor economic conditions caused by the drought.

According to Margo, about 95 farm schools were closed last year, “leaving more than 10 000 pupils stranded”.

There are currently only 5 000 farm schools, which are fully controlled by white farmers.

Margo said the farmers had “total power” over the schools’ admissions policy since they controlled both the land and the buildings where the schools were situated.

Preventing

Some white farmers, he said, went as far as preventing teachers who were being paid by the Department of Education and Training (DET) from teaching at their schools.

“It is an anomaly that farmers bear responsibility for the education of black children while others such as factory owners do not have such responsibilities,” says Margo.

He said farm schools were worse than those in the townships.

“There are no standards for the quality of the buildings and commonly teachers are left without any accommodation,” he said. “And, it is the norm that a teacher has to teach more than one grade in the same classroom at the same time.”

According to Margo, some farm school pupils have to walk more than 15km every day to and from school.

“We are calling on the State to take control of these schools so that farmers cannot prevent access to them or close anymore down,” he said.
All’s turmoil on the southern

Trapped between two visions of hell, white farmers are preparing for the worst.

PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK paid a visit to the frontier of a changing order

his hard work and initiative, his knowledge and love of the land, and his abstinence from alcohol.

But, like many of the farmers on the surrounding farms whose mielie crops are stunted and yellow from drought, there is nothing Rossouw can glean from history or experience that tells him the country is facing anything but disaster.

His conversation whirls from President Robert Mugabe’s attempts to take white-owned land in Zimbabwe, to the murder of Piet Retief by Dingane and the Zulus in 1838, to a recent drunken exchange when one of his workers had his throat slit “like an animal”.

And then there was the incident with the bull terrier and the bicycle tyre.

There is a thread that links Rossouw to the middle-class English speakers of Bloubosrand, whose property values plummeted with the prospect of having to live next door to a squatter camp; to the old-age pensioners of Killarney who once voted for Helen Suzman but who can no longer walk to the mall without fear of being mugged; to the white mineworkers of Virginia who travel miles underground each day to a dark and hostile working space.

They are the frontier of a physically and psychologically changing South Africa.

They are threatened by the Third World poverty and its endemic violence that apartheid helped create on the other side of the fence — the millions of unemployed and homeless engaged in their own grim struggle to survive.

They are jarred by blacks they come across every day who are standing up to them, saying to hell with being sub-people, because dignity is as
precious as a need ever one’s head.
And they are a lot poorer than they were a few
years ago.

Conservative Party leader Andries Treurnicht is
building his campaign for a no vote on the feas-
and frustrations of these people.

Though he is a highly-valued poltiic, Afrikaners can he
too educated and high-brow for his audiences.

Treurnicht is capable of striking the right rhetorical
and emotional note, manipulating the fear that grips
people’s hearts, arousing their indignation at being
sold down the drain by De Klerk.

“His views divided our people as much as this
man,” Treurnicht told a rally at Church Square. “De
Klerk is a bender—a man who gives in—to the for-
eyes” of the ANC and to the South African
Communist Party.

“A yes vote is for a Mr De Klerk who doesn’t have
the guts to answer the people. A yes vote is for a
government that has lost its will to govern.”

Yet, by initially catching the right wing off guard
with the referendum announcement and then by lim-
iting the campaign to two and a half weeks, De Klerk
has probably given them too little time to build up
momentum and mount the necessary organisational
challenge to the yes vote.

In Virginia, where the NP was stumped in a by-
election last year, the CP has only just started to put
up their posters. In both Virginia and Polokwane in
the CPEF was able to restructure all its five council
constituencies, sending in MPs canvassing door to door,
reaching nearly every voter over a cup of koffie en
briefta.

Given the same time to prepare as for the 1960 and
1983 referendums, the no vote might well have won the
day. Without the little extra in stores that tell can-
vassers more or less how each individual will vote,
the referendum result is far less predictable.

The short campaign is merciless because it limits
what is increasingly projected as an emotional choice
between two hell: the CP’s vision of De Klerk’s
Convention for a Democratic South Africa bill, and
the NP’s vision of the hell of international isolation
and black uprising that would follow a CP return to
apartheid.

The only vaguely reasoned debate that I have
witnessed during the two weeks of campaigning was
between Douglas Gibson, of the Democratic Party,
and the CP’s Kobus Beyers, in the community cen-
tre at Virginia.

The DP has quite a few black members in the
northern Free State, so the debate was not an exclu-
sively white affair. Beyers consciously directed his
rhetoric at the white in the hall, but the blacks
dropped every word with intense concentration,
shaking their heads at the reality that seemed all the
more unfeasible because of their presence.

A young boy with the Afrikaner Weerstands-
dienstweging (AWD) triple-seven ignites his fire
start a few feet away from a group of black DP mem-
bers.

Next to him sat a large man with pork-chop side-
hairs whose face mirrored the pendulum of the
debate. When Beyers made a good point, the man
beamed with satisfaction and smugness, but when
Gibson made a telling point in return, a look of per-
zeption and doubt crept on his face, as if Gibson was
connecting with some deeply untruthful truth.

On the broader stage, the whole campaign has
twisted down in mean spirited attacks and attempts
to scare the daylight out of middle-of-the-road
South Africa.

De Klerk points with some justification at the CP’s
paramilitary allies, the AWD, in its attempts to keep
hold of the middle ground of the white electorate.

It is not hard to capture the true nature of AWB
leader Eugene Terre Blanche, the erudite mix of in-
nocence and brutality, particularly in the halls of his
house. But among the ideological “right and partly
faithful,” Terre Blanche’s booming voice, poetic
Afrikaans and hand gestures that a yes vote will
mean support for Saton, communalism and the anti-
Christ are received with adulation.

No one knows what all happen next if a yes
vote triumphs and the long constitutional avenue is
opened to the rights of black, freedom nothing.

The days of blacks and mestika exploitation are
dying into a close. The moment of truth is dawning
for the far rightists to prove that they have the stom-
ach to carry out their threat of civil war.

On the Free State farms where Renouf and his
people go to bed at night with a gun under their pil-
loows, the AWD manager of military estimate to a
“black takeover” is taken seriously.

“If a man is threatened, you’ll fight for what is
yours,” says Renouf, shaking his head trying.
Karoo’s lake of death

Thousands of fish struggle for survival

PORT ELIZABETH. — The drought-stricken town of Graaff-Reinet has a problem — thousands of slowly suffocating fish are stranded in a pool of stagnating water, all that is left of the town’s supply dam.

The Van Ryneveld’s Pass Dam has been drying up for the past two years. All that is left is a small pool of dark, smelly water on a vast sea of cracked, sunbaked mud.

In this shrinking pool, thousands of barbel, some weighing as much as 8 kg, are struggling for survival.

The officer in charge of the Karoo Nature Reserve, Mr Peter Burdett, said his staff were doing everything possible to remove the surviving fish before the pool dried up totally.

More than 11 tons of fish have been removed already, but there were still “thousands” in the shrinking pool.

The stretch from large quantities of dead fish rotting in the heat was appallingly and could pose a health hazard.

Restrictions on fishing in the dam were lifted four months ago.

About 50 fishermen with permits lost their livelihood when people were encouraged to remove as many fish as they liked.

However, fishing the Graaff-Reinet way has little appeal for anyone other than mud wrestlers.

It means wading out in thigh-high black mud to reach the pool where fish writhe in a frenzy.

Once fish are netted there is a long slog back to dry land where the barbel are loaded on to homemade carts or vehicles.

We saw a small canoe being dragged sled-like across the mud by a crew working for Nature Conservation. It was hard, smelly work under the relentless sun.

Mr Burdett said fish caught by his staff were loaded on to bakkies and distributed to poor people in the townships.

A municipal spokesman said the dam previously irrigated 3,000 hectares of feed crops for sheep on farms in the area.

The town had a quota of a million litres a day from the dam, but had been unable to draw any water since September 1998.

The town is being supplied from boreholes tapping underground water, but faces rationing unless heavy rain falls soon.
Stop selling state land, says judge

THE head of the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation has called on the state to freeze the state-owned land which his committee is to review.

"It is my perception that the state is accelerating the sale of state-owned land in terms of their privatization policy," said Mr Justice van Reenen this week.

His statement follows his recommendation earlier this month that a public auction of farmland claimed by the Amashibi community near Escourt in Natal be halted. The sale was frozen on the instruction of the Minister of Land Affairs, Mr Jacob de Villiers.

It was the second attempt to auction the land. In November last year a storm of public protest halted an earlier attempt by the government to auction the farm, De Hoek.

This Amashibi claim dates back to 1873, when the Zulu chief Langalibalele clashed with the government. His 1 000-strong tribe was scattered from the land it had occupied since about 1800.

Mr Justice van Reenen, appointed to head the newly formed land committee last November, said various state departments had earmarked about 1 million hectares - 140 pieces of land ranging from 1 000 hectares to two hectares - for the attention of the committee.

This is roughly a third of about 3 million hectares specified as state-owned.

According to the judge, the committee's first public hearing will start within a month.

The land in dispute - 11 plots measuring 236 square metres in the Asiatic Bazaar in the Pretoria business district - is being claimed by six Indian businessmen and an Islamic institution.

Value

The land was expropriated to promote the aims of the Group Areas Act from 1968. It is currently owned by the House of Delegates.

The plots, prime real estate, have an estimated value of R75 000 each, according to a legal representative for the businessmen.

Notice of the hearing was given in the Government Gazette on Friday.

Mr Justice van Reenen said investigations into other claims received by the committee, including those from 19 communities represented by the National Land Committee, were still in the early stages.

Claims had been slow in coming and staff were battling to sort through deeds dating back hundreds of years. This was further complicated by the fact that land was controlled by different state departments.

Squatters

"The real job will, however, start when the hearing begins. All sorts of information could be presented that we will have to investigate," the judge said.

Some cases had been further complicated by the arrival of squatters on contested land.

The committee, although it has the go-ahead to recommend the return of expropriated land, is purely an advisory body. Hearings will be public, but its findings and recommendations given to the state president will be confidential.

It has been briefed to investigate claims on state and privately owned land that was removed under apartheid laws or has development potential.
Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe called it a "national disaster".

In Zambia, the government has raised maize prices though much of the crop has been written off and the memory of bloody food riots that left at least 27 dead in 1990 is still fresh in many minds.

Operation Hunger says three million tons of maize will have to be imported by South Africa.

Zimbabwe must import 340,000 tons of wheat in the next 18 months.

Under cruel blue skies, farmers and governments from Namibia and Angola on the west coast to Madagascar in the Indian Ocean have since January been facing up to the "drought of the century".

Zambia's new government has blamed the Kaunda regime for failing to set up strategic grain reserves. "This is a disaster that has been waiting to happen," according to Agriculture Minister Guy Scott.

**Famine looms**

Local authorities in Bulawayo want to harness the mighty Zambezi River, 450 km away. The city has only 11 weeks of water reserves left.

The scale of the disaster was revealed two weeks ago when the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Nairobi forecast that the region faced widespread famine and would have to import six million tons of cereals compared to less than two million in a normal year.

South Africa's white farmers have been laying off vast numbers of black workers, according to press reports, though no official figures are available.

Namibia, which has seen total crop failure in Ovamboland, is among countries that have begun making approaches to foreign donors for food aid.

For Zambia and Zimbabwe the problem is compounded by their dependence on foreign ports.

Rebels in Mozambique have agreed not to attack rail corridors from the coast, but moving food around that war-devastated country is a perilous exercise.

Starving Mozambique itself needs at least a million tons of food. – Sape-AFP
Jo-Anne Collinge looks at the clash between the NP’s and ANC’s pledges on property.

**Land reform v security of title**

**START 19/3/92.**

**Government** land reform programmes and the constitutional protections of property rights sound like different aspects of a single cause, right? Wrong - easily a dozen times wrong, says the land reform lobby. Nothing is more certain to hamstring Parliament's ability to redistribute land and house people than an unequal protection of property rights in a Bill of rights.

The ANC, itself part of the land reform campaign, carries a heavy burden for protecting the landless and homeless in the constitution-making process. It would probably like to purge the property clause from a future Bill of rights - after all, some countries get by without one.

But the National Party and the Government would doubt put all their muscle into opposing this. The assurance to white property-holders that their title is safe has become a virtual refrain of the De Klerk campaign for constitutional change.

Furthermore, the South African Law Commission report not only recommends that property rights be protected and that compensation for expropriation - "in the public interest" be referable to the courts, it sees in the ANC's draft Bill of rights a plan for "nailed and arbitrary nationalisation of whatever nature without the courts being able to protect those prejudiced in any way."

The Wits Centre for Applied Legal Studies recently convened a conference of organisations who are determined to dismantle the apartheid land legacy. They debated hotly on how a Bill of rights could pass muster with the Nats as regards property and yet serve the dispossessed.

These were some of the moves they proposed:

- That land be treated as a special instance of property and dealt with separately in a Bill of rights.
- Various lawyers pointed out that "property" had been taken to mean physical entities such as land and housing and intangibles such as copyrights, employment rights, social security benefits and shares in a company.
- Land, it was argued, had particular characteristics that set it apart from most other property - not least of them its finite quality and its position as an absolute necessity of life.
- That certain forms of affirmative action be specifically related to land rights. The ANC's Abbie Sachs noted that a Bill of rights could be employed variously as an offensive and defensive weapon. And several contributors argued that the properties classes had been outstandingly successful in invoking Bills of rights to defend their rights.

In India a property clause that Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru - a convinced socialist - regarded as the key to implementing land reform, proved a formidable weapon in the hands of the property classed. University of the Western Cape legal expert John Murphy related that India eventually dropped the clauses from the constitution in 1978 "after 30 years of wrangling with the Supreme Court. Before their repeal it was on the same principles as the previous ones."

The ANC, which found itself under fire from various quarters in relation to its original property clause, is restructuring the land and property provisions in its Bill of rights. As a result, the draft takes account of many of the above arguments.

Negotiations protect the homes of all people, rich and poor alike.

It also directs the legislature very clearly to make land laws that will embody the principles of equity and will facilitate "provision of adequate housing for the whole society."

It obliges parliament to set up a land claims tribunal which will, among other things, investigate restoration of land to those subjected to forced removals or appropriate compensation where restoration is not feasible.

A separate property clause is being contemplated. Mr Sachs hinted that the ANC would not seek State intervention in the area of what he termed "commercial property" - debentures, shares and various business interests. "It's the area least open to constitutionalising," he commented. The Left had learnt that tight government control of markets was not viable. "We think that it should be open."

There is no way that resolution of the land question can avoid hurting somebody - either the homeless and landless or rich, so, or someone has to give. What the ANC seeks is to be calculating in whether, with their homes and their business interests guaranteed, the present ruling group might not be prepared to forsake a measure of land - against some compensation - in the name of righting wrongs and securing a future society. O
Farmers to use SADF grazing land

Own Correspondent

MARITZBURG — The South African Defence Force is to allow drought-hit livestock to graze on some of its huge properties, the South African Agricultural Union said.

Drought-stricken farmers registered under the Department of Agriculture's drought disaster fund will be allowed to send some cattle to the area.

Initially, the Defence Force areas will be grazed for three months and thereafter on a month to month basis.

District agricultural committees will allocate the areas and the numbers of livestock that will be allocated per farmer.

The SAAU has thanked the Defence Force for the aid which will save many farmers.
Landmark ruling on cash-strapped farmer

CAPE TOWN — A new precedent has been set in a Cape Supreme Court ruling that has saved a prominent Karoo farmer from ruin.

An application for the provisional liquidation of Stapleford Estates, an 80,000 ha property in the Graaff-Reinet district owned by Haldane "Flip" Murray, was turned down by the court.

Reprieve

This landmark ruling has saved Mr Murray from losing his farm and could lead to the reprieve of many other cash-strapped farmers all over the country.

The court decided that the farm's debts of almost R8 million be suspended and ruled that creditors may take no legal action for between six months and two years against a farmer judged by the Agricultural Credit Board to have a reasonable chance of recovery.

A certificate of protection in terms of Section 21 of the Agricultural Credit Act was placed before the court and the application by First National Bank (FNB) for provisional liquidation against Mr Murray's farm was withdrawn from the roll.

Cover

Regardless of the amount involved, the certificate of protection covers companies and farmers who might be able to pay off debts at a later stage.

The certificate does not protect insolvents.

The Cape Supreme Court effectively re-affirmed its decision when it turned down an application from the bank to reinstate its earlier action.
Dams levels lower this year except in Cape

The Argus Correspondent
Johannesburg. — The prolonged drought accompanied by searing heat has forced down levels in virtually all water systems countrywide to well below last year's figures in mid-March.

At this time last year, dams were 78 percent full, but the figure had dropped to 69 percent by Monday this week.

Only the 27 dams in the Western Cape system are above last year's volume, the total standing at 51 percent which is up from 38 percent in March 1991.

The bleak picture painted by the latest Department of Water Affairs report shows the vital Vaal Dam down to 46 percent and the Vaal River system only 65 percent full compared with 88 percent at the same time last year.

But the feeder Sterkfontein Dam which can be used to augment the Vaal Dam when it drops to 20 percent, is 98 percent full.

Elsewhere in the country, the Upper Orange River system is down from last year's 82 percent mark to 53 percent.

The major dams in this group, the Hendrik Verwoerd and the P K le Roux, have dropped from last year's 90 percent to the present 59 percent and 74 percent to 56 percent respectively.

Eastern Transvaal dams average 59 percent at the end of the summer rainfall period; Western Transvaal dams are down to 46 percent from 74 percent in March 1991; and Natal dams have dropped from 78 percent to the present 75 percent ahead of the rainy period in this region.

The Eastern Cape is worst hit, with last year's critical low of 43 percent now down to the 35 percent mark.

Meanwhile the Durban Argus Correspondent reports that the raft race on the Tugela River, regarded as one of the leading river sporting events of the sporting calendar, will not be held this weekend.

The race has been scrapped because of a low water level which has made the river unsuitable for the event which has been held annually for the last 25 years.
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 R30 million a year.

Dr Koos du Toit, the union’s chief economist, said it was still attempting to ascertain how much money would be required to prop up agriculture and put it on the road to recovery.

However, preliminary indications were that it would require much more than the additional R1 billion earmarked in the Budget.

Therefore, it was assumed this was merely a preliminary allocation and further funds would be made available at a later date.

The union welcomed the 21 percent increase in the allocation for the SA Police and trusted this would enable the force to restore law and order on the platteland.
Emergency fund for drought

ALLOCATION for drought aid had not yet been determined, but government had proposed that R1bn be set aside as a drought disaster reserve, according to the Budget Review. This would be incorporated in the supplementary estimates.
Farmers hail drought aid but say it won’t suffice

Own Correspondent
and Staff Reporters

Agricultural organisations yesterday expressed gratitude towards the State for the additional R1 billion drought relief announced by Finance Minister Barend du Plessis, but warned that the aid would not be enough to save many farmers from ruin.

They also warned that the higher price of diesel, an important production input item, would put further strain on farmers' depleted funds.

National Maize Producers Organisation chairman Cornels Claassen said the drought relief allocation was too little to "handle the problem" efficiently.

"We accept that the R1 600 million is supplementary to the current budget for existing assistance programmes, but even then it will be too little to maintain the food production potential in the summer planting area.

"Analyses currently being conducted by organised agriculture indicate that much more will be needed to prevent the unacceptable structural damage to the food production potential," he said.

Transvaal Agricultural Union general manager Johan Hartman said the aid was "definitely not enough".

"We are drawing up definitive statistics, which we shall put on the table for the authorities at the end of March."

Reaction from the drought-stricken northern and western Transvaal, where many farmers have been devastated by the drought, was mixed.

Soutpansberg Agricultural Union chairman Marie Eloff welcomed the additional allocation to the drought disaster fund and expressed the hope that many northern Transvaal farmers would benefit.
SA, Zambia to co-operate

SA AND Zambia announced yesterday that, they would seek to involve other drought-ravaged southern African states in organizing the distribution of more than 10-million tons of imported grain on a regional basis.

Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha told a news conference yesterday he had discussed with visiting Zambian Foreign Minister Vernon Mwaanga how to organize a co-ordinated response to the worst drought to hit the region in more than a century.

Botha, who was speaking at Jan Smuts Airport before leaving to visit the Far East, spent an hour with Mwaanga, who had just arrived on a five-day tour of SA.

He said he hoped major producers such as the US, Canada and the EC would be prepared to sell grain to the region at reduced prices.

Mwaanga said he had proposed the idea to Botha, who had shown great enthusiasm for such a scheme. All countries affected by the drought "must be seen to respond together as a region" on the problem, Mwaanga said. He was spearheading the effort to organize co-ordinated action, and would speak to senior government ministers in all the other states involved.

Between 10- and 12-million tons of imported grain would be needed to meet the region's requirements. To distribute this grain effectively and efficiently, the whole transport system of the region would have to be rationalized. A co-ordinated plan was necessary, he said. Zimbabwe needed 2-million tons of grain, Malawi 600,000 tons.

Co-operation

Zambia 900,000 tons, Mozambique 1.5-million tons, and SA, Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland and Lesotho between them between 5- and 7-million tons.

Botha said he hoped the world's major producers would look sympathetically towards the needs of southern Africa. "They must not just look at the former Soviet republics and central Europe," Botha said.

"Now is the time for them to prove that they have not forsaken Africa."

Mwaanga said Zambia and SA would soon establish diplomatic ties.

Botha, referring to his tour of four Asian countries, said he would hold lengthy discussions on trade and political matters with Japan's government and business representatives. He would also visit Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore.

Senior Foreign Affairs sources confirmed there was a "strong probability" that President F.W. de Klerk would visit the Far East and Pacific Rim countries later this year.
minimum-sized farms of 120 ha-130 ha. In Natal that land would probably cost R5 000/ha, so buying the land alone would cost about R600 000. On top of that the capitalisation to mechanise would push the farmer’s exposure up to about R1 mn. “Unless the property is inherited, that’s a lot of money owed to the Land Bank,” says Greene.

He believes the minimum income from the property could be brought down to R10 000 net annually. “Most of a farmer’s living costs are on their farm’s account so that R10 000 is ample for things like clothes and education. Smaller farms would make mixed farming a lot more attractive. In the bargain is that it would be more drought-resistant the eggs are in more baskets.”

He also maintains that it would be a proactive step towards addressing future demands for land redistribution; smaller properties would be more affordable to a larger part of the population.

However, Johannes Vosloo, head of the Directorate of Resource Conservation of the Department of Agriculture, reject these arguments. He points out that the Act followed years of research, and more than 20 reports, dating back to the early Twenties. “Research shows that subdivision of land has been one of the biggest contributors to problems in agriculture because the land is overworked to meet costs. There is a direct correlation between the size of a farm and degradation, particularly in the drier parts of the country.”

Vosloo points out that only 3% of SA is high potential agricultural land (1% is very high potential). This high potential land is being lost — more than 1 m ha in the last 20 years in the PWV area alone — at a rate which the country cannot afford. Much of it has been taken up for housing.

He also rejects the redistribution argument, stressing the folly of risking the destruction of fragile agricultural land in a vain attempt to redress wrongs of the past.

Are SA’s farms too big? Some argue that their sheer size is contributing significantly to the financial problems being experienced by many farmers and that they could be a political liability.

While conventional wisdom holds true — that big is more efficient in agriculture — some land specialists argue that, were farmers able to subdivide their land, there would be greater crop diversification in areas like the maize triangle (in the OFS and Transvaal). Farmers would then be less vulnerable to single-crop failures in times of drought.

There could be other advantages as well, according to this line of argument. For instance (and no doubt controversially), smaller farms would stimulate and ease the process of land redistribution before it is thrust on farmers by a new régime. It should also help stem the urbanisation tide — by creating more employment on farms and in towns and villages. Selling off some of the land would ease many farmers’ financial burdens.

As things stand, however, it cannot be done. Maritzburg land surveyor Owen Greene, who is Natal secretary for the Institute of Professional Land Surveyors, explains that in terms of Act 70 of 1970, agricultural land cannot be subdivided into units smaller than the Department of Agriculture’s “economic unit,” that uses a minimum net income of about R45 000 a year as a guideline. The department is adamant that the status quo should be maintained.

Greene argues that this economic guideline invariably results, with arable land, in
SA and Zambia in grain scheme

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — South Africa and Zambia said yesterday they would seek to involve other drought-ravaged Southern African states in organising the distribution of more than 10 million tons of imported grain.

Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Pik Botha said he had discussed with visiting Zambian Foreign Minister Mr Vernon Mwaanga how to co-ordinate a response to the worst drought to hit the region in over a century.

Mr Botha was speaking at Jan Smuts Airport before leaving to visit the Far East.

He said he hoped major producers such as the US, Canada and the EC would be prepared to sell grain to the region at reduced prices.

Mr Mwaanga said he had proposed the idea to Mr Botha, who had shown great enthusiasm. He added that Zambia and SA would soon establish diplomatic ties.

PRETORIA. — Weighty matters of state briefly made way for light banter yesterday when Mr Pik Botha was asked what he thought of Marlon Brando portraying him in a television series. Mr Botha replied: "What can I do? "If I say I don't like it he'll portray me in an awful way."

Amused aides remarked the minister either needed to put on a lot of weight or Mr Brando should shed flab for them to resemble each other. — Sapa
Sapoa fights back

Cape Town City Council has recommended to Cape Administrator Kobus Meiring the reintroduction of betterment fees. These are payable by property owners when their land increases in value because of rezoning.

The move could increase considerably the cost of developing land and is opposed by the SA Property Owners' Association (Sapoa).

In addition, council officials are currently preparing a proposal for cost-related fees for rezoning which will push up development costs even further.

Until 1985, betterment fees were levied under the 1934 Townships Ordinance at a rate of 50% of the increased market value of the land as a result of rezoning. The measure was scrapped when the Land Use Planning Ordinance (Lupo) was introduced in 1985.

If it is re-introduced, it will mean, for example, that if a piece of land is rezoned from residential to business and the value is deemed to have increased from R100,000 to R500,000, the owners will be liable for a betterment fee of R200,000.

Council officials argue that the current system is inequitable. Lupo abolished betterment fees but retained the concept of payment by the city council of compensation for the loss of development rights when, for planning reasons, it wishes to restrict owners who want to develop zoning rights to their full extent.

But Sapoa Western Province regional chairman Lori Colussi says the scrapping of betterment fees was a trade-off to the industry in return for the acceptance of the lapsing of all existing zonings not utilised, in 2001.

"Sapoa will regard any attempt to reintroduce (betterment fees) as a breach of good faith on a deal that was negotiated during the early part of 1980, culminating in the acceptance of Lupo by all concerned."

He says it was accepted at the time by investors and local government representatives that betterment fees were a "most undesirable," unfair and unreasonable form of tax. "The development potential of a site is invariably already discounted in the value of the site at any given time, so it is unfair to impose tax at a specific time chosen by the authority based on an 'enhancement' as a result of rezoning - a possible change in land use would always have been on the cards."

Colussi says the "trade-off" assisted local authorities in ridding themselves at no cost over 15 years of zonings considered undesirable (previously they had existed ad infinitum). He says the council's proposal is contrary to all free-market principles and the decision should be rescinded.

According to provincial officials at the time, betterment fees were scrapped to "reinforce the market mechanism" and remove "distortions" from the property market.

But in a report to the council's town plan...
PORT ELIZABETH — A serious "poor white" problem is emerging in the drought-ravaged eastern Cape where, in some areas, hardly any rain has fallen for seven years.

Farmers who only six months ago were considered financially secure are being driven off the land because of the lack of water, failure of crops and high interest rates.

To qualify for aid under the Government's stock reduction scheme, flocks have been cut back up to 50 percent and there is no money to buy new breeding stock when the drought breaks.

Many farmers have sold their holiday homes, surrendered insurance policies and annuities, and drawn savings. They look ahead to old age with trepidation.

Daleene Ritter, a social worker for the Christelike Maatskaplike Raad in Steytlerville, the eastern Cape's worst-hit drought area, said there was no doubt a serious poor-white problem was developing. Large wealthier farmers were now just as susceptible as smaller farmers.

Poor prices

She said a high percentage of farmers had cash-flow problems because of the drought.

Poor mohair and wool prices had aggravated the situation and farmers were still desperately trying to keep labourers on their farms so that they were not tempted to squat in the cities.

She said aid applications were coming from farmers considered to be well-off.

National Party chairman Abel Jacobs, who is a member of several agricultural committees, said he estimated that a third of the farmers had gone, leaving their farms abandoned or in the hands of labourers.

House after house in the district stood empty, abandoned until rain produced an incentive for the owners to return.

He said several businesses had been forced to close, including two clothing boutiques which had become redundant after women started making their own clothes.

Steytlerville's high school had closed and the primary school had lost seven teachers and the principal. Only nine boarders remained in a hostel for 90 children.

The community could no longer support their church minister, who had left, but the congregation was trying to generate enough funds to employ a young minister who was not yet ordained.

Jacobs said sequestration was becoming a very real threat for many farmers.

Recent rain had given the area a veneer of greenery but it would take good, heavy rain over two to three years for the land to recover.

There was little ground cover, and weeds, which died quickly and were of little nutritional value, were the first to appear.

Jacobs said extended agricultural committees had been set up to quantify the position of individual farmers.

Farmers' only present hope was possible State subsidisation of interest repayments until the situation returned to normal.

It was difficult for farmers to adopt alternative farming methods because the area was suited only to angora and wool production, and the bottom had fallen out of both markets.

Others farmers pointed out that some of the best-known farming families in the area were being driven from the land.

Recently the Cloete family, who owned 15 farms in the Adelaide district, had their properties sold by public auction. Brothers Geo, Bunny and Dave owned one of the biggest farming operations in the country.

About 17 000 ha of prime land, on which they ran merino sheep, angora goats and cattle, were sold for R4 million.

The prices for land which last year reached R1 000 a hectare dropped to R70 and R35.

Protection

In Graaff-Reinet, Flip Murray has applied for protection under section 21 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1968. Approved farmers with the ability to recover are protected from any legal action for between six months and two years while they reorganise and repay debts.

Murray, who has a 80 000 ha farm, had the distinction of regularly clipping the most wool in South Africa. Farmers feel that if such huge operations are under threat, there is little chance for the small man.

But the question worrying people like Jacob is: how many of those who have left for the cities will ever return to the hard life of farming in the Karoo.
By MATHATHA TSEDU

SUSPECTED far rightwingers last week sliced the tongue of a cow belonging to a black family and painted the AWB sign on its sides, leaving it unable to feed or drink.

The horror incident occurred last Tuesday at Mafarana village near Letsilele, outside Tzaneen. A cow and a bull calf, also belonging to Mrs Cheyeza Shingange, were emblazoned with "NEE" on each side.

Sliced tongue

One was also stabbed several times in its body and nose. The sliced tongue now hangs loosely outside the mouth of the cow and cannot be stitched back, according to Gazankulu Senior Animal Health Officer Mr Johan Zandamela.

The family said they found the cows on Wednesday morning, the day after the all-white referendum in which the far rightwingers had campaigned for a No/Nee
Time now for land tax, says Bank economist

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The time for a speedy introduction of a land tax in SA has probably arrived, says Reserve Bank economist Mike Lamont.

Lamont said at a land tax conference at Pretoria University at the weekend, however, that for any degree of effective land taxation there had to be some minimum political support and an administrative capability. A national land tax was suggested to the Margo Commission, but investigation of the tax by local authorities was expressly excluded from the commission’s brief.

“The reason why the commission did not consider a land tax on a national or central level remains a mystery,” he said. Nevertheless, Lamont said, the fact that SA had no general form of wealth taxation gave ample reason to consider the introduction of a land tax.

The increasing utilisation of indirect taxes, the shrunken income tax base and heavy reliance on loans also supported its consideration. Of the Margo commission, Lamont said a stage had been reached where the system was seen as being too complicated, unfair and as interfering with economic growth.
Drought takes its toll

Source: 24/3/92

The drought is taking its toll in Venda, where 84 villages are running short of water and authorities fear the Vondo Dam will be dry by June unless there is significant rain soon.

A statement from the Venda military government yesterday said the agricultural sector in the homeland had been seriously affected by the drought, which could damage the economy considerably.

The government yesterday declared Venda a drought-affected area and intended to apply for emergency relief aid from the South African Government, the statement added.

The Department of Water Affairs was already supplying villages with water from road tanks and had bought an additional 4,500 litres for seriously affected villages.

Additional water purification plants and the repair of boreholes were among the government's contingency plans to ensure the water was fit for human consumption.

Attempts to organise emergency fodder schemes for cattle, and a food development programme to provide emergency feeding to needy people were also being made, the authorities said. - Sapa.
R1-bn drought aid going to farmers who need it most

By Peter Wellman

The additional R1 billion allocated to the Government’s drought relief fund in last week’s Budget would be paid out to individual farmers as soon as the Department of Agriculture knew who had suffered most, a Department of Agriculture spokesman said yesterday.

“It will go to farmers on individual merit; it won’t be done on a blanket basis,” he said.

A “task group” of organised agriculture and banks was liaising with the department to establish who needed help most.

Once this had been done, farmers would be assisted as speedily as possible, he said.

Countrywide briefings with creditors and farmers’ organisations would be held by the department from Thursday until mid-April.

The spokesman said drought relief would not be limited to summercropping areas only.

Compromises by creditors, as well as Government assistance, would be examined to see how best to keep farmers in business.

**Compare**

Two major farming unions indicated the R1 billion might not be enough, but Dr Koos du Toit, chief economist of the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU), said this did not mean it would be impossible to get any more money out of the Government.

“We must look at what we have to ask for, and compare that with what is available,”

Dr du Toit, who is part of the task group, said the SAAU was gathering information from various sources, including specialist areas such as red meat producers and timber growers, to identify the extent of the drought damage, and therefore the help that was needed. This should be completed by the end of the month, he said.

“We are probably going to have a terrible winter, and the amount allocated is probably not enough to alleviate the problem once and for all,” he said.

“But it is something to be going on with, and if more is needed we can go to the Government on this matter in a responsible way.”

Johan Hartman, general secretary of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, said the R1 billion would not be enough.

He would not comment on how much more was needed, but “organised agriculture is still quantifying farmers’ needs. We expect to have details for the Department of Agriculture by the end of the month.”
R1 bn drought relief soon

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The additional R1 billion allocated to drought relief in last week's Budget will be paid to individual farmers as soon as the Department of Agriculture knew who had suffered most.

A spokesman said a "task group" of organised agriculture and banks was helping to determine the worst sufferers. Farmers would be assisted as speedily as possible.
MORE than 50 percent of South Africa's blacks are below the age of 20 and about the same percentage are illiterate, thereby fuelling a vicious cycle of ignorance and poverty.

This is the view of the Foundation for Research Development in their latest position paper on "Rural Poverty".

The plight of about 13 million Violet Bantu and poverty-stricken people living in South Africa's vast rural areas is, the FRD said, now compounded by one of the highest population growth rates in the world.

The FRD outlined several issues affecting rural inhabitants and how these problems could be solved to create a better future for themselves and their children.

The individual income of blacks in rural communities revealed a depressing scenario, according to the FRD.

"In fact it has been estimated that 50 percent of South Africans live below the minimum living level and in the black population, this percentage rises to approximately 66 percent. In rural areas, almost four-fifths of the population live below their survival threshold."

The FRD also revealed that people in rural areas face numerous housing problems:

"Poor communities have largely been left to design and build their own houses, often without proper material."

For most of the children in rural areas, depressed socio-economic conditions, widespread environmental degradation and an impoverished education system "put paid to what little hope there is for self-actualisation or productive adult career."

The FRD believed that science and technology would play a vital role in the creation of wealth and upliftment of the poor in this country.

Investigations have revealed, however, that only one in every 10 000 black school entrants matriculates with university entrance qualifications in mathematics and science.

"The reasons for this alarmingly low pass rate can again be sought in political problems, poor teacher training, inadequate facilities, overcrowding, inappropriate curricula, and the absence of this model who stimulates interest in science and mathematics."

The FRD's president, Mr RR Arnott, said most of these 13 million inhabitants were "forgotten people" who were struggling to survive in a degraded environment.

"The reasons for this alarming low pass rate can again be sought in political problems, poor teacher training, inadequate facilities, overcrowding, inappropriate curricula, and the absence of this model who stimulates interest in science and mathematics."

He added: "The Verwoerdian dream of separate development has been shattered."

"It is a legacy of inefficiency, violent crime, poverty and disease in affluence apparent in the satellite shanty towns surrounding most of our cities."

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The FRD's president, Mr RR Arnott, said most of these 13 million inhabitants were "forgotten people" who were struggling to survive in a degraded environment.

The FRD supported the proposal that drastic measures, such as a two-child family norm, be a priority. Contraceptive services, education and counselling must become available to everyone and a nation-wide high quality sterilisation programme should be offered by every hospital.

These measures should be accompanied by the acceptance of more liberal abortion laws.

The FRD warned that the South African population was faced with potentially grave risks which could result from the spread of the AIDS disease.

Health services among the rural poor remained critical.

The training of district nurses, the FRD said, should be upgraded to allow them to dispense a wider spectrum of drugs and undertake minor surgical procedures.

Networks of small clinics and district medical centres needed to be firmly established with good communication systems, the efficient supply of medical materials and the means to cope with emergencies.

The FRD said 'water was a very scarce commodity in most rural areas. In South Africa and the position of an existing supply was increasing.

The whole infrastructure needed to support village life, such as clinics, schools, co-operatives and recreation areas, relied on a dependable water supply,' the FRD said.

They warned that contaminated water caused illness which further reduced the economic activity of an extended family.

The FRD said that their analysis had clearly revealed that science and technology had a major role to play in the upliftment and empowerment of the rural poor.

"There is scarcely any activity among rural people which cannot be improved by introducing appropriate technology."

"Improved agricultural practices, the breeding of new cultivars, manufacturing appropriate machinery for small-scale agriculture, provision of clean water and appropriate irrigation systems, preventive medicine and family planning improved roads, business opportunities, communications, energy supply and transport are but a few examples."

Children huddle on the floor of a bare classroom in Winderveld.
Higher food costs inevitable

Although the South African Agricultural Union would not confirm that higher food prices are in the pipeline many in agriculture say that consumer prices must rise.

The Meat Board predicted at a recent agricultural conference that beef would fall slightly in April but thereafter it would go up month by month.

Sheep and pork prices would continue to rise month by month, without any hiatus in April.

The cost of imported maize on the Witwatersrand will be about R520 a ton, which is nearly R200 more than that of local maize.

Maize is the main feed for poultry and pigs and is needed for efficient milk production. The grain sorghum crop - some farmers use sorghum as a partial replacement for maize - will be down to 94,000, which is about half of the human consumption of the country.

The cost of imported sorghum is expected to be about R450 to R515 a ton on the Witwatersrand, which is considerably more than last year's floor price of R295 a ton for local grain.

The sunflower seed crop is about 170,000 tons, roughly 70 percent lower than the previous year's 588,000. Sunflower oil is widely used in catering.

Grain processors have in the past said that South Africa's internal grain price was lower than the world price, but the prices South Africa now has to pay for its grain imports seems to give the lie to this argument.

The soybean crop is expected to be 40 percent lower than last year's 125,000-ton crop.

An above-average peanut crop was expected but the predicted crop will be about 80,000 tons, which is about the same as the previous season. Eating peanuts will make a smaller percentage of the total which can mean a loss of income because nuts used for oil expressing command a lower price.

The Oil Seed Producers Organisation of the South African Agricultural Union has asked the union's disaster and emergency aid committee to consider the precarious situation of oil seed producers when planning aid schemes.

Inputs were higher than for last season's crops and income will be far lower.

Mr. Gerhard de Kock, chairman of the Oil Seeds Organisation, said that producer prices of sunflower seed, soybean seed and peanuts increased by an average of 10 percent; 9 percent and 12 percent a year over the past 10 years.
Divying up the relief fund

In a country where government aid is popular but drought insurance is not, the agricultural industry easily has agreed that the R1bn in drought aid included in the Budget is not enough. It will have a harder time agreeing on how to share out the money.

The Farmers’ Aid Task Group, appointed by the SA Agricultural Union to investigate the drought damage, will meet in Pretoria on Monday. One of the main topics it will discuss will be how to use the R1bn. This week, the group is gathering facts from all the bodies that can give any meaningful input.

“May they ask for an open-ended commitment,” says Koos du Toit, the union’s chief economist. “SA is facing a disaster of catastrophic proportions. And the drought could worsen significantly in the next two to three months.”

“Much more than R1bn will probably be needed to repair the damage that has already been caused. Help farmers to produce a crop next year, when, hopefully, agricultural conditions will be more favourable, and keep some farmers and their labourers alive.”

“Not only dryland farmers (who produce the bulk of maize and other summer crops) but all farmers, including fruit, vegetable and dairy farmers, will suffer.”

Wheat Board GM Ivan Hemingway concurs: “The planting season in the summer wheat-producing areas (the eastern and western Free State) is on our doorstep and there is no moisture in the soil.”

“Those farmers should already have prepared their seedbeds, but they haven’t because the ground is too dry. They won’t be able to plant until at least 150 mm of rain has fallen, preferably during April. At this stage, the possibility is remote.”

They have until May to get their crops in. The later they plant, the poorer the yield. “If they don’t get rain in April, there won’t be a crop in the summer rainfall areas, and we will have to import wheat,” he says.

Hemingway is scathing in his criticism of how government subsidises farmers’ debt and taxes their production costs. That aggravates problems instead of solving them, he says.

Had farmers been able to insure their input costs, as they can in Canada, where the government pays 60% of their premiums, they would have got those costs back and have been able to start again next year without the haphazard help they get from government.

“Input insurance was tried in the southern Cape this year, for the first time, and it worked. The weather damaged the crops, but farmers got a portion of their input costs back and can plant again next season. Input cost insurance should not be compulsory, but banks and other institutions should refuse to grant loans to farmers who have not insured.”

Du Toit says government’s R1bn will be used to help all farmers, including blacks on smallholdings and timber growers. But no part of the aid will go to the independent states, which have their own budgets.

He stresses that until the task group correlates all the information it is collecting, “we don’t know the real extent of the problem: how many farmers can continue farming if they get help; how many will have to stop farming because they are too deep in debt to benefit from any help. And we don’t know what will happen to them, their farms, or their labourers if it is decided that there is no point in letting them continue farming.”

Some of the money might be used to let them and their labourers stay on their farms until their plight can be resolved.

“They will be helped to stay alive.” Du Toit says: “We cannot simply tell them to get off the ground. That would cause famine. Neither they nor their labourers would find work very easily, and would we get anyone to take over their farms in the middle of the worst drought in living memory?”

Most of the R1bn will probably be used to ease the farmers’ interest burden, to help them get credit to produce next season and to supplement the incomes of labourers whose employers can’t pay them their full wages.

Fanie Brink, an economist with the National Maize Producers’ Organisation, says the latest crop estimate of 2,1 Mt “is the lowest on record, but it won’t all be delivered to the Maize Board.”

“Farmers lucky enough to have produced a crop will retain some for their own use,” he says. “They are already buying from one another and whatever the board can spare from last year’s crop.

“I doubt whether the board will get more than 1 Mt. We consume 6,4 Mt. We’ll have to import more than 5 Mt. Taking transport and other costs into account, it costs between R380/t and R600/t to import maize.”

Brink says that if past form is followed, the R1bn will be lent to farmers.

The board’s deputy director-general, Hans Swart, says the board this week determines the year’s producer price for maize, but the price is certainly not going to be anywhere near the cost of imported maize, even though drought has ravaged agricultural production for three of the last 10 years.

The board’s view is that the higher the domestic price, the more chance there is of maize losing market share to other crops, such as wheat, for animal feed and bread.

The price, Swart says, is based on what the market can bear. Production costs play no role in determining it. “Farmers cannot simply pass on production costs to consumers.”
By DAWN BARKHUIZEN

BLACK people living in the only region to lodge a "no" vote in the referendum are feeling the ugly consequences of the result.

Right-wing harassment against them has increased and now blacks living in and around Pietersburg in the Northern Transvaal are threatening a consumer boycott of the town.

In a resurgence of attacks on the rural black community and its livestock, a cow and her two-month-old calf were spray-painted with AWB swastikas symbols on March 17, the day of the poll.

The words "nee" and "kaffir" were also painted on seven cattle outside Mafarana village on the road linking Lydenburg to Tzaneen. The cow, which was stabbed and had its tongue slashed, was slaughtered this week after its mouth became septic.

Its owner, pensioner Catherine Cheyesa, said she had heard of neither the referendum nor the "no" vote and was puzzled by the attack.

Gazankulu senior health officer Johan Zandemela said that since last July, about 190 cattle had been shot dead in communal grazing camps along the same stretch of road.

In Pietersburg, businessmen and community leaders are scrambling furiously to ward off retaliatory threats of the consumer boycott.

Pietersburg mayor Jennie Mothibi said: "The 'no' voters are in the small towns and farms. Pietersburg has a National Party council. We are not a conservative backwater; we are a progressive town that voted 'yes'.”

Black-bashing was little heard of in Pietersburg, but could occur in rural areas, he added.

Chamber of Commerce chairman Laurie Searle, who has good relations with black businessmen in the area and whose children attend a multi racial school in Pietersburg, said: "Unfortunately, we are being lumped with people who still have the same values as their forefathers from the Great Trek.”

Angry

But ANC regional spokesman Stan Mothimele said the black community - which comprises 97 percent of the region's population and which paralyzed white business with a series of boycotts last year - was demanding action.

"People are angry and shocked by the Pietersburg result. Last year we boycotted because of white harassment. Our aim is not to punish those who voted 'no', but those still clinging to racist attitudes,” he said.

Lawyers for Human Rights regional director Seth Ntabi said his organisation received weekly reports of isolated attacks on blacks. Many people were afraid to be in the streets of some towns after dark.

"People are worried that these 'no' voters might take their fears and frustrations out on them. They have to think of defending themselves,” he said.

LHR had taken on 10 new cases since January, but these represented only a fraction of the incidents in a vast area where black people had little access to transport and communication and feared police collusion, he added.

News of the cattle mutilation spread through the Northern Transvaal this week, shocking even those blacks long used to night-time harassment from right-wingers. They said they were not surprised by the 97 percent 'no' majority in the region.

In Tzaneen, hub of a tourist area, black hotel staff said they feared walking home late at night and would not work late shifts unless transport was available.

A Tzaneen waiter who has been harassed twice this year said: "As a white man, you can walk around town all night unharmed, but no black man can take that risk. Friday and Saturday nights are the worst.”

Pietersburg prostitute Lulah, who has only white clients, said she was now reluctant to approach cars because "you don't know if it is business or if they want to beat you up.”

Tzaneen farmer and

AWB stalwart Hennie Breitenbach freely admitted that "kafirs are denounced in the streets of some Northern Transvaal towns, but vehemently denied his organisation's involvement in the cow attack.

He said: "I know every AWB member in the district - we farmers love our animals too much to do that. I'll bet the ANC did it after learning tricks in the Rhodesian bush war.”

War

Mr Breitenbach - who says he would like to shoot President De Klerk - said he and other farmers in the district were prepared to go to war at the first hint of black government control.

"We often have target practice here - we are all good marksmen. We will never negotiate with communists or the anti-Christ. The war is just one phone call away,” he said.

Major Isaac Ntisi, Nokovanakwane police station commander, this week launched an investigation into the attacks on the cows, but said he could not rule out the possibility of a smear campaign against the AWB.
Black states\(^3\)
turn to SA.

HARARE. — Leaders of
seven black African
states turned to their
long-time nemesis,
South Africa, at the
weekend for help in sur-
viving a devastating re-
gional drought.

After a one-day summit
here, presidents of the
frontline states sur-
rounding South Africa
said that country should
play a major role in
drought relief.

They called on the
Southern African Devel-
opment Co-ordination
Conference to meet to
coordinate regional re-
lief efforts. A delegation
should then visit South
Africa to “secure its co-
operation in this endeav-
our”, they said. — Sopa-
AP
African states turn to SA for drought aid

HARARE — Leaders of seven black African states turned to their long-time nemesis, South Africa, at the weekend for help in surviving a devastating regional drought.

After a one-day summit in Harare, presidents of the Frontline states said South Africa should play a major role in drought relief.

They called on the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference to meet “as soon as possible” to co-ordinate regional relief efforts.

A delegation of SADCC officials should then visit South Africa to “secure its co-operation in this endeavour,” they said in a joint statement.

The 10-nation SADCC was established in 1980 to try to reduce dependence on trade with South Africa.

South Africa’s modern rail and transport network is regarded as vital in plans by most southern African nations to import food from Latin America and the United States to avert mass starvation. — Sapa-AP.
R1-bn for drought aid
‘not enough’

By Peter Wellman

The Government’s chief drought relief negotiator last night admitted that the Budget’s R1 billion for stricken farmers was not enough to save them from disaster.

Dr Frans van der Merwe, superintendent-general of the Department of Agricultural Development, told The Star that farmers had given his team “terrible” statistics of the effects of the drought, described as the worst for decades, during day-long crisis talks in Pretoria.

He said he would give details to Agriculture Minister Kraal van Niekerk today.

The purpose of yesterday’s talks, he said, was to establish exactly how hard farmers had been hit by the drought.

The two sides were led by Dr van der Merwe and the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU). Farming delegates said there was no conflict between the Government’s aid offer, as outlined in the Budget, and the fact that organised agriculture needed more cash to survive the drought.

Dr van der Merwe said the emphasis on Government aid would go to “the survivors” – the farmers who had simply done better with their land than others.

Points he would put before the Minister today included:

- Eighty percent damage to summer crops, and resultant food shortages.
- The need for imports of maize and protein supplements for winter animal feeds.

The ripple effect of the drought on the economy.

The R1 billion allocation has boosted the total available for drought relief to about R1.5 billion, including R2.2 billion for emergency food aid announced recently by Health Minister Dr Rina Venter.

But this does not mean every farmer will get a payout. Associate professor of agricultural economics Gerald Oriman, of Natal University in Maritzburg, said his understanding was that those who were judged to be survivors would be favoured.

While the SAAU gave the R1 billion a qualified welcome, the Transvaal Agricultural Union has said bluntly it was not enough. The National Maize Producers’ Organisation estimated losses in its sector alone were about R1 billion.

Rain was reported for the third night yesterday at various places in the country.

Hendrik Verwoerd Dam got 32 mm. At Bethulie, 20 mm fell during a hailstorm, and Lady Grey received 21 mm.

Jagersfontein, Hopetown and Edenburg all received 20 mm yesterday morning.

Springfontein had another 17 mm, Aliwal North 16, Koffiefontein, Petrusburg and Weskeldron 12, Brandfort 4 and Hoopstad 2.

Economist Tony Twine of Econometrix said agriculture, including forestry and fisheries, produced about 5.5 percent (R16.5 billion) of South Africa’s gross domestic product.

If the maize crop were wiped out, which some experts had claimed could happen, that alone would take R2.64 billion off the GDP — and maize fodder was needed for winter.
R17m help scheme for drought city

PORT ELIZABETH. — A R17 million emergency water scheme to supply water from the Orange River to Port Elizabeth comes into operation today.

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

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

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

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

The scheme was completed after continuing drought reduced the city's main supply dam levels considerably.
Agricultural council breaks new ground

By George Nicholas
Agricultural Correspondent

A new agricultural organisation of considerable extent, with assets amounting to more than R500 million and employing nearly 5,000 people, starts functioning officially this morning.

The Agricultural Research Council was inaugurated in Pretoria yesterday by Minister of Agriculture Dr Klaas van Niekerk to serve the interests of farmers and consumers.

The council has taken over all the research functions of the Department of Agriculture, as well as a network of research farms and research institutions.

The minister said about 4,700 people had been transferred from the department to the council.

The objective of the council, he said, was to promote, through research, the sustained profitability of all agriculture.

The council had a mandate to provide a service not only to commercial farmers but also to subsistence farmers.

The minister emphasised that the council had the added responsibility of ensuring that the utilisation of the country’s natural resources for agricultural purposes was to the benefit both of the environment and the sustained production of food and fibre.
MARITZBURG — Handle the land properly or face greater food and fibre shortages, a soils expert has warned.

Dr Dries van der Merwe, director of the Soils and Irrigation Research Institute in Pretoria, said future food and fibre shortages could become commonplace in South Africa if people believed production could be increased merely by cultivating more land.

While 0.4 to 0.5 ha was needed to produce the food and fibre for each person, by the year 2050 less than 0.2 ha would be available if there was no halt to the rapid population growth.

Dr van der Merwe said the perception that land was an unlimited resource to be used without proper conservation would spell disaster, as had already been shown in several parts of southern Africa.

"Horizontal expansion of production can no longer take place and greater production must take place vertically by producing more per unit area.

"High-potential land will thus have to be reserved for agriculture and soil retrogression will have to be tackled pro-actively.

"Soil erosion is the greatest cause of retrogression — and South Africa's greatest export is soil into the sea.

"Soil compaction, crust formation, acidification, brak formation, drowning and pollution are serious problems which must be stopped."

Lack of water in the soil was the most limiting "production" factor in large parts of South Africa, he added.
Regional and Land Affairs Minister Mr Jacob de Villiers said at a briefing yesterday the abolition of the Development Aid Department and the SADT brought to an end a historic era — started in 1916 “to cater for all the material, moral and social well-being of black people”.

President FW de Klerk announced in October last year that the department and the trust were to be abolished after recommendations by the Commission for Administration. The department has worked flat-out since then to transfer 3 million hectares of land to the self-governing states and the final 1.2 million hectares still left over are to be transferred to Public Works and Regional and Land Affairs, Mr De Villiers said. The 11 proclamations and three government gazettes published yesterday affect one hundredth of South Africa’s land that will now be administered without racial discrimination.

All the development and related functions rendered by the SA Development Trust will now rest with individual line function departments and administrations, Mr De Villiers said.
Research council to aid black farmers

The newly constituted Agricultural Research Council had a mandate to serve the estimated 700,000 black subsistence farmers, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk said yesterday.

Speaking at the inaugural meeting of the council, he stressed technologies would have to be developed to suit the capital-deprived sector of the industry and small scale farming.

Van Niekerk said 13 research establishments which served all the important agricultural sectors had been transferred to the research council. Total value of transferred assets amounted to more than R500m.

The council would have a research structure which would be one of the biggest and best equipped in Africa.
Moutse will not become homeland territory

All three sections of the Moutse district in the northern Transvaal are to remain under control of the South African Government and will not be transferred to either KwaNdebele or Lebowa.

This was announced yesterday by Minister of Regional and Land Affairs Jacob de Villiers in a statement accompanying the tabling in Parliament of the 1989 Rumpff Commission Report.

Mr de Villiers stressed that the small area of Moutse 2 would not be included in KwaNdebele, although the commission had recommended it be incorporated. In this decision the Government had been guided by the wishes of landowners in Moutse 2, he said.

The announcement brings to a close years of vacillation over the jurisdiction of Moutse, an area with about 120,000 residents. The territory was excised from Lebowa and in early 1986 was incorporated into KwaNdebele against residents' wishes. This triggered protracted resistance.

Eventually, the incorporation was declared unlawful by the Appeal Court. But this judgement, which returned Moutse to central government administration, was subject to the findings of Mr Justice F. L. H. Rumpff who was appointed in 1988 to look into the issue.

In December 1989 the Government indicated it would support Mr Justice Rumpff's principal recommendations — that Moutse 1 and 3 remain under central government jurisdiction for 10 years, when the constitutional problem would be considered, and that Moutse 2 be incorporated into KwaNdebele.

With the tabling of the report yesterday, the official position on Moutse was revised.

The Government had also not accepted the commission's general recommendations on the determination of boundaries, the Minister said.
Minister Kraai
to visit N. Tvl.

Minister of Agriculture Dr. Kraai van Niekerk is to visit the drought-stricken areas in the northern Transvaal on Thursday and Friday next week at the request of the Transvaal Agriculture Union.

He is to visit Warmbaths, the Springbok Flats, Potgietersrus, Tzaneen, Ellisras, Thabazimbi and the area behind the Scout-panzberg. — Sapa.
Widespread damage to fertile soil threatens world food supply

UNITED NATIONS — The world's future food supply is threatened by damage done by mankind to more than a tenth of the Earth's fertile soil since 1945, an area the size of China and India combined, a new United Nations report says.

Overgrazing by livestock, inefficient farming practices and deforestation are among the factors to blame for the loss of fertile land, the UN Environment Programme study found. Urbanization and pollution are other factors.

Environmental scientists fear that as the Earth's population grows from 5.5 billion now to 10 billion by the year 2050, the loss of fertile land will lead to a permanent global food shortage.

"As land becomes scarce, how are we going to make sure that the common man in a developing country is able to get the food that he needs?" asked Visvanathan Rajagopalan, a World Bank vice-president who heads its consultative group on international agricultural research.

"We are going to have to feed an increasingly large population on a finite base of arable land," said soil researcher Dirk Bryant. "A conservative assessment is that you try to save that base."

About 1.2 billion hectares of land have sustained moderate to extreme degradation since 1945, accounting for 10.5 percent of the planet's fertile land, an area the size of China and India.

Of that land, 300 million hectares are severely degraded. Most of the rest of the degraded land has lost some fertility, but can still be used for some agriculture, the report says.

But even that land is threatened. If it is not improved, "one may fear that at least part of it may become strongly degraded in the near future."

Worldwide, about 25 billion tons of soil were lost each year due to erosion and other damage.

The vast majority of the damaged land is in Asia, with 455 million hectares, and Africa, with 321 million hectares.

Central America has the highest proportion of damaged land — 24 percent of its total. About 17 percent of Europe's land, 14 percent of Africa's and

12 percent of Asia's soil is degraded.

Only 4.4 percent of North America's soil has been damaged or lost.

Although the use of fertilisers and high-yield crops has helped offset the loss of agricultural land and prevented food shortages so far, ecologists warn that the dual trends of declining farmland and increasing world population will eventually lead to a supply crisis. — Sapa-AP.
Plan to put jobless whites on farms

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.
Opening up

About 1,2m ha of rural land owned by the SA Development Trust is to be transferred to the Department of Land Affairs for possible allocation to black farmers. The transfer forms part of a reform package announced in Cape Town this week by Regional Development & Land Affairs Minister Jacob de Villiers.

The package includes the immediate abolition of the SADT and the Department of Development Aid, and repeals about 20 proclamations, government notices and laws regulating black affairs.

The trust was the instrument through which land earmarked for homeland consolidation was channelled. Development Aid effectively administered black affairs in rural areas. Various government departments, provincial administrations and homeland governments will now do this work.

De Villiers says the Advisory Commission on Land Affairs appointed by government last year will play a leading role in negotiating the future of the land. The range and complexity of some of the measures to be scrapped make it difficult to assess immediately the impact of the package. It is possible that aspects of it will be regarded as retrogressive rather than reformist.

In general it is seen as an important move to build up a black commercial farming sector and to defuse the campaign for redistribution.

It's possible that the trust land will be carved into farming units of varying sizes depending on demand. Farmers could either buy the land or lease it with an option to purchase. It has also been suggested that the land could even be transferred to successful farmers without charge after, say, 10 years.

Black farmers would have access to the same support systems as their white counterparts, including finance.
Farm plan for jobless whites

JOHANNESBURG. — A scheme to resettle hundreds of jobless whites on farms has been launched, Transvaal Agricultural Union president Mr Dries Bruwer said yesterday.

Mr Bruwer said there were many desperate people who were out of work as a result of the drought and particularly because of economic conditions, which he blamed on political instability.

He said the scheme had been initiated by the organised agricultural sector and welfare organisations, and had been launched in response to "endless" requests.

It would not be easy for people who were not used to rural ways, he said. "It will be difficult to adjust, especially 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."
Jobless whites to be settled on farms

A SCHHEME to resettle hundreds of jobless whites on farms had been launched by the organised agricultural sector and welfare organisations. Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) president Does Bruwer said yesterday.

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The project had been launched in response to "endless" requests.

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"It will be difficult to adjust, especially for women because there are not many facilities in the rural areas. Farm work is much tougher than city work, but when people have no food to eat, they must do something."

A relief programme, run by the TAU and the Transvaal Youth Trust, to distribute food at schools was already in operation.

Bruwer said farmers had responded positively to the requests, but he did not believe they would pay their new labourers any better than they paid black workers.

He emphasised black workers would not be dismissed.
Border farmers vow revenge

THREATS of hot-pursuit "commando" raids into Transkei have been made by border farmers alarmed by a series of terror attacks they claim the police are powerless to prevent.

"If this doesn't end soon the boys will shoot," said Mr Hans Myburg, whose 90-year-old homestead bordering Transkei's Herschel district was destroyed by petrol bombs 10 days ago.

The Myburg family, who were staying elsewhere that night, lost everything _ including their pet Maltese poodle whose charred body was found in the ruins.

The attackers found sanctuary in Transkei _ where the South African police are forbidden to go.

The attack came barely a week after Zastron furniture store assistant manager Stephanus Smit, 33, was shot dead and a colleague injured after slowing down at a bogus police roadblock on the road to Herschel.

Several men opened fire with AK-47 rifles, killing Mr Smit and seriously wounding Mr Deon Maartens.

Mr Fanie Schlebusch, a neighbour and friend of Mr Myburg, recently survived a night attack at his farmhouse which he found chillingly reminiscent of tactics used in the Rhodesian bush war.

**Target**

Shots were fired into his bedroom and, when he leapt up, he saw a bakkie parked in the yard. It belonged to Hans Myburg and had been petrol bombed and was burning fiercely.

"I ran outside and tried to fight the fire. It was a very stupid thing to do as I was an easy target. Fortunately I first switched on my outdoor floodlights and this must have scared them off," he said.

Early in January the police barricades at Lady Grey, which borders on Herschel, was damaged by a grenade blast.

**REPORT and PICTURE by BILL KRIEGE**

Further east, towards Elliot, in an area sandwiched between Lesotho and Transkei, strong police patrols have been active for six weeks trying to turn a tide of stock theft so serious it has driven several farmers off the land.

"People are really angry and I just hope they don't take the law into their own hands. It's become so bad that none of us dare travel around unarmed anymore. If a dog barks at home and my wife goes outdoors to see what it's about, she takes a pistol with her. If we watch TV we keep a gun handy. One can't be too careful," he said.

He travels with a pistol and a shotgun in his bakkie.

The problem was made worse by the ban on the police crossing into Transkei, no matter how serious the crime, without long delays caused by negotiations through the Department of Foreign Affairs.

**Scent**

"The morning that Hans's farm was burnt, the police were here with a dog to investigate. It picked up the scent early on," said Mr Freek Myburg.

"We followed on a bakkie to the border fence some two kilometres away and there the police had to stop. But the dog didn't want to. It had to be dragged away. The people who did this may have been laughing at us from the other side of the river, for all I know," he said.

The Myburgs, both fluent in Xhosa, have farmed on the border for generations although Mr Hans Myburg has only occupied his present property, Wilgespruit, for 30 months.

"I have never had problems except with stock theft, which is normal," said Mr Hans Myburg.

"I'm worried about the old folk who live alone and I still think we're in the good times when you could leave your house open day or night," he said.

Today he has mesh wire covering his windows to deflect petrol bombs.

In a message faxed to Mr Japie Pretorius, MP for Aliwal North, and forwarded to Law and Order Minister Hermus Kriel, Mr Hans Myburg said part of his military service was done in Angola. "If a bomb or grenade was thrown at us, we followed up immediately and irrespective of the international boundary to arrest or eliminate the culprit.

**Urgent**

"What must we do in our own country and at our own expense to protect an international boundary? If this matter does not receive urgent attention it's going to create an unacceptable situation on our border," he said.

The District Criminal Investigation officer in Aliwal North, Colonel Piet Myburgh said: "We have stepped up patrols and give advice to farmers. As individuals there's nothing to stop them crossing the border. We can't do so, not easily anyway, but that's something I don't want to go into," he said.
PAC retains its position on 'return of the land'

Staff Reporters and Own Correspondent

The Pan Africanist Congress yesterday reaffirmed its hard-line position on the "return of the land to the people" at the end of its third national congress at the University of Transkei in Umtata.

In his closing address, re-elected president Clarence Makwetu said: "The land was taken from our forefathers by the sword and it is kept by the sword.

"Before resolving this issue, we cannot even dream of self-determination."

He said the congress had agreed Codesa was undemocratic and could never ensure a just transfer of power.

However, the congress mandated its leadership to enter into preliminary talks with the Government on the issue of a constituent assembly.

Mr Makwetu, first deputy president Johnso Mlambo, and second deputy president Advocate Dikgang Moseneke, were re-elected unopposed.

Secretary-general Benny Alexander retained his position, winning over national organiser Maxwell Nemadzivhani, who was re-elected to his position unopposed.

Barney Desai is secretary for information. His re-election comes after speculation that he had been sidelined for being pro-Codesa after he took a break recently on doctor's advice.

Mr Desai, Mr Moseneke and Mr Makwetu have been dubbed the pragmatists within the leadership that represents the more cogent and reasonable core of the PAC.

They would almost certainly be part of a delegation to meet President de Klerk and Foreign Minister Pik Botha in Abuja, Nigeria, later this week.

The weekend elections bring to an end the practice of dividing leadership between the exile and internal wings of the PAC and might consolidate the movement.
Omnia stronger despite drought

DROUGHT conditions should not affect seriously Omnia Holdings' 1992 profits, group chairman Dr Joachim Winkler said in an interview last week. Any losses which might be sustained by the group's core fertiliser division would be made up by the expanding seed, explosives, industrial and international trading businesses, said Winkler. He said the group's balance sheet had strengthened considerably, with an 18% increase in shareholders' funds and a further repayment of long-term debt, combining to reduce gearing to 23%.

Net asset value per share grew by 18% from R21.39c to R25.60c. The dividend was increased by 17% to 35c a share (30c).

Operating income increased by 23% to R60.7m (R49.2m). Higher financing costs absorbed R4.7m of the increase, as a result of a high level of investment in fixed assets and competitive credit terms.

A 26.6% return on shareholders' funds was achieved, with the average margin at the operating income level improving to 13.8% (12.5%).

The average tax rate for the year was 2.3% with the company moving into a taxable position for the first time since 1981, with assessed losses having been largely utilised.

Winkler expected Omnia to improve its earnings in 1992, in spite of an anticipated rise in its tax rate to 25%.
Rightwing harass white garage owner

A NABOOMSFRIJT garage owner is the target of a consumer boycott by whites because he helped a black man buy a farm in the area.

Mr Ben Steenkamp, owner of WTS Motors, said far-rightwingers had also launched a campaign of harassment against him and his family, threatening him with death and bombs.

Suspected extremist rightwingers on March 1 bombed the house at Verloren farm bought by Mr Lawrence Maphola in February this year.

No one has been arrested in connection with the bombing, police said.

Steenkamp said the boycott had led to a drop in his sales of over 10,000 litres a week.

"I helped Lawrence to buy the farm and soon thereafter I started hearing accusations that I was helping blacks to take white land.

"Then there were telephone calls and suddenly no local whites were buying from my garage and another shop.

"I take the threats seriously because they can also do it to me as I also stay at a farm," Steenkamp said.

He said he was helping another black family to acquire land in the area.

He said while he took the threats seriously, it was the financial loss that was worrying him more.

"Please tell people that I am not being boycotted by whites because I helped a black man to buy a farm," Steenkamp said.

Police spokesman Major A Vogel said at the weekend that the type of explosives used in the Verloren bombing was still unknown.

He said investigations were still on but no arrests had been made.

Two men who were sleeping in the house escaped with minor injuries when the explosions ripped through the isolated farm.

Other blacks who bought previously white-owned farms and houses in the Far Northern Transvaal have been victims of similar acts.

In Louis Trichardt, Mr Percy Mmethi was attacked with high velocity rifles at his farm 7km outside town on the Sibasa road.

Also in that town Mr Duckey Mkhondo, who bought a house there, was pelted with stones every night, culminating in a gun attack on the house. He escaped narrowly.

Near Pietersburg, Mr Johannes Motimele had the only gate leading to his farm locked by his white neighbour, effectively marooning Motimele, who had to cross through a 100m stretch of road across the neighbour's farm to reach a public road.

His cattle also mysteriously disappeared from the farm.

Also in Pietersburg, Mr A Maponya's house was gutted by fire which destroyed his R130 000 car and the garage.

The police said the fire was caused by a rat chipping at its electrical wires.

Maponya, who had been in the house for only two weeks, rejected the police explanation of the cause of the fire and blamed white racists who he said had threatened a white colleague who had been visiting him several times.
Anger over state's payout to owners of two prison outposts

The government has been accused of making a mockery of Parliament by overriding opposition from its most powerful watchdog to approving payments to owners of two prison farms.

The Joint Committee on Public Accounts, which scrutinises the government's expenditure, refused to authorise the payment in 1990 of R550 000 to two owners of prison labour outposts.

But last week, Parliament overrode this decision and passed a Bill validating the expenditure.

The committee, which is represented by all the parties, has a majority of NP members.

Convinced

It repeatedly refused to authorise the payments in 1990 on the basis that the valuations on which the payments were to be made were suspect.

DP finance spokesman Ken Andrew said the joint committee rarely refused to approve unauthorised expenditure.

"It is only done in cases where it is absolutely convinced there is no justification," he said.

He added the decision two years ago to refuse the expenditure required the full support of NP committee members as well as representatives from other parties.

"It is therefore most unusual that the government would see fit to approve expenditure which its own members and the committee as a whole strongly recommended should not be approved," he said.

Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk, introducing the Bill to get the amounts approved in Parliament last week, said when the government decided to abolish the prison outposts system in 1989, there had been uncertainty among owners over how they would be compensated.

The state had bought 19 of the 21 outposts, regardless of whether it needed the buildings, at a cost of nearly R20-million.

This was the price that had to be paid for the abolition of the outposts system, he said.

But the farm Leslie, near Leander, had already been sold for a sum of R150 000 before the Cabinet decided to abolish the system. A further sum of R50 000 was then paid by the state to the owners by way of compensation.

Establishment of prison facilities on the farm Bultfontein, near Hendrina, had cost R219 000. For these improvements, for which no depreciation was calculated, an ex gratia payment of R260 000 was made.

Mool River DP MP Wessel Nel said there had to be something wrong when someone sold a property for R150 000 and was then given an additional R570 000 — more than twice the selling price — by the state as compensation to make up the alleged full value of the property.

Mandate

"We in the DP cannot accept that such an error be deliberately covered up. At least the people who made the mistake should pay nominal pittance for their fault," Mr Nel said.

NP MP Cris Fischer, who sat on the committee when it opposed the approval of the payments, said he did not see Parliament's actions as overruling the committee.

"Parliament has the mandate to authorise unauthorised expenditure if the committee does not wish to do so," he said.
Whites should thank 'us for giving them shelter'

By JOE MDHLELA

THE idea of a white homeland by rightwingers was last night rejected by callers to the Sowetan/Radio Metro Talkback as ludicrous.

One caller asked: "All the land is full of Africans (sic)... which land do they want?"

Gideon of Etvaton said whites should be grateful that they had been accommodated in this country by Africans.

"They should be happy they live among the Africans," he said.

A similar sentiment was expressed by Lucky of Jabulani in Soweto.

"Whites came from Holland and stole our land. We will accommodate them on our own terms," he said.

Callers also focused on the failure of successive Nationalist governments to implement the grand "Verwoerdian" concept of separate development.

Not only was it costly, argued some of the callers, but it indoctrinated many whites into believing that they alone were entitled to live in this country.

The stereotypes of the past are hard to overcome, hence the oft-repeated request by the conservatives of their own "Volkstaat," one caller asserted.

A caller warned that even Codesa would have no mandate to accede to the demands of a "Volkstaat" by the conservative whites. If it did, they would regard Codesa as a "sell-out."
Farmers assured of Govt’s help

By Dirk Nel
Northern Transvaal Bureau
and Sapa

MESSINA — Agriculture Minister Dr Kraal van Niekerk yesterday told hundreds of farmers that the Government would do all in its power to ensure that the expertise of top farmers was not lost through financial and drought factors.

However, he pointed out that the Government had only limited funds, which had to be used strategically and positively to keep productive farmers afloat.

Dr van Niekerk was on the first leg of a whistle-stop tour of drought-stricken northern Transvaal farming districts.

He said each farming area in the country had its unique circumstances and aid packages would have to be designed to fit various needs.

He said the greatest drawback to cattle farmers was that the traditional feed producing areas had not supplied their usual quotas for sale to those in need of help.

Dr van Niekerk said he was impressed by the cordial welcome he had received in Nylstroom, Pietersburg, Tzaneen and Messina. He is due to visit the Ellisras and Thabazimbi districts today.

The effects of the current drought, reportedly the worst in 100 years, would be felt over many years, Transvaal Agricultural Society president Jock Wolff said yesterday.

Mr Wolff said the public appeared to have little perception about the ravages of the drought and what effect it had, and would continue to have, on their lives.

This drought is of such magnitude that it will not only effect economic activity in South Africa this year, but will also have a negative influence on the economy for years to come.”

Mr Wolff further said the TAB needed to take cognisance of the efforts being made by the Government to alleviate the plight of the agricultural sector.

“We cannot allow the providers of our food to go under as that would bring the economy of South Africa permanently to its knees.

“The world is full of examples of where agriculture in particular countries went down and those countries had to import basic foodstuffs.”

● A rural tragedy revealed — Page 11
A rural tragedy revealed

The government has been urged to ensure tens of thousands of hard-hit farm labourers share in the allocation of the special R1 billion fund created to rescue farms hit by the disastrous drought. It has been urged to ensure that aid packages also relieve the plight of tens of thousands of farm labourers in a growing list of casualties.

The appeal came as the Farmers' Aid Task Group appointed by the South African Agricultural Union compiled a full assessment of the scale of damage caused by the drought. The group also made recommendations on how the R1 billion relief fund should be allocated.

The province of Free State, which is hardest hit, has been urged to ensure that the aid packages are distributed fairly. The group also recommended that the government should provide immediate relief to farm labourers who are facing economic hardship.

The goal of the appeal is to ensure that farm labourers receive the aid they need to survive the drought. The government has been urged to act quickly to alleviate the suffering of these vulnerable groups.

The appeal also highlighted the need for a long-term solution to the problem of farm labourers. The government should provide support to farmers and farm labourers to ensure their livelihoods are sustainable.

The group has also recommended that the government should provide training and skills development to farm labourers to help them secure better employment opportunities.

In conclusion, the appeal by the Farmers' Aid Task Group is a call to action for the government to ensure that farm labourers receive the support they need to survive the drought and build a sustainable future.

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The Cabinet is due to release details soon on how it intends sharing out the special R1 billion fund created to rescue farms hit by the disastrous drought. It has been urged to ensure that aid packages also relieve the plight of tens of thousands of farm labourers in a growing list of casualties, reports MICHAEL CHESTER.

The potential socio-economic chaos that may threaten when the income of entire rural communities collapses has to be addressed. There are not only a few thousand maize farmers to be considered, but the multifaceted nature of making good the crop failures with expensive imports of basic staple food products.

Also to be taken into account is the multiplier impact when tens of thousands of farm labourers lose their jobs or suffer pay cuts that rebound on whole families.

Solution: The solution is to provide an immediate cash injection that would keep farms afloat and provide for the next season's crops. But again, since many observers interpret the scheme as still too easy for the wealthy white farmers, that could put a lot of political capital into the air.

One vital necessity in any aid package was casting a lifeline to the thousands of farm labourers who had lost their jobs or agreed to pay cuts as an alternative to wholesale retrenchment.

It could also be worthwhile to consider new Government initiatives to launch special public works programmes in drought-stricken rural areas to create jobs to tackle the building of new roads, new bridges, new services...
Drought's ravages will linger

PRETORIA. — The economic effects of the current drought, reportedly the worst in 100 years, will be felt over many years, Transvaal Agricultural Society president Mr Jock Wolff said yesterday.

In his presidential address at the annual meeting of the TAS in Pretoria, Mr Wolff said the public appeared to have little perception about the ravages of the drought and what effect it had had and would continue to have on their lives.

"I do not think people realise the disaster staring farmers, and the agricultural sector, in the eye.

"This drought is of such magnitude that it will not only affect economic activity in South Africa this year, but will also have a negative influence on the economy for years to come."

Mr Wolff also said the TAS needed to take cognisance of the efforts being made by the government to alleviate the plight of the agricultural sector.

"We cannot allow the providers of our food to go under as that would bring the economy of South Africa permanently to its knees. The world is full of examples where agriculture in particular countries went down and those countries had to import basic foodstuffs."

- Drought has forced some Zimbabweans back to their roots — literally. Amid unprecedented shortages of corn, cooking oil and sugar, peasants are turning to roots, berries, wild grass and the back of baobab trees, which they make into a gruel. — Sapa-AP
Debt write-off deals proposed for farmers

NYLSTROOM — The Department of Agriculture was drawing up proposals in a bid to prevent a great catastrophe from hitting the drought-stricken agricultural sector, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk said yesterday.

He was addressing farmers, organised agriculture representatives and co-operative officials during a two-day tour of the far northern Transvaal.

While farmers hostile to government clashed with police when President F W de Klerk visited Nylstroom during his referendum campaign recently, about 50 unusually quiet farmers attended the briefing at the Northern Transvaal Co-operative. "They are so quiet because they are in big trouble," said an agriculture writer.

Van Niekerk said his department was looking at ways to get creditors and farmers together to negotiate voluntary debt write-off deals, but warned that this could not be done on a large scale.

The department was investigating all possible means to keep farmers on their land and to enable them to bring in a harvest in improved climatic conditions.

His deputy minister, Tobie Meyer, said the department intended to have the proposals ready by the end of this month for presentation to Cabinet.

Van Niekerk said he had been well aware of the bleak conditions in agriculture, but to learn about the situation again at first hand remained disturbing.

Co-operative GM Mias Nieuwoudt said the drought in the far northern Transvaal was the most intense since 1973. The area had the highest unemployment rate and the poorest population in SA, and the drought had also affected businesses and towns in the area.

Its grain harvest was expected to be 5% of the normal harvest, while in Venda, Lebowa and GaZankulu it would be nil.

Some dams were only 6% or 10% full, while many dams in Venda and GaZankulu were empty. "The rivers have mostly run dry, the farm dams are almost all empty and the borehole water levels are dropping drastically," Nieuwoudt said.

Rainfall in the Lowveld had been critically low. Farmers' debt had risen alarmingly, Nieuwoudt said.

His co-operative had written off bad debts totalling R28,6m since 1984 and was budgeting for bad debts running at 16%.

Farmers in the Nylstroom-Naboomspruit area were experiencing the most serious problems.

Their debt ratio was 28%, while their businesses could carry only about 7%.

Nieuwoudt criticised an industrial job-creation programme in the region, which, he said, was being effected at a much higher capital cost per job than it would cost to retain agricultural workers' positions. — Sepa.
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How about turning off that tap?

ONE OF the latest buzzwords is drought. Turn on the TV news, read newspapers and you see dead animals or the dam that is supposed to supply the whole of Thohoyandou about to dry up.

But what is the drought? What is its significance? Why does it happen and can it be avoided? These and other questions have not been answered in full and in this column DAVID HOLT-BIDDLE, an award-winning radio and print environmental journalist tries to unravel the mystery of this plague.

IT HAS been blamed on the return of the mini-skirt, it has been blamed on the casinos in the homelands, no doubt it will now be blamed on Sunday movies, and it has even been blamed on the “yes” vote in the white referendum.

In our usual quixotic terminology it has been described as the worst in living memory, the worst this century, the worst in recorded history, the worst since the rinderpest.

But whatever we blame it on, and however we describe it: the current drought is a disaster to Southern Africa - economically and socio-politically.

Over the past four months I have travelled, one way or another, over much of South Africa, and there is only one way to describe it, at best dry, at worst devastated. Thohoyandou has enough water for three more months and the government of Venda has appointed a Drought Crisis Committee to co-ordinate relief efforts.

Rivers have dried up in the Eastern Transvaal Lowsveld and animals are dying in the Kruger National Park Park, and it is even being said that the Sabie River could stop flowing soon.

Rivers have also dried up in Natal and KwaZulu and there have been crop failures. In parts of the Eastern Free State and the North Eastern Cape, maize and sunflower crops have reached full growth at a height of about half-a-meter, and the plants are dying where they stand.

In parts of Transkei, the ground cover has disappeared altogether, and the Eastern Cape even the invasive jointed acaulis appears to be feeling the heat and the lack of rain. At least one large dam in the Southern Karoo is totally dry, and has been for at least eight years. In fact the Karoo is the most depressing of all. Predominant feature are the dust devils that chase each other across the parched landscape, and the stones which try desperately to get into each others shade as they stand panting in the sun. Many farmers in the region have driven their stock to other parts of the country where there is still a little grazing, and I was told of one white family (father, mother, kids, bags and baggage) waiting on the national highway for a lift away from their farm and to the coast, and hopefully work.

And elsewhere in Southern Africa? President Quett Masire of Botswana has declared his entire country “drought stricken.” There have been widespread crop failures, water sources have dried up, and many Botswanan simply have no income.

There have also been disastrous crop failures in Lesotho and Swaziland.

In Namibia President Sam Nujoma has declared an “emergency situation” countrywide and has said that wildlife may have been sacrificed for people.

There have also been widespread crop failures in Zambia, and the Zambian Electricity Supply Company may have to suspend power supplies to neighboring states because of a drop in water levels for hydro-electric plants.

In Zimbabwe, the situation is little short of catastrophic. At one stage the country had just four days’ food left, in some urban areas water is being supplied by stand pipes and in Bulawayo, residents were recently asked to flush their toilets simultaneously at nine in the evening, in an effort to clear the rapidly-clogging system.

Severe water shortages have been reported from Malawi, and drought has been added to the woes of the long suffering people of Mozambique, giving them yet another reason to stream into South Africa in search of succour.

But what is really the cause of this devastating drought? Basically it is a natural phenomenon. The world’s weather is a cyclical business; it comes, it goes and it varies, but it tends to come and go in a reasonably predictable way.

Here in Southern Africa, for example, we are supposedly going into a nine-year wet period, although some areas have had a fraction of their normal rainfall, and others have had none at all over the past season.

But our wet and dry patches tend to come in nine-year cycles, although there are cycles within those cycles and greater cycles encompassing the basic cycles, it is a fairly complicated business. Of course there are global phenomena that impact on the Southern African situation, like global warming, the so-called El Nino effect, and of late dramatic volcanic activity. But there is another world-wide phenomenon of particular significance, and with a particular impact here in Southern Africa, and that is growing human numbers.

The fact is that land has not been described as a ‘carrying capacity’. This means that when all sorts of factors are taken into account, like soil type, vegetation cover, mineral content, water availability, it can be very accurately calculated just how many creatures - sheep, cattle, impala, elephants, man can be settled and sustained on.

In much of South and Southern Africa the land is rapidly reaching its human carrying capacity as far as water is concerned. It has been estimated that South Africa can support, and this is only as far as water is concerned, no more than 80-million people, and at current rates of population growth, we will reach that figure in about 20 years. We do have a problem.

Can anything be done about it? Indeed yes. Weather is a global issue and can be dealt with globally. It is also a regional issue, and can be dealt with regionally. But it is also a local issue, and can be dealt with right in our homes.

How about turning off that tap?
New cloud seeding flare could boost future rainfall

By Clyde Johnson
Lowveld Bureau

NELSPRUIT — A new cloud seeding flare, designed and manufactured in South Africa, could play a major role in augmenting the country's future water supplies, says Cloudquest Weather Research leader Graeme Mather.

Speaking at a special meeting of the Lowveld Farmers' Association, Mr Mather said the flare, used in a new seeding technique, appeared more suitable to South African conditions than traditional glacogenic materials like silver iodide and dry ice.

The flares containing potassium fluoride and sodium chloride (table salt) are placed directly into an updraught as it enters a storm.

"We're basically copying nature's system of 'seeding' clouds at the coast with tiny salt crystals from the sea," Mr Mather explained.

"This leads to a very efficient rainfall process in coastal clouds."

Early results with the new flares had proved very promising with more and larger water drops having been detected in rain clouds about 20 minutes after seeding.

Also speaking at the meeting, water research committee chairman Braam Raubenheimer said rain augmentation was considered the biggest and cheapest means of increasing the country's water supply.

It was, he said, of vital importance that research in this field be continued.

"The delivery of hygroscopic seeds via a pyrotechnic flare is a major breakthrough and a world first, and the Nelspruit team — under Mr Mather — needs to be congratulated."

Cloud seeding started by the Lowveld Co-operative in Nelspruit during 1971 to prevent hail, has been unpopular among many farmers since its inception.

Despite the new seeding system, farmers and townfolk again expressed opposition to cloud seeding at last Wednesday's meeting.

It appeared, however, that the majority of people present felt the new flares should be given a chance and that research continue.
Johannesburg. — Where the great, green, greasy Limpopo used to flow, a hot wind kicks up eddies of dust.

From the mountains of the Cape to the thorn forests of Zambia, from Namibia in the west to Mozambique in the east, one of the driest seasons in living memory has shrivelled pastures and ruined crops.

The region will need to import at least 10 million tons of its staple food, maize, by the end of the year, about a third of it likely to be in the form of aid donations and the rest from commercial sources.

This is about four times the normal amount distributed over creaking transport networks, and relief officials say moving the food to where it is needed is the greatest problem they face.

The crisis has hastened overt cooperation between black frontline states like Zimbabwe and former foe South Africa, the only country with adequate port facilities for the task.

South Africa, which is importing five million tons of maize for its own use this year, expects 220 maize ships at its ports in the next four months.

Much of the food desperately needed in Zambia and Zimbabwe has to cross a narrow bridge over the Limpopo, and the urgent need to prevent bottlenecks has led Harare to end its refusal to deal with Pretoria at cabinet level.

Transport Minister Mr Denis Norman met his South African counterpart in Cape Town this month to discuss logistics, the first high-level talks since Zimbabwean independence in 1980.

The drought has increased domestic political pressure on President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and FW de Klerk of South Africa.

In Zimbabwe, where soldiers guard food convoys from hungry crowds, influential traditional leaders interpret the drought as a sign that the ancestral spirits are angry with Mr Mugabe. In South Africa, the drought threatens economic growth seen as essential to stability. — Sapa-Reuters
March shows drop in farm machinery sales

Own Correspondent

Sales of all agricultural machinery dropped dramatically last month compared with March last year, reports the SA Agricultural Machinery Association (SAAMA).

Only 171 tractors were sold during the month under review, compared to 286 units for the corresponding period last year, representing a 32.2 percent drop in sales.

SAAMA expects tractor sales for 1992 to be around 2,000 units.

As a result of the current drought, the industry expects a further reduction of sales of all agricultural machinery during 1992 compared to 1991", the report says.
Hartheesfontein stays in SA

By Jo-Anne Collinges

The western Transvaal community of Hartheesfontein has been assured by the Deputy Minister for Land Affairs Johan Scheepers that the town will not be incorporated into Bophuthatswana.

According to Mr. Scheepers, it had been agreed in talks with the Bophuthatswana authorities that the town and sufficient land "for future extensions" be retained by South Africa.

Mr. Scheepers has written to Hartheesfontein Civic Association secretary Solly Pheto, stating: "I can now confirm officially that the residential area developed on the farm Hartheesfontein will no longer be transferred to or included into Bophuthatswana."

The letter does not make clear the size of the total area to be retained by South Africa.
'Drought will cost 80 000 jobs, R1,5-bn'

By Michael Chester

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 interests. It was crucial to debate the role of the state.

"Cosatu has argued very strongly that we require a strong state which is able to intervene decisively in pursuing economic policies that promote growth," he said.

Cosatu would pledge full support to a massive rationalisation of the monolithic apartheid bureaucracy so that public funds could be redirected into job creation and building houses, schools and hospitals.

"The present Government and its allies in business and the media are trying to ensure that the socio-economic hands of a future state are firmly tied by decisions taken and implemented now," Mr Naidoo said.

"Clearly the political repercussions of this are not lost: a weak economy means a weak government."

"Cosatu will resist any attempts to impose an economic or political solution on South Africa, particularly in this transition phase when even this present Government recognises its illegitimacy and lack of representivity."

"It is for this reason that we have called on the present Government to cease its arbitrary and unilateral restructuring of the economy and enter into bona fide negotiations with the organised trade union movement and organised business to ensure that economic restructuring has a legitimate basis of support," he said.

● More reports — Page 9
Drought: 2 more Free State 'disaster' areas

JOHANNESBURG.—Kroonstad and Viljoenskroon in the Free State have been declared drought disaster areas.

Heilbron and Frankfort were declared disaster areas earlier this month.

National Drought Committee chairman Dr Stroebel Hofmeyr said farmers in these districts could be given financial assistance under the relief scheme for stock farmers.

In Worcester, KWV chairman Mr Pietman Hugo announced that Cape wine farmers would contribute R250 000 to emergency drought relief. — Sapa
Against all expectations, producer prices are still rising at a modest rate. In the 12 months to February the index rose only 6.7%. Since November, when the rate of increase decelerated sharply from 11.1% to 7.9%, PPI movements have confounded economists. The technical factors that contributed to the November fall have now been eliminated and, after a blip up to 8.6% in December, the rate began to decline again — to 7.9% in January and February.

Surprisingly, an important factor in the recent decline was food prices, specifically meat. Unfortunately, this may be a spin-off from the drought as farmers who have run out of feed and grazing land for slaughter. Food prices are recorded in two places in the PPI. The item "agriculture: food" rose only 9.74% over 12 months and declined 1.5% in the month. Contributions to the monthly fall came in a range of products, says the Central Statistical Service. These included beef, veal, eggs, onions, pears, bananas and grapes.

In the same period, "manufacturing: food" rose 8.7% and declined 1.3%. If this component is broken down, it emerges that meat prices (at abattoirs) rose only 6.6% over 12 months and fell by 4.3% in February.

Food has the heaviest weighting in the index: agricultural 8.64%, and manufacturing 12.91%. Together, they make up about a fifth of the index. So movements in these prices drive the Overall index. This again highlights the "strange anomaly in the relationship between producer and consumer prices. The normal lag between the two was distorted in January last year when the curves tracing the increase in the two indexes started to move apart sharply — and food prices were largely responsible for the discrepancy. Though consumer price rises have shown signs of abating, food prices rose 27% in the 12 months to February — after similar increases in previous months.

Consumer prices are particularly vulnerable to perceptions (Leading Articles April 10), so, at this point, are not reflecting fundamentals in the economy. UCT economist Brian Kantor argues (see page 32) that PPI may now be the better indicator.

While the downward blip in meat prices in February may have accentuated the deceleration, it is part of a pattern that has been in place since the middle of last year and was given impetus by falling oil prices towards the end of the year. The index of "mining and quarrying: other (which comprises oil)" was down 9% over 12 months and 1.4% in the month. The total of imported commodities fell 0.9% in the year and 0.2% in the month, assisted by lower inflation overseas.

Increases in prices of local commodities remained restrained, with a rise of 8.5% over 12 months and 0.5% in the month.

Working against the trend were monthly rises in a number of indices:
- Other agricultural products 9.8%;
- Alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages 3.3%;
- Nonmetallic and mineral products 4.9%; and
- Transport equipment 4.7%.
New life in Barolong land battle

By DAN DHLAMINI

THE 31-year-old legal battle for land between the Barolong ba Modiboa and the Potchefstroom Town Council started afresh this week when 75 of them were arrested for trying to reclaim their ancestral land.

According to a western Transvaal police spokesman the 62 men and 13 women have been charged with trespassing and illegal squatting.

The spokesman said they would be released on R30 bail and were scheduled to appear in court on Tuesday.

The battle between the Potchefstroom Town Council and the Barolong started on March 21, 1961 when the then tribal representative, Morris Gorewanga, was arrested, charged and convicted for refusing to vacate Macha,

viestad. He appealed and the Appellate Division set aside the conviction.

The Barolong were eventually forcibly removed by the government in 1971.

In December last year 25 tribesmen who attempted to reclaim the land were also arrested for trespassing.

The charges were withdrawn after the parties agreed that the Barolong would always seek permission to visit their ancestral land.

The Barolong had been granted permission to clean the graves and hold a prayer meeting from April 16 to April 20, but, according to a Potchefstroom Town Council spokesman, permission had been withdrawn after they had arrived with truckloads of building materials.
Low-profile Sechold makes light of omens

A FRIDAY 12th appointment in 1984 with the late Gerhard von Kock, Governor of the Reserve Bank, gave Arthur Kelly and a group of financial specialists the green light to establish a discount house. The licence was granted on the 15th of March the following year. Sechold opened for business on April 4th, 1984 and has since grown to play a major part in the market.

In spite of the low profile, the company remains one of the strongest in the market, with a turnover of R2.9 billion in 1991.

**DIAGONAL STREET**

**by Julie Walker**

**R174 Lynxet raised R3m from its listing**

LYNTEX Transport Exchange had a net asset value of only R19 million before it raised R3 million in public and private placements in 1987 for a JSE listing. Lynxet was incorporated in April 1987 and was later listed. The Reserve Bank, Johannesburg, confirms it is investigating Lynxet's affairs.

After examining former managing director Tony Terence, the bank found that the company's financial statements were false. The bank also found that the company's directors had obtained shares at an undervalued price.

Lynxet was granted a licence on 13th October 1987, after the bank found that the company's financial statements were false. The bank also found that the company's directors had obtained shares at an undervalued price. Lynxet's financial statement for 1987 was found to be false and the company was dissolved.

The bank has demanded the return of the shares and the company's directors have been charged with fraud.

Debt help for farmers

FARMGROUP, the agricultural management company featured in Business Times last week, has proposed a debt-for-equity swap to help relieve the debt burden on farmers. The scheme, known as the Farm Loan for Farmers, involves the swap of equity for debt. The scheme is designed to help farmers who have been forced to sell their land to pay off debt.

On March 21, 1987, Mr. March and Mr. Teunier signed the Farm Loan for Farmers agreement. The terms of the scheme were that farmers who had been forced to sell their land to pay off debt would be able to swap their equity for debt. The scheme was welcomed by farmers, who had been forced to sell their land to pay off debt.

The scheme was aimed at helping farmers who had been forced to sell their land to pay off debt. It was welcomed by farmers, who had been forced to sell their land to pay off debt.
‘Mounties’ to help fight rural crime

A HORSEBACK unit of the South African Police has been formed to help fight crime in the rural areas of Hottentots Holland.

The mounted police reservist patrol unit, the first of its kind in the Cape, was initiated by Strand police.

“The unit will intensify policing of farms and smallholdings as part of a crime prevention programme,” Strand station commander Captain Tienie Meiring said this week.

Operating from Gordon’s Bay to Macassar, police reservists will now be able to patrol rural areas inaccessible to vehicles.

Stolen

“The idea came after a spate of house burglaries in the rural area,” said the head of the reservist unit, Lieutenant Ferdi Mostert.

The horses will enable the unit to cut off foot routes used by criminals when moving stolen goods.

The patrols are to be made up of a minimum of four reservists per group.

And, needing additional manpower, the police have started a recruitment drive.

Said Lieutenant Mostert: “We hope to recruit as many as 60 people and all interested members of the public who can ride a horse and who would like to volunteer are welcome.

The police will try to find a horse for volunteers who can ride and don’t own one.

Some owners have said they are prepared to make their horses available for the mounted reservist patrol unit. We will provide training in policing and the handling of firearms as well as police uniforms.

When a patrol group wanted to go out, they would telephone the station and a police vehicle would meet them and issue firearms, two-way radios and a duty book.

Lieutenant Mostert said a meeting for all those interested in enlisting would be held in the Strand Library Hall on Thursday.
Drought will cost millions in forex losses

CAPE TOWN — The serious drought will cost South Africa thousands of millions of rands in foreign-exchange losses, chief economist of Sanlam, Johan Louw, says in the group’s latest economic report.

He predicts that imported maize and maize products alone may cause a foreign-exchange loss of R3 000 million.

Overall, prospects for South Africa’s foreign trade balance are reported as not favourable. Although an upswing is expected in the economies of South Africa’s major trading partners during the course of the year, Sanlam does not foresee much of an improvement in exports before late 1992. A notable increase in the gold price also seems unlikely.

As a result, considerably smaller surpluses are expected on the current account of the balance of payments.

A surplus of R4 600 million is predicted for 1992, compared with last year’s surplus of R7 422 million, but due to the lifting of sanctions, and the possibility of IMF loans, an improvement on the capital account may well be expected. This should make up for the smaller surpluses on the current account to the extent that foreign reserves should continue increasing.

An average inflation rate of around 14,5 percent is predicted for 1992, compared with last year’s 15,3 percent. By December the rate should be between 12 percent and 13 percent.— Saps.
PRETORIA — A large part of SA, mostly in the Transvaal and Free State, would be declared a drought disaster area before the start of next summer, agricultural authorities said at the weekend.

They believed farming losses as a result of the drought would be the highest to date.

Transvaal Agricultural Union president Dries Bruwer said the extent of the financial disaster on the platteland was only now being fully realised.

Agriculture Department finance director Koos Smit said the department was paying between R7m and R8m a month in relief, and payouts would escalate as winter wore on. Forty-two districts had been declared drought disaster areas. Applications for aid were pouring in.

Farmers in declared areas were entitled to 75% transport subsidies, financial aid for maintaining herds and a “per head” subsidy for every animal removed due to the farm’s reassessed carrying capacity.

Meanwhile, the SA Agricultural Union has said the additional R1bn allocated by government for drought relief will be grossly inadequate. A special committee headed by union president Boet Fourie and including senior Agriculture Department officials was expected to make recommendations to government before the month’s end for substantial additional funds.

The state of Water Affairs Department dams reflected the worsening drought conditions, the authorities said. Levels were dropping at a rate of about 1% a week and authorities said this could accelerate during the rainless winter months. The 137 dams were at 58% capacity compared with 81% at this time last year.

Sapa reports that a joint statement by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and the World Food Programme said SA and southern Africa would have to import food on an unprecedented scale. The organisations said the situation would be eased only by a huge international emergency aid effort.

Seven Spoornet trains transporting nearly 10 000 tons of maize to Zimbabwe crossed the Beit Bridge border yesterday.

Spoornet spokesman Andrew Wilson said 20 000 tons had been offloaded in Durban harbour from the cargo ship, Kalit-1. The ship had 53 009 tons of maize on board — all for Zimbabwe.

Reuter reports from Lusaka that southern African government ministers agreed last week to co-ordinate the movement of emergency food supplies. Ministers of the 10-nation Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference said after a one-day conference in Lusaka they would set up a task force to co-ordinate the purchase of maize.

Representatives of most southern African states, including Zimbabwe, are to meet in Pretoria tomorrow to co-ordinate drought relief measures.
The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE: Mr Chairman, the hon member for Ttligjetrams who is a legal man really astounded me last afternoon by referring to a draft bill of rights that prohibits action. How a draft of anything can have so much power that it can proscribe anything, probably only the hon member will know and nobody else. [Interjections.]

The point is that the draft bill of rights is constantly being referred to and he called it a draft for the first time today. Let us now have this recorded: it remains a draft and hon members should rather make their contributions where they have been requested to do so.

The hon member for Pretoria West as well as the hon member for Ttligjetrams have now revealed the whole thing, namely, that the issue is not Christian education or education within a specific national culture, but in fact nothing other than education that is racially segregated. [Interjections.]

I do not know why they did not in the first place ask whether racially segregated education would be enforced in South Africa in the future. Why put the question in this manner and then make a wide tour before the hon member for Pretoria West eventually let it eat out of the bag? Let me make it very clear to them: as I have done on many occasions: at present it is possible, also under Model C, to determine admissions on the basis of race. In the future it will most probably not be possible. It does not matter what the hon members think: they will not be able to make any difference to the inevitable course of a process that is happening world-wide. [Interjections.]

"Mr H D K Van der Merwe: And 5 million Whites must just disappear!"

"The MINISTER: The sooner the hon members adjust to reality and conform their people rationally to adjust as well, the sooner they will be capable of playing a positive role with a view to the future of our country.

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS
1. Indicate translated version.

For oral reply:

Own Affairs:

Model C schools: ownership

1. Mr A Gerber asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

(a) Whether, upon the establishment of a Model C school, an alteration in respect of the ownership of that school will be effected in the deeds office concerned; if not, why not; if so,
(b) whether this alteration will result in the previously existing deed registered in the name of the State being cancelled and the control body concerned, as a juristic person, then being the new registered owner; if not, why not; if so,

B488E

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT:

(a) The Minister of Agricultural Development started functioning on 1 April 1992.
(b) 4,287

B10 research institutes and 2 research centres.

Temporary cash subsidy to farmers

3. Mr W U Nel asked the Minister of Agricultural Development:

(a) Whether his Department has given consideration to the payment of a temporary cash subsidy to farmers in drought-stricken areas for the exclusive purpose of supplementing money available to pay wages to farm labourers and so maintaining their remunerations; if not, why not; if so, when is it anticipated that (a) a decision will be taken on the matter and (b) such a scheme will come into operation;

B508E

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT:

(a) Yes, the Working Group for the Planning and Implementation of Drought Aid is giving attention to financial assistance aimed at the retention of full-time farm workers. The Agricultural Credit Board is already incorporating funds for this purpose in production loans of individual applicants who qualify for such aid.

(b) A decision on the feasibility of a special scheme for this purpose can be taken only when the full range of proposals by the Working Group have been quantified and evaluated. In the end the availability of funds and the ability to administer such a scheme will be the deciding factors.

Mr A A B Bruwer: Mr Chairman, arising from the hon the Minister's reply, I want to ask him whether he perhaps give an indication of when he expects this working group to have their work completed, also to give the farmers who want to apply a clear indication of when they can go ahead with their applications.

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, the evaluation of the whole question of aid to farmers has reached a final phase. We now have all the data on the table, and we are trying to evaluate all the schemes.

Mr J H Van der Merwe: How long still?

The MINISTER: We first have to get the Cabinet's approval for the final matter, and we hope to get greater clarity at the next Cabinet meeting on the funds necessary to fund it. It is not as simple as a scheme. We shall therefore do it as soon as possible—we hope within the next fortnight.

Mr W U Nel: Mr Chairman, further arising from the hon the Minister's reply, I also want to ask him something. In the light of the urgency of the specific scheme to prevent farm workers from being prejudiced, is it not possible for that scheme to be officially to be expedited?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, we have investigated the possibility. The problem is to include a meaningful system of control so that the aid intended for the labours does in fact reach them. The Agricultural Union is administering such a scheme on a temporary basis and we are giving attention to getting a successful control.
The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL HOUSING:

Referred to attached schedule.

Region A Region B Region C Region D Region E Region F Region G Region H Region J

(1) (a) (i) 1 234 325 7382 3281 709 881 314 18794 164
(ii) 42 Nil 499 109 Nil 142 675 1342 Nil
(b) (i) 1 205 325 7382 3281 709 881 105 18599 108
(ii) 36 Nil 499 109 Nil 142 189 822 Nil

(2) Decrease Increase Decrease Decrease Increase Decrease increase Decrease in respect of leasehold. Increase in respect of freehold

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

What total amount was spent on sport by the (a) Army, (b) Navy, (c) Air Force and (d) Medical Services Branch of the South African Defence Force in the 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 financial years, respectively?

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) The information as requested is not readily available.

Since reference is made to 99-year leasehold, it is accepted that the question relates to erven in townships that are situated in declared development areas. As far as the Transvaal is concerned, all applications for township establishment in terms of the Black Communities Development Act, 1984 (Act No 4 of 1984) were received of which 9 applications have been approved in principle (Regulation 16) and which made 115 557 residential erven available. These applications were submitted by private developers (18) and local authorities (26) and Transvaal Provincial Administration has no information available to determine whether the erven have already been surveyed or not.

It must also be mentioned that a further 36 applications, received previously have also been approved in principle during the above-mentioned period and which make a further 19 235 residential erven available. Of the 36 townships mentioned, 6 have already been declared approved townships which means that those erven were surveyed when the townships were declared (9 398 erven). The date on which these erven were surveyed is not available.

When applications for township establishment are received, no indication is given of the scheme on which the erven will be disposed of (99-year leasehold or ownership title).

(3) The Transvaal Provincial Administration is not involved in the sale of erven, therefore the information cannot be made available.
Govt set to formulate plan on famine crisis

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA — A master plan to fend off widespread famine in Southern Africa will be discussed in the Union Buildings today at a crisis meeting of government officials from Southern African states.

Chaired by Foreign Affairs Africa deputy director general Mr Derek Auret, today's meeting will include senior government representatives from Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Botswana.

A commercial official from Mozambique will also be present.
Distribution plan
for drought relief

PRETORIA — Drought-stricken southern African countries are to establish a coordinating mechanism for the speedy distribution of food relief.

This was decided at a meeting of delegates from SA, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe as well as donor countries in Pretoria yesterday.

Meeting chairman Derek Auret, Foreign Affairs deputy director-general for Africa, said representatives from the various countries would serve on the operations group of Transnet to meet the objectives.

Sapa reports that he said consensus had been reached on the need for a closely co-ordinated regional approach to manage the drought-relief operation. Requirements of the individual countries and the logistics of transporting the food had been discussed.

Zimbabwe's delegation said it was happy with the arrangements, and that there was no controversy regarding SA's central role in the operation.

Meanwhile, our political staff reports from Cape Town that government is considering giving farmers suffering because of the drought a subsidy to enable them to retain full-time farm workers.

Agriculture Minister Kraal van Niekerk said in reply to a question in Parliament that a working group set up recently was giving its attention to such financial assistance. It should complete its work within two weeks.

"In the end the availability of funds and the ability to administer such a scheme will be the deciding factors," he said.

Sapa-APP reports from The Hague that the Netherlands is to give food aid worth almost $45m to Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Namibia and Malawi.
Big-hearted Sis Olga – SA’s very own Mother Teresa

By Brian Sokutu

“Mother Orange Farm’s” work to educate the children of the poor rural community of Rietfontein, near Grassmere, has gained her a reputation akin to that of India’s Nobel Peace Prize winner Mother Teresa.

Olga Lutu (60) is physically huge and has a heart to match. In Orange and Wheeler’s Farms, near Rietfontein, she is popularly known as “Sis Olga” or “Mother of Orange Farm”.

Ms Lutu has leased a 325 ha Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) farm on which she has established a residence and community training centre for those desperate to acquire skills in sewing, farming, bricklaying and woodwork.

At yesterday’s meeting held at her home with businessmen and diplomats, Ms Lutu’s description of the plight of the people so impressed British vice-consul Clive Wright that he promised to look into possible British funding of her training centre.

“For too long we’ve been deprived of development, especially in rural areas. For too long some people spoke for us. But now it is time to speak for ourselves. So we appeal to you for funding to reach our goals,” Ms Lutu said.

Mr. Wright cautioned that because of Britain’s policy on foreign funding, it would be unable to offer sizable funds to her community projects before an interim government had been installed in South Africa.

Sewing students who work from the Lutu home are remunerated with profits made from the sale of garments.

The Olga Lutu Training Centre is not the only contribution the mother of four has made to the rural community. She is also the brains behind mushrooming rural community schools near Grassmere, having pioneered the first school in the area while staying at the Wheeler’s Farm in 1982.

Arrested

As chairman of the civic organisation at the time, I invited parents to a meeting and told them to convert homes into places of education for our children,” she said.

Newspapers and books used to teach children English.

After establishing the first community school at her home, Ms Lutu said she was arrested on several occasions for establishing “an illegal school”. She was however, not charged.

Her former home – Driezik Plot No 10 – is now a secondary school to more than 300 pupils, and is recognised by the Department of Education.

With the 15 percent subsidy she gets from DET Ms Lutu is able to pay a teacher a R475 monthly salary.

Despite having been burgled last Thursday, the eight-roomed Driezik Plot No 10 continues to be a living hope to many parents and children.

In the burglary, windows and doors were broken and expensive fax and photocopying machines stolen. Ms Lutu has laid a complaint with Orange Farm police, but no one has yet been charged, she said.

“We caught the thieves red-handed at 10 pm on Thursday inside the house and took them to the police station, with the keys of the vehicle they drove, but today they’ve been released.”

The person who guarded the house was arrested and is now out on a R200 fine for assaulting the culprit.”

Witwatersrand police spokesman Capt Pieter van Deventer said last night that he could confirm that a man had been arrested in connection with the burglary. The man had appeared in the De Deur Magistrate’s Court yesterday and had been released on bail.
Govt ‘working on’ farmers’ aid package

Political Correspondent

FARMERS in drought-stricken areas will probably find out late next week what sort of aid they can expect from the government.

Agriculture Minister Dr Krasie van Niekerk told Parliament yesterday the measures were still under discussion and had still to be forwarded to cabinet for approval.

Dr Van Niekerk also said that steps to combine general and own affairs agriculture departments were well under way.
Uprooted tribe put through courts again

By DAN DHLAMINI

THE Baralong Ba Modiboa's second attempt to reclaim their land near Potchefstroom this week landed many of the tribesmen in court again.

Baralong Action Committee chairman John Ntimane, 56, and 74 others -- including 24 minors -- appeared before Potchefstroom magistrate Davie de Lajer, charged with trespassing on municipal land.

They were not asked to plead and the hearing was postponed to May 12. Charges against the minors were withdrawn, and the R30 bail granted to each adult was extended.

The hearing was a sequel to the incident on Good Friday when the tribe moved to New Machavi -- also known as Matlwanang -- and allegedly violated terms of an agreement with the Potchefstroom Town Council.

According to the agreement the tribe was given permission to visit Matlwanang from April 16 until noon on April 20 to clean their forefathers' graves.

When the agreement was violated the town council charged the tribesmen with trespassing.

Last year 23 Baralong tribesmen who tried to reoccupy Matlwanang from where they were uprooted in 1971, were arrested.

Hospital disrupted

By STAN MHLONGO

SEBOKENG Hospital was brought to the brink of a standstill this week as hundreds of employees toy-toyed around the hospital grounds in protest against shoddy practices and alleged apartheid at the hospital.

The march, led by the ANC Youth League, SACP and National Education Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) members, brought hospital life to a halt.

Addressing the crowd, ANC Youth League official Sakiwe Khumalo called for:

- Separation of maternity and assault patients in ambulances to avoid embarrassing the expectant mothers;
- Lower ambulance tariffs, exemption of patient fees, and exemption from payment for pensioners, the disabled, the terminally ill and the unemployed;
- More ambulances;
- A living wage for hospital workers; and
- An end to racially segregated hospitals.
Pending food crisis leads to rethink

Own Correspondent
PRETORIA. — A large percentage of South Africa's population, now and in the future, would be unable to afford enough food to maintain health and to support development, deputy director-general of the Agriculture Department Mr C S Blignaut said at the weekend.

Stressing that the affordability of food was under great pressure, Mr Blignaut said consumer income was low because of unemployment and negative or weak economic growth.

Nor would the economy recover overnight, he told a meeting of the Fertiliser Society of SA.

A simple and obvious solution to the problems would be to introduce price control on farm products and consumer prices, Mr Blignaut said.

Another option was to open up the country's borders so that highly subsidised foods could be dumped in South Africa. This might solve the food affordability problem in the short term, but the problems of unemployment and low economic growth would worsen drastically.

Before the drought struck, the economic growth rate was estimated at between 2% and 3%. Taking the drought into account, no growth or negative growth was expected.

Stellenbosch University's Institute for Future Research said black South African consumers in the year 2000 would be overwhelmingly poor — even if the economic growth rate was 3%.

Mr Blignaut said the destruction of agriculture through a cheap food policy would have catastrophic effects on platteland communities.

South Africa's rapid population growth was placing increasing pressure on agricultural resources.

It was estimated that over the next few decades the area of arable land per capita would fall well below the accepted norm of 0.4ha.
'Massive' aid for farmers

CAPE TOWN — Massive state aid for the drought-stricken agricultural sector is expected to far exceed the R1bn allocated for drought relief in the Budget.

Experts believe R3bn would be necessary to address the problems of a sector threatened with total collapse. This estimate appears to be in line with government thinking. Finance Department director-general Gerhard Croeser said at the weekend that additional government expenditure of R2bn — or 2% of the national Budget — was likely this year.

A rescue package for farmers will be considered by the Minister's Council today and by the Cabinet on Wednesday. Agricultural Development superintendent-general Frans van der Merwe said.

Agricultural Minister Kraai van Niekerk is expected to disclose details of the package during the own affairs vote on agricultural development early in May.

Speaking at a Stellenbosch University Business School conference, Croeser said the drought had been far more devastating than anticipated and the R1bn relief allocated in the Budget would not be nearly sufficient to solve farming problems on a sound, long-term basis.

Maize imports will be 80% higher than initially planned.

The additional R2bn would increase the deficit before borrowing to R18bn for

Farm aid

about 5% of GDP from the R16bn (or 4.5%) determined at the time of the Budget.

Croeser said.

Farmers need financial assistance to plant for the new season, to pay employees and to keep up interest payments on debts. The total agricultural debt is estimated at R17bn, with interest payments running at about R2.5bn annually.

Aid measures are expected to include subsidies on interest repayments on old and new debt, subsidies for agricultural inputs, government loans and government guarantees for loans.

National Maize Producers Organisation (Nampo) GM Giel van Zyl said on Friday the agricultural sector would collapse without massive state assistance, and added that 40% of the summer grain producers, who produced 80% of the crop, were threatened with bankruptcy this year.

Whereas it was estimated initially that imports of about 2.5-million tons of maize would be necessary, Maize Board GM Peter Cowie said it was now apparent that 4.6-million tons would have to be imported. Only about one-million or 1.5-million tons from this year's crop of 2.1-million tons would be made commercially available.

Carry-over stock from last year amounted to 900,000 tons.

SA needs 6.7-million tons of maize annually to meet domestic requirements. Only 160,000 tons have been imported so far — mainly from the US and Argentina — and a further 250,000 tons are on route by sea to SA. The total import bill will be about R22bn and government has made arrangements with local banks for loans to pay for the imports.

Agriculture director-general Harry Hattinig said a price of about R450 had been obtained and if the internal selling price — to be announced on May 1 — was in the region of R450-R455 a ton as expected, a profit of about R30 a ton would be achieved. This would mean a gain of about R138m. Hattinig said this would be used to cover part of the fixed cost of government's sales capacity not utilised by local production. These costs total about R247m annually.

GERALD REILLY reports the Wheat Board is to pay financially strapped farmers an additional R17 a ton from the Wheat Reserve Fund.
PRETORIA — The extent to which drought damaged this year’s summer crops is illustrated by Agriculture Department figures released yesterday which show that in some areas yields were as low as a seventh of the 1990/91 season’s levels.

The figures show that in the western Transvaal, where drought damage was greatest, the maize crop was down to 314 000 tons compared with 2,3-million tons last year.

Figures for other areas are: eastern Free State 132 000 tons (699 000 tons last year); northern Free State 415 000 tons (1,2-million); eastern Transvaal 683 000 tons (1,95-million); PWV 232 000 tons (755 000); northern Cape 126 000 tons (408 000); southern Free State 35 000 tons (118 000).

The department estimates the total crop at 2,433-million tons, compared with 7,8-million tons last year.

The white maize yield was 923 000 tons (3,8-million) — one of the lowest yet recorded. Domestic demand for white maize is about 3,3-million tons.

Other summer crops were also devastated — sunflower seed was reduced to 170 000 tons, compared with 589 000 tons last year; soya beans were down to 72 000 tons from 128 000, and grain sorghum to 55 000 tons from 240 000 tons.

Nampo GM Giel van Zyl said the figures showed the extent of the 1991/92 summer drought disaster and underlined the urgent need for “big” government aid for farmers.

Later this week Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk is expected to announce additional state aid, which experts predict will not be less than R2bn. Government has already allocated R1bn.

Our correspondent reports from Port Elizabeth that a purchasing scheme whereby farmers could purchase breeding stock from drought disaster areas to save them being slaughtered, has been announced by the Meat Board.

Farmers who have the grazing to use such animals for future production purposes may apply for loans at reduced interest rates to purchase such animals.

Red Meat Producers Organisation (RPO) spokesman Jan van der Walt said yesterday this would ease the pressure on the slaughter stock market. “The drought situation is deteriorating progressively and it is a matter of great urgency that suitable breeding stock are removed from the drought disaster areas.”

Meanwhile, two ships, carrying 41 000 tons of wheat and maize for SA and Zimbabwe, are scheduled to dock in Port Elizabeth today.

The bulk cargo carrier Constanza M is expected today, bringing 14 000 tons of wheat from Canada as part of a drought relief programme.

Also docking today with 27 000 tons of maize from the Argentine, destined for Zimbabwe, will be the cargo ship World Area.
Back at the ranch, healthy herds make for healthy humans

The farmers' fight against TB and other diseases is on, reports Agricultural Correspondent GEORGE NICHOLAS.

The high cost of having their herds tested at regular intervals by their private veterinarians has forced many farmers to reject this option. A working group of the Red Meat Producers Organisation (RPO) and the State Veterinary Service have held discussions on a possible solution to the problem, and its recommendations are among the various options being considered at an RPO congress held in Pretoria yesterday and today.

The motion points out that the first priority requiring attention is the lack of sufficient funds for combating the diseases and it urges the congress to express support for the principle of a levy contribution b the red meat industry.

The motion is to be submitted by the northern Cape an eastern Cape branches of the organisation.

Another motion express concern about the ever-widening gap between producer and consumer prices of red meat.
SA is beginning to lose pariah status

WHAT was once a rocky road to re-acceptance in Africa has suddenly begun to look something like a five-lane freeway for South Africa.

This country is rapidly finding acceptance at the levels of government, business, sport, culture and academics.

A striking sign of this was the meeting in Pretoria last week of government representatives from Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa to coordinate the transport of emergency maize shipments from South African ports.

It was the first time representatives of all these governments had sat down in South Africa with officials of a government they had until recently spurned as a pariah.

To some extent they were driven to the meeting by need, made urgent by the drought. It was nevertheless the respectability bestowed on Pretoria by the waning of apartheid that made it politically and morally possible for them to attend the meeting.

Pretoria may have been tempted to exploit its neighbours’ starvation by exacting a political fee for transporting their emergency maize imports, such as getting their agreement to establish a permanent regional organisation revolving around South Africa.

If it was, it resisted the temptation and accepted the creation of a lesser body: a committee to coordinate emergency shipments.

The mere fact of the meeting was perhaps seen as enough of an advance, for it established the acceptability not only of meeting jointly with South Africa at government level but of doing so on its own turf.

This is almost as good as restoring diplomatic relations, as several African states have recently done.

Other recent signs of the new order were the reopening of postal services to Angola after 16 years of boycott and the almost bizarre case of South African soldiers going back to Angola to help lift the landmines that they and other combatants strew thickly during the war.

This week it is the business community’s turn to demonstrate how smoothly the traffic of trade is now moving between South Africa and the rest of the continent.

At the invitation of the South African Foreign Trade Organisation, businessmen from several African countries and representatives of trade and aid bodies met at the Carlton Hotel in Johannesburg to discuss what Safco calls “a new scenario for trade and investment” in Southern Africa.

The conference will have minimal government and academic representation.

The more than 20 speakers will include representatives of private corporations and of trade and development organisations from both Africa and Europe, such as the African Development Bank and the Organisation for Co-operation and Development.

Even more notable will be the presence of three African bodies that once avoided South Africa like the plague: the Preferential Trade Area, the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference and Tanzania’s Investment Promotion Centre.

Mr Paul Runge, head of Safco’s African operations, says the conference will “give other Africans a chance to pitch themselves at the South Africans, the multilaterals and the Europeans”.

Runge says it is yet another example of how the positive vote in the white referendum has “opened the flood gates”.

At the sporting level South Africa has been formally welcomed back into Africa in several fields. The country’s weightlifters competed in Kenya and South Africa took part in the African badminton championships in Mauritius.

Former Zambian president Kenneth Kaunda will be the guest speaker tonight at a banquet organised by the Potchefstroom Town Council.

So the road to Africa seems to be wide open in all lanes.

If there are any stop signs they are economic rather than political.
Murder on farm prompts grim warning

By Shirley Woodgate

An 82-year-old widow was found murdered on her Verkeerdevlei farm early yesterday morning, bringing to eight the number of people who have died violently in attacks on Free State farms in the last four months.

Six of the murders were committed in the Verkeerdevlei area, said a police spokesman.

The latest attack has prompted a warning from OFS Agricultural Union president Dr Piet Gous that "the hunting season on the elderly in rural areas is open. The Government must immediately implement resolutions passed by my union and realise that it is not the new constitution which is the top priority in South Africa, but the killing of whites and blacks."

Police found Jeanetta Pretorius dead in the bedroom of the farm Rietsoor yesterday. Mrs Pretorius had lived alone on the farm after her husband died last year, said the police spokesman.

The latest slaying comes two months after hundreds of farmers from across the Free State, politicians, and top SADF and SAP officials attended a congress specially convened by Dr Gous in Bloemfontein.

Tough resolutions included calls for a drastic increase in the number of police in the Free State rural areas and financial help for farmers to buy 24-hour radio equipment, safety fences, guards and patrols.

Farmers also approved resolutions stressing the prevention of illegal squatting and promotion of anti-trespassing legislation. They called on the Government to allow national servicemen who had completed their basic training to do further military duty in their own areas.
8. Indien 'n kworum by die tweede vergadering van ouers bedoel in regulasie 5 (b), weer nie teenwoordig is nie, kanselieer die voorstitter die vergadering en stel hy die streekhoofdirekteur skriflik daarvan in kennis en die streekhoofdirekteur stel die Direkteur-generaal dienoooreenkomstig in kennis wat op sy beurt die Minister in kennis stel.

9. In 'n geval bedoel in regulasie 8, bepaal die Minister na die goeddruke, maar na ooreenkomst met die Raad, die taalmediumbeleid vir die betrokke skool.

No. R. 1176
30 April 1992

WET OP ONDERWYS EN OPLEIDING, 1979
(WET 90 VAN 1979)

REGULASIES BETREFFENDE BESTUURSLIGGAME VIR STAATSONDERSTEUNDE PLAASSKOLE, 19...

Die Minister van Onderwys en Opleiding het kragtens artikel 44 van die Wet op Onderwys en Opleiding, 1979 (Wet 90 van 1979), die regulasies in die Bylae hiervan vervat, uitgevaardig.

BYLAE

Omskrywings

1. In hierdie regulasies het enige uitdrukking waarvan in die Wet 'n betekenis geheg is, die betekenis aldus daaraan geheg, en, tensy uit die samehang anders blyk, beteken—

"bestuursliggaam", met betrekking tot 'n skool, 'n bestuursliggaam ooreenkomstig regulasie 3 saamgestel;

"die Wet" die Wet op Onderwys en Opleiding, 1979 (Wet 90 van 1979);

"inspekteur" 'n kringinspekteur of enige ander beaampte kragtens artikel 33 (1) van die Wet gemagtig om 'n inspeksie te hou of 'n ondersoek te doen met betrekking tot enige aangetoon in daardie artikel bedoel;

"kringinspekteur" 'n beaampte van die Departement wat in beheer is van onderwysers in 'n inspeksiekring deur die Minister kragtens artikel 2 (2) van die Wet bepaal;

"plaas" ook 'n landbouhoewe;

"skool" 'n Staatsondersteunde skool op 'n plaas geleë;

"streekhoofdirekteur" 'n beaampte van die Departement wat in beheer is van onderwysers in 'n streek deur die Minister kragtens artikel 2 (2) van die Wet bepaal.

Bestuursliggaame ingestel kragtens artikel 8 (8) van die Wet

2. (1) 'n Bestuursliggaam bedoel in artikel 8 (8) van die Wet bestaan vir alle doeleindes voort totdat dit deur 'n bestuursliggaam bedoel in artikel 8 (9) van die Wet en saamgestel ooreenkomstig hierdie regulasies, verwag word.

No. R. 1176
30 April 1992

EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACT, 1979
(Act 90 of 1979)

GOVERNING BODY REGULATIONS FOR STATE-AIDED FARM SCHOOLS, 19...

The Minister of Education and Training has under section 44 of the Education and Training Act, 1979 (Act 90 of 1979), made the regulations contained in the Schedule hereto.

SCHEDULE

Definitions

1. In these regulations, any expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act, shall have the meaning so assigned thereto, and, unless the context otherwise indicates—

"circuit inspector" means an officer of the Department who is in control of education in an inspection circuit determined by the Minister in terms of section 2 (2) of the Act;

"farm" includes an agricultural holding;

"governing body", in relation to a school, means a governing body constituted in accordance with regulation 3;

"Inspector" means a circuit inspector or any other officer authorised in terms of section 33 (1) of the Act to hold an inspection or an inquiry in regard to any matter referred to in that section;

"regional chief director" means an officer of the Department who is in control of education in a region determined by the Minister in terms of section 2 (2) of the Act;

"school" means a State-aided school situated on a farm;


Governing bodies instituted in terms of section 8 (8) of the Act

2. (1) A governing body referred to in section 8 (8) of the Act shall for all purposes continue to exist until replaced by a governing body referred to in section 8 (9) of the Act and constituted in terms of these regulations.
(2) Wanneer 'n bestuursliggaam bedoel in artikel 8 (8) vervang word deur 'n bestuursliggaam saamgestel ooreenkomstig hierdie regulasies, gaan die regte, verpligtinge, bevoegdheede en pligte van eersgenoemde oor op laasgenoemde.

**Samestelling**

3. (1) 'n Bestuursliggaam bedoel in artikel 8 (9) van die Wet bestaam uit hoogstens vyf lede en word soos volg saamgestel:

(a) Die eienaar van die skool of sy verteenwoordiger, wat 'n persoon moet wees wat deur die Direkteur-generaal goedgekeur is: Met dien verstande dat as die eienaar uit 'n liggaam van persone bestaan, die eienaar sodanige verteenwoordiger aanstel;

(b) vier persone uit die gelede deur die ouers van leerlinge wat die skool bywoon, verkies op 'n wyse deur die streekhoofdirekteur bepaal: Met dien verstande dat regulasies 18 en 19 van die Regulasies betreffende Rade en Komitees vir Openbare Skole, 1982, mutatis mutandis van toepassing is op verkieatings ingevolge hierdie paragraaf.

(2) Die bestuursliggaam kies 'n voorsitter en 'n visiovoorsitter uit die gelede.

(3) Indien die ouers van leerlinge wat die skool bywoon, om enige rede in gebreke bly om 'n lid bedoel in subregulase die (1) (b) te verkies, wys die streekhoofdirecteur 'n persoon uit die gelede van die ouers aan om die vakature te vul.

(4) Geen vakature in die bestuursliggaam of tekort in die ledetal van die bestuursliggaam raak—

(a) die geldigheid van die samesteling van die bestuursliggaam of sy voortgesette bestaan nie;

(b) behoudens enige bepaling van hierdie regulasies betreffende 'n kworum, enigé wat die bestuursliggaam verrig nie.

**Sekretaris van bestuursliggaam**

4. (1) Die bestuursliggaam kies uit die gelede 'n sekretaris van die bestuursliggaam, en indien die sekretaris afwesig is van 'n vergadering van die bestuursliggaam, wys die bestuursliggaam een van sy lede aan om by sodanige vergadering as sekretaris van die bestuursliggaam op te tree.

(2) Die principe of, wanneer die pos vakant is, die waarnemende principe is ex officio die assistent-sekretaris van die bestuursliggaam, en staan die sekretaris by met die opstel van agendas en die skryf van notules.

(3) Die assistent-sekretaris van 'n bestuursliggaam kan aan die besprekings op 'n vergadering van die bestuursliggaam deelneem en aanbevelings by die bestuursliggaam doen, maar het nie stemreg op sodanige vergadering nie.

(2) When a governing body referred to in section 8 (8) is replaced by a governing body constituted in terms of these regulations, the rights, liabilities, powers and duties of the former shall pass to the latter.

**Constitution**

3. (1) A governing body referred to in section 8 (9) of the Act shall consist of not more than five members and shall be constituted as follows:

(a) The owner of the school or his representative, who shall be a person approved by the Director-General: Provided that if the owner consists of a body of persons the owner shall appoint such representative;

(b) four persons elected from among their number by the parents of pupils attending the school, in a manner determined by the regional chief director: Provided that regulations 18 and 19 of the Regulations regarding Councils and Committees for Public Schools, 1982, shall apply mutatis mutandis to elections in terms of this paragraph.

(2) The governing body shall elect a chairman and a vice-chairman from among their number.

(3) Should the parents of pupils attending the school for any reason fail to elect a member referred to in subregulation (1) (b) the regional chief director shall designate a person from among the parents to fill the vacancy.

(4) No vacancy in the governing body or deficiency in the number of members of the governing body shall—

(a) affect the validity of the constitution of the governing body or its continued existence;

(b) subject to any provision of these regulations regarding a quorum, affect anything done by the governing body.

**Secretary of governing body**

4. (1) The governing body shall elect from among their number a secretary of the governing body, and if the secretary is absent from a meeting of the governing body, the governing body shall designate one of its members to act as secretary of the governing body at such meeting.

(2) The principal or, when the post is vacant, the acting principal shall ex officio be the assistant secretary of the governing body, and shall assist the secretary in the drawing up of agendas and the writing of minutes.

(3) The assistant secretary of a governing body may take part in the discussions at a meeting of the governing body and make recommendations to the body, but shall not have the right to vote at such meeting.
Ampstemyn van lede van 'n bestuursliggaam

5. (1) Behoudens die bepalings van hierdie regulasies bekleen 'n lid van 'n bestuursliggaam, uitgesonder die eienaar of sy verteenwoordiger, sy amp vir 'n tydperk van drie jaar, teny hy voor die verstryking van sy ampstemyn bedank deur sy bedanking skryflik by die sekretaris van die bestuursliggaam in te dien of sy amp om enige ander rede ontruim.

(2) Wanneer 'n bestuursliggaam hersaamgestel moet word as gevolg van die verstryking van die ampstemyn van sy lede, moet die vergadering van kiesers vir die verkiesing van die lede in regulasie 3 (1) (b) beoor, plaasvind voordat die ampstemyn, of die verlengde ampstemyn in subregulase (4) beoor, verstryk, en in so 'n geval neem die ampstemyn van die nuut verkose lede 'n aanvang op die dag wat volg op die dag waarop die ampstemyn van die bestaande lede verstryk.

(3) Indien dit as gevolg van onrust of enige ander omstandighede buite die beheer van die kiesbeampte nie moontlik is om 'n vergadering van kiesers vir die verkiesing van die lede beoor in regulasie 3 (1) (b) voor die verstryking van die ampstemyn van die bestaande lede van die bestuursliggaam byeen te roep nie, bly die bestaande lede beoor in regulasie 3 (1) (b), ondanks die bepalings van subregulase (1), nog drie jaar lank in hul amp aan: Met dien verstande dat die betrokke streekhoofdirekteur kan gelaas dat 'n verkiesing van nuwe lede ingeval regulasie 3 (1) (b) so gou moontlik gehou word, in welke geval die persone aldus verkies, hul amp bekleek vir die oorlywendes deel van die termyn waarvoor hul voorgangers hul amp sou bekleek het as dit nie vir die verstryking was nie.

(4) Ondanks die bepalings van subregulase (1) en (3) kan die betrokke streekhoofdirekteur na goeddunken die ampstemyn van lede van 'n bestuursliggaam verleng: Met dien verstande dat 'n verlenging van 'n ampstemyn met meer as 12 maande nie mag geskied sonder die vooraf verkree toestemming van die Direkteur-generaal nie.

(5) Indien die lede van 'n bestuursliggaam hul normale ampstemyn soos vermeld in subregulase (1) as gevolg van die werking van subregulase (4) oorskry, word die lede van die daaropvolgende bestuursliggaam verkies slegs vir die oorlywende deel van die ampstemyn wat hulle normaalweg sou uitlei.

Beëindiging van lidmaatskap

6. Die lidmaatskap van enige lid van 'n bestuursliggaam in regulasie 3 (1) (b) bedoel, kan te eniger tyd deur die Minister, na oorlegpleging met die eienaar van die skool, beëindig word as die Minister van oordeel is dat die optrede of gedrag van die betrokke lid nie die belange van die skool of van die onderwys bevorder nie.

Term of office of members of a governing body

5. (1) Subject to the provisions of these regulations, a member of a governing body other than the owner or his or its representative, shall hold office for a period of three years unless he resigns by submitting his resignation in writing to the secretary of the governing body or vacates his office for any other reason before the expiry of his term of office.

(2) When a governing body is required to be reconstituted as a result of the expiry of the term of office of its members, the meeting of voters for the election of the members contemplated in regulation 3 (1) (b) shall take place before the term of office, or the extended term of office contemplated in subregulation (4) expires, and in such case the term of office of the newly elected members shall commence on the day following the day on which the term of office of the existing members expires.

(3) If, as a result of unrest or any other circumstances beyond the control of the electoral officer, it is not possible to convene a meeting of voters for the election of the members contemplated in regulation 3 (1) (b) before the expiry of the term of office of the existing members of the governing body, the existing members contemplated in regulation 3 (1) (b) shall, notwithstanding the provisions of subregulation (1), remain in office for another three years: Provided that the regional chief director concerned may direct that an election of new members in terms of regulation 3 (1) (b), be held as soon as possible, in which case the persons so elected shall hold office for the remainder of the term for which their precursors would have held office had it not been for the election.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subregulations (1) and (3) the regional chief director concerned may at his discretion extend the term of office of the members of any governing body: Provided that an extension of any term of office for longer than 12 months shall not occur without the prior approval of the Director-General.

(5) Should the members of a governing body exceed their normal term of office as stated in subregulation (1) as a result of the operation of subregulation (4), the members of the succeeding governing body shall only be elected for the remainder of the term of office that they would normally have served.

Termination of membership

6. The membership of any member of a governing body referred to in regulation 3 (1) (b) may be terminated by the Minister at any time after consultation with the owner of the school if the Minister is of the opinion that the conduct or behaviour of the member concerned does not promote the interests of the school or of education.
Dagbestuur van 'n bestuursliggaam

7. (1) Die dagbestuur van 'n bestuursliggaam bestaan uit die voorisitter, die visevoorsitter, die sekretaris, een ander lid deur die bestuursliggaam vir hierdie doel aangewys en die assistentsekretaris.

(2) Die assistentsekretaris kan aan die besprekings op vergaderings van die dagbestuur deelneem en kan aanbevelings by die dagbestuur doen, maar het nie stemreg op sodoenige vergaderings nie.

(3) 'n Bestuursliggaam kan enige van sy bevoegdhede en werkzaamhede aan sy dagbestuur opdra: Met dien verstande dat die bestuursliggaam nie ontdoen is van 'n bevoegdheid of werkzaamheid wat hy aan sy dagbestuur opgedra het nie, en dat hy enige besluit van die dagbestuur op sy eerste vergadering nadat die onderhavige besluit geneem is, kan wysig of ter syde stel.

(4) Die kworum vir 'n vergadering van 'n dagbestuur is drie lede van die dagbestuur.

(5) By 'n stemming op 'n vergadering van 'n dagbestuur het die voorisitter slegs 'n beraadslagende stem.

(6) Die sekretaris van die bestuursliggaam is ook die sekretaris van die dagbestuur.

(7) Notule moet gehou word van elke vergadering van die dagbestuur en sodanige notule moet op die eersvolgende vergadering van die bestuursliggaam vir goedkeuring voorgelê word.

Belê van vergaderings van bestuursliggaame

8. (1) Die eerste vergadering van 'n bestuursliggaam word deur die betrokke kringinspector belê, en op hierdie vergadering word die bestuursliggaam behoorlik gekonstitueer: Met dien verstande dat die datum van die vergadering nie later nie as drie weke na die datum van die aanvang van die ampstermyn van die lede moet wees: Met dien verstande voorts dat die hou van die eerste vergadering op 'n later datum na goedgunste deur die kringinspector goedgekeur kan word.

(2) Ondanks die bepalings van subreguliasie (1) mag 'n bestuursliggaam wat hersaamgestel is met die oog op die verstrekking van die ampstermyn van die vorige lede, nie vergader voordat bedoelde ampstermyn verstryk het nie.

Eerste vergadering van 'n bestuursliggaam

9. Op sy eerste vergadering moet 'n bestuursliggaam—

(a) 'n voorisitter en 'n visevoorsitter ooreenkomstig regulasie 3 (2) en 'n sekretaris ooreenkomstig regulasie 4 (1) kies;
(b) 'n dagbestuur ooreenkomstig regulasie 7 (1) saamstel;
(c) besluit hoe lank vooraf kennis van 'n buitenegewone vergadering geege moet word;
(d) die procedure bepaal wat gevolg moet word in verband met kennisgewings betreffende 'n buitenegewone vergadering;

Executive committee of a governing body

7. (1) The executive committee of a governing body shall consist of the chairman, the vice-chairman, the secretary, one other member designated by the governing body for this purpose and the assistant secretary.

(2) The assistant secretary may take part in the discussions at meetings of the executive committee and may make recommendations to the executive committee, but shall not have the right to vote at such meetings.

(3) A governing body may assign any of its powers and functions to its executive committee: Provided that the governing body shall not be divested of any power or function which it has assigned to its executive committee and that it may alter or set aside any decision of the executive committee at its first meeting after the decision in question has been made.

(4) The quorum for any meeting of an executive committee shall be three members of the executive committee.

(5) In voting at a meeting of an executive committee, the chairman shall have a deliberative vote only.

(6) The secretary of the governing body shall also be the secretary of the executive committee.

(7) Minutes shall be kept of every meeting of the executive committee and such minutes shall be submitted for approval at the first ensuing meeting of the governing body.

Convening of meetings of governing bodies

8. (1) The first meeting of any governing body shall be convened by the circuit inspector concerned, and at this meeting the governing body shall be duly constituted: Provided that the date of the meeting shall not be later than three weeks after the date of the commencement of the term of office of the members: Provided further that the holding of the first meeting on a later date may be approved by the circuit inspector if he sees fit to do so.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subregulation (1), a governing body which has been reconstituted in view of the termination of the term of office of the previous members shall not meet before the term of office referred to has terminated.

First meeting of a governing body

9. At its first meeting a governing body shall—

(a) elect a chairman and a vice-chairman in accordance with regulation 3 (2) and a secretary in accordance with regulation 4 (1);
(b) constitute an executive committee in accordance with regulation 7 (1);
(c) decide on the length of the period of notice that shall be given for an extraordinary meeting;
(d) determine the procedure to be followed in connection with notices concerning any extraordinary meeting;
(e) sodanige ander sake behandel as wat omstandighede vereis.

**Daaropvolgende vergaderings van 'n bestuursliggaam**

10. (1) Gewone vergaderings van 'n bestuursliggaam moet minstens een maal per kwartaal gehou word.

(2) Die kennisgewings van vergaderings moet die dag, tyd en plek van die vergadering uitdruklik vermeld en vergelser gaan van 'n sake lys.

(3) Kennisgewings van gewone vergaderings moet skriflik wees en moet op gesag van die voorstter deur die sekretaris van die bestuursliggaam aan die lede gepos of persoonlik aan hulle oorhandig word sodat dit minstens aang de dag van die vergadering in hul besit is.

(4) Behoudens die bepalling van regulasie 12 doen die nie-ontvangers van 'n kennisgawe bedoel in subregulasie (2) en die gevolglike afwesigheid van 'n lid nie afbreuk aan die geldigheid van die verringtigte op sodanige vergadering nie.

(5) Indien die voorstter om enige rede versuim of in gebreke bly om minstens 'n gewone vergadering per kwartaal te belê, kan die visiesoorter of minstens vier lede na afloop van 'n kwartaal waartydens daar nie so 'n vergadering gehou is nie, die sekretaris van die bestuursliggaam gelaas om 'n vergadering te belê en aan al die lede kennisgewings uit te reik waarin die dag, tyd en plek van die vergadering vermeld word.

(6) Die voorstter kan te eniger tyd 'n buitengewone vergadering belê indien omstandighede so 'n vergadering na sy oordeel noodsaak: Met dien verstande dat so 'n vergadering belê moet word op die skriflike versoek van minstens vier lede van die bestuursliggaam.

(7) Die voorstter moet 'n vergadering van die bestuursliggaam of van die dagbestuur belê indien die betrokke streekhoofdirekteur of kringinspekteur hom aldus versoek.

**Notule**

11. (1) Die notule van elke vergadering van 'n bestuursliggaam word in die taal wat die liggaam bepaal, deur die sekretaris van die bestuursliggaam gehou in 'n boek of leër wat uitsluitlik vir die doel gebruik word en wat deur daardie sekretaris in veilige bewaring by die skool gehou moet word.

(2) Die sekretaris van 'n bestuursliggaam moet die name van die lede wat teenwoordig is en wat afwesig is, met vermelding daarvan of sodanige afwesigheid met of sonder verlof is, in die notule van elke vergadering aanteken.

(3) Nadat 'n gewone vergadering gekonstitueer is, word die notule van die vorige gewone vergadering sowel as die notule van enige daaropvolgende buitengewone vergadering of enige vergadering van die dagbestuur gelees en deur die handtekening van die voorstter bekratig: Met dien verstande dat besware teen die notule vor die bekratiging daarvan geopner en afgehandel moet word.

(e) deal with such other matters as circumstances may require.

**Subsequent meetings of a governing body**

10. (1) Ordinary meetings of a governing body shall be held at least once a quarter.

(2) The notices of meetings shall state explicitly the day, time and venue of the meeting and shall be accompanied by an agenda.

(3) Notices of ordinary meetings shall be in writing and shall be posted or personally handed to the members by the secretary of the governing body on the authority of the chairman, so as to be in their possession at least eight days before the day of the meeting concerned.

(4) Subject to the provisions of regulation 12, the non-receipt of a notice referred to in subregulation (2) and the consequent absence of a member shall not be prejudicial to the validity of the proceedings at such meeting.

(5) Should the chairman for any reason neglect or fail to convene at least one ordinary meeting a quarter, the vice-chairman or at least four members may on the expiry of a quarter during which no such meeting was held, direct the secretary of the governing body to convene a meeting and to issue notices to all the members in which the day, time and venue of the meeting are stated.

(6) The chairman may at any time convene an extraordinary meeting if, in his opinion, circumstances necessitate such a meeting: Provided that such a meeting shall be convened if at least four members of the governing body request it in writing.

(7) The chairman shall convene a meeting of the governing body or of the executive committee should the regional chief director or circuit inspector concerned request him to do so.

**Minutes**

11. (1) The minutes of every meeting of a governing body shall be recorded, in the language determined by the body, by the secretary of the governing body in a book or file which shall be used for that purpose exclusively and which shall be retained at the school in safekeeping by that secretary.

(2) The secretary of a governing body shall record the names of the members who are present and who are absent, stating whether such absence is with or without leave, in the minutes of every meeting.

(3) After an ordinary meeting has been constituted, the minutes of the previous ordinary meeting, as well as the minutes of any subsequent extraordinary meeting or any meeting of the executive committee, shall be read and confirmed by the signature of the chairman: Provided that objections to the minutes shall be raised and dealt with before the minutes are confirmed.
(4) Die notule van 'n bestuursliggaam moet te alle redelike tye by die skool ter insae lê van 'n lid van sodanige liggaam en die betrokke kringinspreekte of 'n deur hom daartoe gemagtigde beantwoord. Met dien verstande dat die kringinspreekte kan versoek dat 'n akskrif van die notule van enige vergadering aan hom beskikbaar gestel word.

**Kworum**

12. (1) Die kworum vir 'n vergadering van 'n bestuursliggaam is vier lede van die bestuursliggaam.

(2) Indien daar op 'n vergadering wat behoorlik belê is, nie 'n kworum teenwoordig is nie, word sodanige vergadering uitgestel tot 'n dag minstens eer, maar hoogstens tien, dae vanaf die dag waarop sodanige vergadering belê is, en op die alud bespaalde dag handel die vergadering, wat coreenkomstig regu lasie 10 (2) en (3) belê moet word, die agenda af, ongeag of daar 'n kworum is.

**Stemming**

13. (1) Alle sake wat op 'n vergadering van 'n bestuursliggaam bespreek word, word beslis deur 'n meerderheid van die lede van die bestuursliggaam wat teenwoordig is en stem.

(2) 'n Lid van 'n bestuursliggaam beskik oor een stem wanneer 'n saak tot stemming gebring word: Met dien verstande dat, in die geval van 'n staking van stemme, die voorsitter of die persoon wat in sy afwesigheid as voorsitter optree, benewens sy beraadslagende stem ook 'n beslissende stem het.

(3) Ten opsigte van elke besluit word daar genotuleer hoeveel lede ten gunste van of teen 'n moste gestem het, en op versoek van 'n lid gelas die voorsitter dat die stem van sodanige lid aangeteken word.

(4) Wanneer die voorsitter so reël, word daar by wyse van stembriefjes gestem.

**Beslissing van voorsitter**

14. Die beslissing van die voorsitter op 'n punt van orde of procedure is bindend ten spyte van 'n lid dit onmiddellik betwis, in welke geval sodanige beslissing sonder bespreking voorgestel word aan die vergadering, wie se beslissing finaal is.

**Bywoning van vergaderings deur nie lede en verlaating van vergadering deur principaal**

15. (1) Elke vergadering van 'n bestuursliggaam is 'n geslote vergadering en, behoudens die bepalinge van hierdie regulasies, word niemand wat nie 'n lid is nie, toegelaat om dit by te woon nie.

(2) Die bestuursliggaam kan besluit dat die betrokke principaal die vergadering tydelik moet verlaat wanneer 'n aangeleentheid rakende sy persoon bespreek word.

(4) The minutes of a governing body shall lie open to inspection at the school at all reasonable times to a member of such body and the circuit inspector concerned or any officer authorised by him thereto: Provided that the circuit inspector may request that a copy of the minutes of any meeting be made available to him.

**Quorum**

12. (1) The quorum for a meeting of a governing body shall be four members of the governing body.

(2) If there is no quorum present at any properly convened meeting, such meeting shall be postponed to a day at least eight, but not more than twelve, days from the day on which such meeting was convened, and on the day so determined the meeting, which shall be convened in accordance with regulation 10 (2) and (3), shall deal with the agenda, irrespective of whether there is a quorum.

**Voting**

13. (1) All matters discussed at a meeting of a governing body shall be decided by a majority of the members of the governing body who are present and voting.

(2) A member of a governing body shall have one vote when a matter is put to the vote: Provided that, in the event of an equality of votes, the chairman or the person acting as chairman in his absence shall, in addition to his deliberative vote, also have a casting vote.

(3) In respect of every decision, the number of members voting for or against any motion shall be recorded in the minutes, and at the request of any member the chairman shall direct that the vote of such member be recorded.

(4) When so ruled by the chairman, voting shall be by ballot.

**Ruling of chairman**

14. The ruling of the chairman on a point of order or procedure shall be binding unless immediately challenged by a member, in which event such ruling shall be submitted, without discussion, to the meeting, whose decision shall be final.

**Attendance of meetings by none-members and leaving of meeting by principal**

15. (1) Every meeting of a governing body shall be a closed meeting and, save as provided in these regulations, no person who is not a member shall be permitted to attend.

(2) The governing body may decide that the principal concerned should absent himself temporarily from the meeting when any matter concerning his person is discussed.
(3) Indien die bestuursliggaam die teenwoordigheid van 'n personeel lid van die betrokke skool op enige vergadering van die bestuursliggaam verlang in verband met enige saak wat binne die voorgeskrewe pligte van 'n bestuursliggaam val, moet die betrokke personeel lid, wanneer hy daartoe versoek word, sodanige vergadering bywoon vir sodanige tydperk as wat die bestuursliggaam bepaal.

(4) Indien 'n bestuursliggaam dit nodig ag, kan enige ander persoon wat na die oordeel van die bestuursliggaam moontlik ingelitig kan verskaf oor enige saak wat binne die bevoegdheid van die bestuursliggaam val, 'n vergadering van die bestuursliggaam bywoon vir sodanige tydperk as wat die bestuursliggaam bepaal.

(5) Enige beampte wat daartoe gemagtig is deur die Direkteur-generaal of deur die betrokke streekhoofdirekteur of kringinspekteur, het die reg om enige vergadering van 'n bestuursliggaam in 'n raadgewende hoedanigheid of as waarnemer by te woon.

Prosedure ten opsigte van vakatures en die afwezigheid van lede van bestuursliggaam

16. (1) 'n Lid van 'n bestuursliggaam bedoel in regulasie 3 (1) (b)—
   (a) wat bedank;
   (b) wat te sterwe kom;
   (c) wat nie meer ingevolge die regulasies bedoel in regulasie 3 (1) (b) as lid ingevolge daardie regulasie kwalifiseer nie;
   (d) wat van drie algopenaagdige gewone vergaderings sonder kennisgewing of 'n vir die bestuursliggaam aanvaarbare rede afwesig was; of
   (e) wie se lidmaatskap kragtens regulasie 6 beëindig word;

hou op om 'n lid van die betrokke bestuursliggaam te wees.

(2) Indien die amp van voorsitter, vicevoorsitter of sekretaris vakant raak, kies die lede van die bestuursliggaam iemand uit eie geledere om die betrokke amp te vul.

(3) Indien die voorsitter afwesig is van 'n vergadering van die bestuursliggaam, neem die visevoorsitter as voorsitter waar en indien ook die visevoorsitter afwesig is van 'n vergadering, kies die bestuursliggaam iemand uit eie geledere om op die vergadering voor te sit.

(4) Indien 'n lid afwesig is van 'n gewone vergadering van die bestuursliggaam sonder om 'n vir die bestuursliggaam aanvaarbare rede vir sy afwesigheid te verstrek, moet die sekretaris van die bestuursliggaam hom skriftelik versoek om die rede vir sy afwesigheid te verstrek.

(5) Indien die amp van 'n lid van 'n bestuursliggaam ingevolge subregulase (1) vakant geraak het, moet die voorsitter op die eersvolgende vergadering verklar dat sodanige vakature ontstaan het en die redes vir die vakature verstrek.

(3) If the governing body requires the presence of a staff member of the school concerned at any meeting of the governing body in connection with any matter falling within the prescribed duties of a governing body, the staff member concerned shall, when requested to do so, attend such meeting for such period as the governing body may determine.

(4) If a governing body considers it necessary any other person who, in the opinion of the governing body, may be able to provide information on any matter falling within the jurisdiction of the governing body may attend any meeting of the governing body for such period as the governing body may determine.

(5) Any officer authorised thereto by the Director-General or by the regional chief director or circuit inspector concerned shall have the right to attend any meeting of a governing body in an advisory capacity or as an observer.

Procedure in respect of vacancies and the absence of members of governing bodies

16. (1) A member of a governing body referred to in regulation 3 (1) (b)—
   (a) who resigns;
   (b) who dies;
   (c) who no longer, in terms of the regulations referred to in regulation 3 (1) (b), qualifies to be a member in terms of that regulation;
   (d) who has been absent without notice or a reason acceptable to the governing body from three consecutive ordinary meetings; or
   (e) whose membership is terminated in terms of regulation 6;

shall cease to be a member of the governing body concerned.

(2) If the office of chairman, vice-chairman or secretary becomes vacant, the members of the governing body shall, from among their number, elect a person to the office in question.

(3) If the chairman is absent from a meeting of the governing body, the vice-chairman shall act as chairman, and if both the chairman and the vice-chairman are absent from a meeting, the governing body shall, from among their number, elect a person to preside at the meeting.

(4) If a member is absent from any ordinary meeting of the governing body without stating a reason acceptable to the governing body for his absence, the secretary of the governing body shall request him, in writing, to state the reason for his absence.

(5) If the office of a member of any governing body has become vacant in terms of subregulation (1), the chairman shall at the next meeting declare that such vacancy has occurred and shall state the reasons for the vacancy.
(6) 'n Vakature veroorsaak deur die dood of ont- 
ruiming van die amp van 'n lid in regulasie 3 (1) (b) 
bedoel, word gevul by wyse van verkiesing deur die 
oiers van leerlinge ooreenkomstig daardie regulasie, 
vir die oorblywende deel van die ampttermyn van die 
lid wie se amp vakant geraak het.

(7) Die sekretaris van 'n bestuursliggaam moet 
onmiddellik nadat 'n vakature ingevolge subregulase 
(2) of (6) gevul is, die betrokke kringinspektor in kennis 
stel van die naam van die lid wie se amp vakant 
geraak het, die redes vir die vakature en die naam en 
adres van die lid wat verkies is om sodanige vakature 
te vul.

(8) Die kringinspektor moet onverwyld—
(a) die lid wat ingevolge subregulase (2) verkies is, 
van sy verkiesing en ampttermyn in kennis 
stel;
(b) 'n lid wie se lidmaatskap ingevolge subregulase 
(1) (c) of (d) beëindig is, van die beëindiging van 
sy lidmaatskap in kennis stel;
(c) die inligting beoog in subregulase (7) skriflik 
aan die betrokke streekhoofdirekteur verstrek.

**Bevoegdheede en werksaamhede van 'n 
bestuursliggaam**

17. (1) Benewens die bevoegdheede en werksaam- 
hede wat bestuursliggaam by hierdie regulasies ver- 
leen of opgelê word, is die bevoegdheede en werksaam- 
hede van 'n bestuursliggaam—

(a) om te voldoen aan die voorwaardes vir die reg- 
istrasie van die skool soos opgelê kragtens 
artikel 8 (4) van die Wet;
(b) om onderwysers aan te stel, te bevorder en te 
ontslaan, onderworpe aan die goedkeuring van 
die Minister kragtens artikel 13 (1) (b) van die 
Wet, en in die algemeen te voldoen aan die bepaalings van 
die Wet en die regulasies betref- 
fende die dienstvoorwaardes van onderwysers;
(c) om verantwoordelikheid te aanvaar vir die ont- 
vangs, oorhandiging of terugstuur van onder- 
wysers se salarisstelsels en in die algemeen te 
voldoen aan die regulasies betreffende die sub- 
sidiëring van onderwysposte by die skool;
(d) om toesig te hou oor die prinsipaal en onder- 
wysers, onderworpe aan die beheer wat deur 
die kringinspektor uitgeoene word;
(e) om korrespondensie in verband met die skool te 
behartig;
(f) om beheer uit te oefen oor Departementele toe- 
rusting;
(g) om rekords te hou en sodanige opgawes, 
verslae en inligting in te dien as wat kragtens 
enige regulasie deur die Direkteur-generaal ver- 
eis word;
(h) om inspektieverslae te corweg;
(i) om te voldoen aan die regulasies betreffende 
die toelating van en beheer oor leerlinge;

(8) The circuit inspector shall without delay—
(a) inform the member elected in terms of subregu- 
lation (2) of his election and term of office;
(b) inform a member whose membership has been 
terminated in terms of subregulation (1) (c) or 
(d) of the termination of his membership;
(c) provide the regional chief director concerned, in 
writing, with the information contemplated in 
subregulation (7).

**Powers and functions of a 
governing body**

17. (1) In addition to the powers and functions 
vested in or conferred upon governing bodies by these 
regulations, the powers and functions of any governing 
body shall be to—

(a) comply with the conditions of registration of the 
school as imposed in terms of section 8 (4) of the 
Act;
(b) appoint, promote and discharge teachers, sub- 
ject to the approval of the Minister in terms of 
section 13 (1) (b) of the Act, and in general to 
comply with the provisions of the Act and the 
regulations relating to the conditions of service of 
teachers;
(c) assume responsibility for the receipt, handing 
over or return of teachers' salary cheques and 
in general to comply with the regulations relating to 
the subsidisation of teaching posts at the 
school;
(d) supervise the principal and teachers, subject to 
the control exercised by the circuit inspector;
(e) attend to correspondence in connection with the 
school;
(f) exercise control over Departamental equipment;
(g) keep records and submit such returns, reports 
and information as may be required by the 
Director-General in terms of any regulation;
(h) consider inspection reports;
(i) comply with the regulations relating to the 
admission of and control over pupils:
(j) om 'n skoolonds te beheer ooreenkomstig die regulasies betreffende die beheer oor geld wat vir of met betrekking tot die skool ingesamel word; en

(k) om enige regsaksie waarby die skool betrokke is, in te stel of te verdedig.

Lede van die bestuursliggaam ontvang geen betaling nie

18. (1) Geen lid van 'n bestuursliggaam mag enige betaling, regstreeks of onregstreeks, geldelik of ander, vir of in verband met sy dienste as lid van enigiemand ontvang nie.

(2) 'n Lid van 'n bestuursliggaam wat enige bepaling van subregulasie (1) kortree, is aan 'n misdryf skuldig en is by skuldigbevinding strafbaar met 'n boete of gevangenisstraf vir 'n tydperk van hoogstens drie maande.

Toegang tot boeke en dokumente

19. Die Direkteur-generaal, of enige beampte behoorlik deur hom daartoe gemagtig, het te eniger tyd toegang tot die boeke, notules en dokumente van 'n bestuursliggaam.

Opskorting van hierdie regulasies

20. Indien die Minister van oordeel is dat, in die geval van enige bestuursliggaam—

(a) die persone in regulasie 3 (1) (b) bedoel, aanhoudend in gebreke geby het om hul pligte bevredigend uit te voer of op 'n wyse opgetree het wat nie in die beste belang van die betrokke skool of van die onderwys is nie; of

(b) die getal persone wat nie bereid is om ingevolge genoemde regulasie in die bestuursliggaam te dien nie, sodanig is dat dit die vorming van 'n kworun verhinder;

can hy die toepassing van hierdie regulasies ten opsigte van die bestuursliggaam opskort of die tydperk wat hy bepaal en gelas dat die persoon in regulasie 3 (1) (a) bedoel, vir alle doeleindes en vir die duur van die opskorting die bestuursliggaam moet wees.

Kort title


(j) control any school fund in accordance with the regulations regarding the control of moneys which are collected for or in respect of the school; and

(k) institute or defend any legal action involving the school.

Members of the governing body shall not receive payment

18. (1) No member of a governing body may receive any payment, direct or indirect, pecuniary or otherwise, from any person for or in connection with his services as a member.

(2) Any member of a governing body who contravenes any provision of subregulation (1) shall be guilty of any offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months.

Access to books and documents

19. The Director-General, or any officer duly authorised by him thereto, shall have access at any time to the books, minutes and documents of any governing body at any time.

Suspension of these regulations

20. If the Minister is of the opinion that in the case of any governing body—

(a) the persons referred to in regulation 3 (1) (b) have consistently failed to carry out their duties satisfactorily or have acted in a manner which is not in the best interests of the school concerned or of education; or

(b) the number of persons who are not prepared to serve in the governing body in terms of the said regulation is such as to prevent the formation of a quorum;

he may suspend the operation of these regulations in respect of the governing body for the period determined by him and direct that the person referred to in regulation 3 (1) (a) shall, for all purposes and for the duration of the suspension, be the governing body.

Short title

21. These regulations shall be called the Governing Body Regulations for State-aided Farm Schools, 19.

PROVINSIALE ADMINISTRASIE VAN DIE ORANJE-VRYSTAAT

No. R. 1192 30 April 1992

REGULASIES OOR HOSPITAALGELDE: BLANKE EIESAKEHOSPITALE

Kragtens artikel 22 (1) (e) en (2) van die Ordonnansie op Hospitale, 1971 (Ordonnansie No. 8 van 1971), vir sover die bepaling van Deel IV van die Grondwet van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika, 1983 (Wet No. 110 van 1983), kragtens paragraaf (a) van Proklamasie No.

PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE ORANGE FREE STATE

No. R. 1192 30 April 1992

REGULATIONS FOR HOSPITAL FEES: WHITE OWN AFFAIRS HOSPITALS

In terms of section 22 (1) (e) and (2) of the Hospitals Ordinance, 1971 (Ordinance No. 8 of 1971), in so far as the provisions of Part IV of the Republic of South Africa Constitution Act, 1983 (Act No. 110 of 1983), have under paragraph (a) of Proclamation No. 40 of 31
Land and the basis of liberty

The book is a welcome contribution to the debate on the political and social problems of South Africa. It provides a critical analysis of the country's constitutional framework and the challenges it faces in achieving a peaceful resolution to its internal conflicts.

The author, an experienced journalist and political analyst, presents a comprehensive overview of the history of South Africa, from the era of the Boers to the present day. He discusses the role of key figures in South African politics, such as Nelson Mandela and Thabo Mbeki, and analyzes the impact of international pressures on the country's development.

One of the key themes of the book is the issue of land reform. The author argues that the current system of land distribution is unfair and discriminatory, and he calls for a more equitable solution that recognizes the rights of all South Africans to own and use land.

Overall, the book is a thought-provoking read that provides valuable insights into the complexities of South African politics and society. It is highly recommended for anyone interested in the country's history and its ongoing struggle for justice and equality.
Severe drought hits the Kruger National Park

In Phalaborwa, in the northern part of the park, and usually the driest, animals are far more resistant to drought than in the south, said Joubert. Fewer animals there died under stressful conditions, as a rule.

Some animals have already died in the north, but this was due to the unusually high temperatures, said Joubert. Around 200 elephants are believed to have died in a heatwave in mid-July.

The artificial waterholes cannot be filled, since there will be nothing to fill them with. “We can’t create water out of nothing. We can’t make rain,” said Joubert.

He added, however, that bombholes might be sunk to help animals over a critical time.

There is nothing park management can do to save the animals from dying of thirst and hunger.

The Department of Water Affairs has notified the park that the water flow to the Crocodile and Olfants Rivers will be restricted by up to 60 percent.

The priority, he said, is human and agricultural use.

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The struggle for water has brought new forms of employment... like professional water carriers for too flushing and gardening. It might be possible in new residential areas, says the department, but the costs of installing a second distribution network would be high, more so in established areas.

From the department’s point of view, the most efficient and cost-effective option lies in the use of rainwater. The Department of Water Affairs has already been studying the feasibility of installing a rainwater harvesting system in Cape Town. The idea is to collect rainwater from rooftops and other impervious surfaces and use it for non-potable purposes, such as flushing toilets and watering gardens.

According to the department, the cost of installing a rainwater harvesting system is lower than the cost of installing a new distribution network. The system can also help to reduce the amount of water that is lost through evaporation and transpiration, and can be used to supplement the water supply during droughts.

The department is also exploring the possibility of using desalination technology to treat seawater and make it suitable for drinking. Desalination plants can be expensive to build and operate, but they can provide an important backup supply in times of drought.

In conclusion, the department believes that a combination of strategies, including rainwater harvesting, water conservation, and desalination, will be needed to ensure a sustainable water supply for the future. It is working closely with other departments and stakeholders to develop a comprehensive water management plan for the region.
All we want is a tap of our own

Chicken Farm squatters spend four hours a day collecting water from a distant source. Households in nearby suburbs receive 20,000 litres a month — on tap. By FERIAL HAFSAJE

It’s not quite dawn on a weekday morning, and already the women from Chicken Farm are streaming to the only tap near the squatter camp to collect water in 20-litre drums. The sprawling camp is located in Soweto’s Fliemela, near Baragwanath Hospital. For many it is the second trip of the morning and it’s not on empty.

The hens walk to the tap along a pathway marked with eddies and bumps, long grass and stones.

Pinky Mathole fetches her water in a wheelbarrow borrowed from a neighbor. She collects five 20-litre drums with four trips.

She gets to the tap at seven in the morning and often waits an hour for her water because it’s peak time as workers collect water for a week or early morning coffee. When we saw her, she was fetching a second round of water to “mop the floors, pots and the kettle”. Later she will come back for another feed, this time “to wash myself and the children”.

The final load comes at five when she fetches water for the evening’s cooking for the her husband and Family.

Mathole, and most of her neighbors, spend up to four hours a day collecting water. Even this is not enough.

The World Health Organization estimates that basic health criteria can only be met when every person has access to 150 litres of drinkable water every day, said Henk Coetzee, of the Group for Environmental Monitoring.

The tap is a meeting place for the women, who group while they enjoy the “luxury” of washing with as much water as they like. The children join in the wash and help their mothers, filling their Coke bottles and taking the water.

The tap that Chicken Farm residents use was not meant for them, it belongs to the nearby scrapyard. It is a trip to take, so nobody uses it since it yields a tiny amount of water. By contrast, the average suburban household of four and six people receives 20,000 litres a month — on tap.

Washing is done where there is water — usually a long way from home. I often wait hours for water to fill up the drums from nearby Highgate shopping centre, they only sell 100 litres of water to the water tank. This is 15 times more than piped water supplied to Johannesburg’s suburbs where I buy 1,500 litres.

Mathole’s house is in a shantytown inhabited by 100 families. She fetches water from a well in the backyard.

The city council has installed about 90 meters of pipe near the camp. But, says Kenneth Mhlanga, “it’s not enough.” The council’s Environmental Monitoring team found “little or no improvement” of water quality.

Mhlanga, who is unemployed and unmarried, is one of four women at the tap. Fetching water is women’s work, says Mhlanga as he guides his wheelbarrow along the path.

One of his drum supplies the ground and spills the water he has taken half an hour to collect, but he merely shrugs his shoulders. The struggle for water has brought with it a thriving black industry. Professional carriers fetch the water for residents. Using “madoon -

as transit and infrastructure costs are incurred,” says Henk Coetzee.

The long haul... Women walk many kilometres every day, fetching water for their families.

Photos: KEVIN CAYFORD
We wish you a pleasant and successful year.

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Approximately 500 words long, while in section B each should be
words 1000 words 1000, while in section A each of your answers should be roughly 100
section B, and in section A essay-type questions must be
answered, with each question counting 12.5 marks. In
questions, and each question counts 25 marks. In
type questions, students have to answer 2 out of 4 essay-type
will consist of sections A and B. In section A
No multiple-choice questions will be asked. The paper

8-2 January/February 1992

ECN201-K/101 11
THE 'new' South Africa has spawned a new type of forced removal — by the private sector.

In the past, attorneys have successfully defended plankland communities, such as those at Reaglei near Koster and Oukasie outside Brits, against forced removal by the state.

With the repeal of racial land legislation, communities like those at Grootvlei and the Mengu in the Eastern Cape have also sought legal help to return to land from which they were forcibly removed.

In the Eastern Transvaal, the Legal Resources Centre (LRC) has been involved for the past four years, through its rural legal clinics, in defending labour tenants faced with eviction.

Members of this group are among the most vulnerable in terms of land rights.

During an 18-month period up to July 1991, the LRC represented such tenant families.

But the tempo of eviction of tenants, many of whom have been there for generations, is increasing noticeably.

About 80 clients recently asked for help because they had received eviction notices, known as "trekpas" or "trekptasse", or believed they were under threat of eviction.

Political flux, and perceptions about a possible re-allocation of land under a future dispensation, underlie what appears to be concerted pre-emptive action by a growing number of farm owners against possible future land claims by tenants.

Litigation in the local magistrate's courts and negotiation with farm workers has yielded limited success in promoting the legal rights of tenants.

This has not been possible to obtain for them the right of security of tenure.

Considerable success has been achieved concerning the right to a period of notice and correct legal procedures before eviction.

For some families negotiation has achieved more favourable terms of eviction.

But as an LRC attorney told a recent tenant meeting: "One thing we have not been able to win is the right to live on your land forever."

In this crisis, it has become apparent that the potential of protecting tenants interests through litigation and negotiation in individual cases has been exhausted because of the limited legal rights tenants have.

In one Supreme Court case the judge said three months' notice was the minimum reasonable requirement.

Following advice by the the South African Agricultural Union, most farmers are now issuing three-month "trekpas".

A successful challenge to this notion in the Supreme Court is still needed.

It is the LRC's view that notice must, at the very least, allow a tenant to sow and reap his annual crops, and to find adequate alternative accommodation.

A legal strategy alone can ultimately do little to protect people, other than to help highlight their problems.

What is required is collective political lobbying by tenants. Although some of the evictions will continue to be challenged in court, land rights groups and tenants are now acting to elevate their struggle to the level of national politics.

A meeting of the National Land Commission (consisting of land rights groups and attorneys involved in land rights issues) was held in November.

In February, a committee was elected at a conference of labour tenants as a start to articulating their needs and demands.

The conference called for, among other things, a moratorium on all evictions and resolved to meet the relevant sub-committee of Codesa, as well as arrange urgent political meetings with political leaders.

— The LRC Review
Barolong in danger of losing land forever

By DAN DHLAMINI

THE Barolong pa Modibo’s land of birth, Machavie, which they have been fighting to get back for the past 31 years, may soon be turned into a game reserve, it was revealed this week.

Barolong Chief TS Makodi received a letter from the National Parks Board informing him that they and the Potchefstroom Town Council had agreed in principle on the sale of Machavie after 20 years of negotiations.

The letter stated the NPB would allow the tribe to visit and tend their forefathers’ graves, which will be well protected and looked after.

Makodi, whose faction still resides at Rooidrand near Mafikeng in Bo phuthatswana – where they have been since they were forcibly removed from Machavie in 1971 – said the letter came as a surprise. It came at a time when Barolong hopes had been high that the Land Commission would recommend that they be allowed back to Machavie.

“We have been talking to the government since 1961 without success and yet the NPB, who started negotiating only two years ago, have already succeeded in their aims,” said Makodi.

“This shows that apartheid is still alive and kicking, because the Potchefstroom Town Council should have given us first option to buy our own land back.

“We would have got funds from the outside world to develop Machavie into a farming area. We are, however, prepared to negotiate with the NPB,” he added.

Chairman of the Ikageng-based Barolong Action Committee, Joseph Ntsime, who was among 75 arrested for trying to re-occupy Machavie two weeks ago, said he rejected the idea.

Potchefstroom Town Clerk J. du Plessis confirmed the negotiations with the parks board over the purchase of Machavie were at an advanced stage.

Parks board secretary Herman Botha said he was aware that Barolong had an historical claim to the land.
Omnia hopes to beat high tax and drought

Business Day Reporter

THE Omnia group expects to improve earnings again in 1992 in spite of higher taxation and the devastating effect of the drought on the agricultural market, chairman Joachim Winkler says in the 1991 annual report published at the weekend.

He noted, however, that prospects for the agricultural sector were clouded by uncertainties about the timing and extent of government aid to farmers, and about the effects of a confirmation of adverse climatic conditions.

The group had spent about R50m over the past three years on diversification and broadening its base, and was seeking more expansion opportunities.

"At the same time, we still see considerable profit potential in our fertiliser business. Although our manufacturing facilities are fully utilised, there is scope for improving income through product rationalisation within the overall industry.

"It must also be said that the present distribution system is extremely costly and is a significant component of our selling prices. If the fertiliser industry is to survive and prosper, it will have to make its prime objective the development of manufacturing and distribution systems which allow it to be internationally competitive," Winkler said.

The group reported a 10% increase to R31.8m in net earnings for the year ended December 1991.

This performance, Winkler said, was attributable to the fertiliser division maintaining its strong position and to a growing profit contribution from the group's new businesses — seeds, explosives, industrial chemicals and commodity trading.

"The group now has a portfolio of high quality businesses with the potential to generate the required increase in earnings and to extend its reach further into new markets and technologies beyond its traditional base in fertiliser," Winkler said.
NBS takes over village development

ZEVENWACHT farm village, a luxury housing development adjacent to the recently rescued Zevenwacht wine estate near Stellenbosch, has been taken over by NBS Developments.

This follows the recapitalisation of the wine estate — previously under provisional liquidation — by a consortium of Johannesburg investors, who now own 83% of the estate.

Announcing the takeover of the village by holding company Zevenwachtsdorp, NBS Developments MD David Gorven said that his company and the consortium were previously joint developers of the village.

They were anxious to foster a good relationship between the farm village and the wine estate.

To this end, they had agreed to honour the shareholding awarded to each buyer of a house in the village, and to give house owners and their families access to the estate for recreational purposes.

Gorven said this would help preserve one of the attractions of village life at Zevenwacht.

Only two of the existing houses had yet to be sold.

Construction on another 12 was scheduled to begin soon.

A further nine houses had to be built to complete the first phase of the development; another 45 homes would be built after that.

"With the entire development now under the aegis of the NBS group, the security that represents is likely to be a major attraction to buyers," said Gorven.
Reopening of criminal case against Winnie Mandela.

*6. Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Justice:
   (1) Whether, with reference to recent statements in the media by two persons whose names have been furnished to the Minister’s Department for the purpose of his reply, he intends to invoke the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Act, No 51 of 1977, to reopen the criminal case against Mrs Winnie Mandela; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
   (2) whether, with reference to the trial of Mrs Winnie Mandela, attempts have been made to take statements from certain persons whose names have also been furnished to the Minister’s Department; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
   (3) whether he will furnish the names of the persons referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this question; if not, why not; if so, what are their names?  B570E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:
   (1) and (2) in view of the pending appeal, the matter is sub judice. The requested information can therefore not be furnished. In addition the South African Police is investigating certain allegations and the required information may affect the outcome of the investigation.
   (3) A list of the names of the persons who may be involved or may become involved has not been finally established and the furnishing of such a comprehensive list may in any event infringe upon the sub judice rule.

Number of applications for SA citizenship

*7. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Home Affairs:  B570E
   How many persons (a) applied for and (b) obtained South African citizenship during the period 20 February to 17 March 1992?

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:
   (a) and (b)
   Altogether 24 487 naturalizations were approved. It has however not been possible to verify to date whether all applications lodged within the relevant period were finalized timely. It is quite likely that applications submitted during the two or three days prior to 17 March 1992 were not finalized timely. Presently only accurate statistics of approvals are readily available. If the hon member, however, insists on statistics of the number of applications submitted during the period in question, a survey will have to be made at the offices of the Department. I can merely add that no applications that complied with requirements were turned down.

Constitutional future of Doornkop

*8. Adv J J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Local Government and National Housing:
   (1) Whether the Government intends taking any steps in respect of the constitutional future of Doornkop, in the district of Roodepoort; if not, why not; if so, (a) what steps and (b) when;
   (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?  B573E

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL HOUSING:
   (1) (a) and (b)
   Yes. The Cabinet has already granted permission for the purchase of Doornkop agricultural holdings No 239 IQ. A decision on the constitutional future and use of the land will be determined in due course.
   (2) No.

South African Rail Commuter Corporation: personnel transfers

*9. Adv J J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Transport:
   (1) Whether a former chairman and managing director of the South African Rail Commuter Corporation Limited were recently transferred from these posts; if not, what are the relevant details; if so, why;
   (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?  B574E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:
   (1) Yes. It was done in the light of investigations into events surrounding investments done with the Cape Investment Bank which has since been liquidated and important changes in the field of urban transport. I suffice with the media statement issued on 7 April 1992, my contribution to the interpellation which took place in the House of Assembly on 29 April in which case this matter was debated. and the discussion on the Transport vote on the same date.
   (2) No.

Black schools: amount needed to replace textbooks

*10. Mr J CHIOLE asked the Minister of Education and Training:
   (1) What total amount is needed to replace textbooks that were not returned in Black schools at the end of 1991 and 1990, respectively.
   (2) whether there are any Black schools where in 1991 fewer than 25% of the textbooks that had to be returned were in fact returned; if so, (a) which schools and (b) what steps are envisaged in this regard?  B575E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING:
   (1) The information is not available.

   The Department supplied textbooks and prescribed books to the value of R60 140 094.00 and R66 731 270.00 for the school years 1991 and 1992, respectively. The books were supplied to provide for the increase in the number of pupils and the replacement of worn-out and lost books.
   (2) No. (a) and (b) fall away.
**AK 47 rifles**

*11. Mr J CHOLE asked the Minister of Law and Order:*

1. How many AK 47 rifles were confiscated by the South African Police in 1991?
2. Whether any estimate was recently made of the number of AK 47 rifles in South Africa at present; if not, why not; if so, what is this estimate?
3. Whether the South African Police is being informed of steps that have been taken by the ANC, in terms of the D F Malan Accord reached between the Government and the ANC, in respect of illegal arms and arms supplies; if not, why not; if so, what steps have already been taken by the ANC in this regard?

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**The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:**

1. 948.
2. No.

It is impossible to estimate how many AK 47 rifles are unlawfully in South Africa at present. However, every possible attempt is being made to trace and prosecute offenders. Rewards of up to R5 000.00 have been offered for information received from the public which could lead to the arrest of persons in possession of illegal AK 47 rifles.

3. Yes.

The South African Police is part of the Working Group which functions in terms of the D F Malan Accord.

Accept for a single case in which a member of the National Executive Committee of the ANC submitted a consignment of 6 new Makarov pistols and 64 rounds of 9 mm ammunition together with 5 applications for licences at John Vorster Square charge office, Johannesburg on 16 March 1992, the ANC has not taken any other steps in terms of the accord to declare and/or hand in any illegal firearms.

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**INTERPELLATION**

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

**Own Affairs:**

**OSFi:** Joint local committees

*Adv C H PIENAAR asked the Minister of Agricultural Development:

1. How many joint local committees are functioning in the Orange Free State at present?
2. Whether there are any magisterial districts in that province in which such committees are not yet functioning; if so, why is that the case?

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**The DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr Chairman, the answer is that there are already 61 joint local committees in the Free State. The second answer is no, not as far as we are aware, because there is no reason for such a committee not yet to have been formed.

With reference to that the head of the department issued an instruction on 14 February 1992 that magistrates be notified in writing to convert the present Agricultural Credit Committees to joint local committees by co-opting representatives of the commercial banks, the Land Bank, and agricultural co-operatives and organised agriculture to the ranks of Agricultural Credit Committees. Co-opting financial role-players in the handling of a client’s application is thus optional.

A task group under the chairmanship of Dr H F van Zyl, chairman of the Agricultural Credit Board, members of the Agricultural Credit Board, organised agriculture, the regional directors of the Department of Agricultural Development and representatives of clearing banks and the Land Bank was formed to train the committees concerned. Fifteen of the 17 briefings meetings planned have already been held countrywide, with an average attendance of 70 to 80 persons per meeting.

In the Orange Free State and the Northern Cape meetings were held in Kroonstad, Glen and Kimberley. The magistrates, members of Agricultural Credit Committees, agricultural co-operatives, commercial banks, the Land Bank, organised agriculture and regional staff of the department attended these meetings.

*The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! Hon members must not talk so loudly. The hon the Deputy Minister may proceed.

*The DEPUTY MINISTER: Further follow-up sessions of the individual committees are planned to commence shortly. The Agricultural Credit Board has undertaken, whenever local committees request assistance, to give assistance and guidance, especially with the initial meetings. The case of Petrusburg is an example of this, where members of the Agricultural Credit Board have in six cases already been present when these applicants’ cases were dealt with.

In the case of Brandfort there are at present 22 applications from farmers to be attended to and the Agricultural Credit Board has agreed to attend a meeting of this joint local committee on 11 May. In cases where there are a fair number of applications with the magistrate concerned, the Agricultural Credit Board will give the necessary assistance.

Very favourable comment has in the meantime been received flowing from the training sessions that have been presented, and in numerous magisterial districts we are already getting feedback to the effect that the system is running smoothly. Financial role-players highly commend the fact that they now have a say in these committees. Of course, it will take a while for this new system to become fully established.

[Time expired.]

*Adv C H PIENAAR: Mr Chairman, the hon the Deputy Minister is very deftly trying to create the impression here that these matters are running smoothly. He mentioned Petrusburg as an example of how well things are working. The situation in Petrusburg was the cause leading to the formation of these committees. That is where the pilot model was launched and put into operation as early as last year.

The hon the Deputy Minister also very deftly says that these committees exist. However, the question is how many are functioning. There is a very big difference between existing and functioning. The hon the Deputy Minister of Defence sitting over there, exists as Deputy Minister of Defence, but he does not function as Deputy Minister. That is the difference.

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*The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order!*

*Adv C H PIENAAR: We are faced with the situation in which food imports have such an effect on the macro-economy that the hon the Minister of Finance retired from politics in a state of great exhaustion. It seems to me that the hon the Minister of Agriculture will be the next candidate to become exhausted. These letters to which the hon the Deputy Minister spoke so admirably, were sent out after the hon the Minister of Justice had made a call to ask what this matter entailed because the magistrates had to act as chairmen of these committees.

When on a previous occasion, say 2½ months ago, we asked questions about it in an interpellation, he telephoned to find out which bodies the magistrates now had to be chairmen of! That was after the hon the Minister of Agriculture had said as long ago as November last year that these joint local committees were going to be formed and that they must rescue the farmers.

From the meetings of which the hon the Deputy Minister has just spoken, we discover that the same norms which applied to the earlier agricultural credit, now also apply there. They are treating water! They are dragging themselves on the way to nowhere. The criterion that applies there is the security which the farmer can offer, in other words his solvency. The farmers have no solvency!

As far as creditability is concerned, they speak of the jockey who must ride the horse. After all, the hon the Minister of Agriculture says that the farmers’ debt is caused by their buying horses. Apparently he has a jockey syndrome in connection with that.

They also mention the size of the operation. It is the same old story. There is nothing new in it whatsoever.

The hon the Minister of Agriculture was at a meeting of farmers in Kroonstad, at which I proposed to him that funds from the strategic oil reserves, which are being used for rudimentary
services in squatter camps and for the Department of Foreign Affairs ... [Time expired.]

Mr E K MOORCROFT: Mr Chairman, the DP shares the grave concern felt by all agriculturalists about the state of our industry. [Interjections.] This has been brought about by drought and other factors beyond our control. [Interjections.] The situation, we know, is particularly bad in the Orange Free State and other summer grain-growing areas.

However, the DP acknowledges that the hon the Minister and his department are giving serious consideration to the financial plight of farmers in these areas. We accept that the creation of joint local committees is an attempt by the department to determine, as fairly and accurately as possible, the creditworthiness of applicants for State aid.

We believe that the functioning of these joint local committees depends on both organized agriculture and the department. The onus rests as much on organized agriculture and the local farming communities as it does on the State when it comes to getting these organizations off the ground and getting them functioning.

The President of the OFS Agricultural Union is an hon member of this House and of the CP. I would suggest that if there is dissatisfaction about the functioning of these joint committees, the CP should look to its own house first and do its own homework and see to it that these committees are also made to function in the Orange Free State. The CP must not pass the buck to the hon the Minister and his department.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr Chairman, I would like to thank the hon member for Albany for thisnakings. I believe that organized agriculture has a very important role to play within the structure of assistance to farmers.

I want to say furthermore that it seems the hon member for Heilbron is not in communication with organized agriculture. He does not speak to the people who support the system. [Interjections.] I do not know whether the hon member has any knowledge of farming. I can tell him what happened. The chairman of Boere-Krisiswie was in my office the other day and he sang out certain problems. He did not direct criticism at the committee or through the post or via public meetings. He said he wanted you very much, as did Mr Willie Lewis, Vice-Chairman of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, and said that this was an instrument they could use to help the farmers. They said they would correct the mistakes from within, we should make it streamlined. We should help them to create structures with which to address the farmers’ problems. We are also going further. This morning, following on this discussion with Mr Leonard Venter, I again told the Chairman of the Agricultural Credit Board to speak to the banks so that we can get these farmers together and try to find further solutions to the problems.

We ask that the committee be on another day today that we create Petersburg as the pilot project, and there around the table we distributed money to keep the farmer on the land. Out of 39 cases 34 have stayed on the land. Do hon members want to tell me that we have not done our share?

As the beginning, and it is not easy to turn the rudder of this shipwreck which is proceeding on a certain course, but we are working on it, and the organization agriculture plays a role in it, we will do it. [Time expired.]

[Dr P J GOUS: Mr Chairman, I want to approach the hon the Deputy Minister on another level in the discussion on this matter. On 12 February 1992 the hon the Minister of Agricultural Development undertook a tour of inspection in the Free State and other areas. In a press statement he then expressed the view, inter alia, that the sequestration of thousands of farmers in the summer grain areas was in fact staving up in the face. He then went further in this same press statement, and I just want to point to two other matters. He says that action will have to be taken as quickly as possible with the cooperation of the Department of Justice, and that negotiations will have to take place with creditors. At issue, therefore, he said we should cooperate with the Department of Justice, negotiations with creditors, and the point which I find of fundamental import in this connection, I quote:

Dr Van Nickie het hon vereenselig met die Staatspresident se verskering aan die boere van Suid-Afrika, naamlik dat die Regering weer eens in hierdie vee van nood naal slaat in sy vermoed dat doen onder sowel as menslike boere vir die landbou te behou.

Now I associate myself with the hon member for Heilbron, who says that it is not merely a matter of the existence of these committees, but that of their functioning. In connection with this discussion which is being held today, I spoke to quite a number of people from the Free State yesterday who served on these committees and have attended meetings. We could possibly bring it to the attention of the hon the Deputy Minister on another occasion, but I am doing so here today. We are faced with a problem. According to these observers most of those banks are in fact merely out to protect their own interests, and they are in effect not engaged in cooperation. That is the first point.

The second point is the physical burden of thousands of farmers which will be off-loaded on these magistrates, who will not be able to deal with it. Additional help will have to be provided in the weeks and months ahead.

The third point ... [Time expired.]

[Adv C H PIENAAR: Mr Chairman, this hon Deputy Minister, that is the one who says that he would rather live next to a Black than next to a CP. He is a better farmer than I am. I challenge him. Let us put our bank overdrafts, our co-operative accounts and our mortgages on the table and see who is the better farmer. [Interjections.] I do not have the Brededorp behind me to help me at the co-operatives, as the hon the Deputy Minister has, and to see that they do not call in the debt. [Interjections.] I must pay my debt myself. [Interjections.] Let us leave it at that.

Now he says they must speak to the banks. That is the very point. In these committees the banks merely flounders the farmers. That is why the Deputy Minister, his department and his Government are doing absolutely nothing to protect the farmers. They are dragging their heels. At issue, therefore, has been cooperation with the Department of Justice, negotiations with creditors, and the point which I find of fundamental importance in this connection, I quote:

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr Chairman, I do not think we should now place our personal accounts on the table here. [Interjections.]

The hon member has not been listening. I said he was not a farmer. I am still a farmer, because I have an account with the co-operative as well as with the bank. [Interjections.] The problem is that the hon member distorts the facts when I said that I had spoken to Mr Leonard Venter, as he was again busy taking the wrong notes.

Let us admit to one another that the point that he highlighted there was a valid one. It is perfectly valid, but I spoke to one of the clearing banks yesterday and said to them that we would have to create a crisis room in Pretoria where we could adjudicate the debt settlements around a table, because some of these debt settlements could not even be dealt with by the regional manager of a bank. That is why we are now going to do it in Pretoria, where we can sit around the table with the clearing banks.

[Adv C H PIENAAR: When?]

[The DEPUTY MINISTER: The discussion with these people has already been convened. It will be on the 16th of this month.

[Adv C H PIENAAR: Why not long ago?]

[The DEPUTY MINISTER: That is the type of action that we are taking. We get the feedback.

We had this discussion with Mr Leonard Venter last Thursday and I want to tell hon members that we are working at it.

I want to link up further with what the hon member for Parys said. I thank him for the responsible manner in which he put it, but I want to say that the same period since 12 February and looking at where we are today, one has to admit that there has been tremendous progress. I think the hon member will be appreciative of the effort which has been put in by organized agriculture, of the work of the Department of Agriculture and of the Government, because in the meantime an additional R1 billion has been placed on the table to be used, and with which to keep the farmer on his farm.

When these funds become available, we shall also to a large extent be able to obviate the problem of the hon member for Heilbron. Adjustments will have to be made, and debts will also have to be written off by the banks. We will have to find the means by which to achieve this and we will work hard at it.

[Debate concluded.]

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

945

946
The Chairman of the Ministers Council had
step in to resolve this matter. The hon
Chairman of the Ministers Council is well aware
of this issue. This man was given seven days'
notice. When the hon Chairman of the Ministers Council found about this, he
took a decision. He said this was unfair, and that
the farmer should stay on until the matter had been
investigated.

This is not an isolated case. This kind of thing has
happened to several farmers in the area. The
same thing is happening in Palmridge. People are
waiting for an agreement. We have land that will
never be utilised for housing, and it is only fair
that the hon the Minister take a decision today
on what is to be done. [Time expired.]

Mr M RAJAB: Mr Chairman, I have no specific
knowledge of this matter, but it seems clear to
me that the hon the Minister has inherited this
problem as a legacy of the portfolio he now
holds. It seems clear to me from what I have
heard from my colleague the hon member for
Central Rand, that a promise was made to the
farmers in the Transvaal that a lease would be
granted to them and that the department would
negotiate the terms and conditions of such lease
with them.

It is quite clear to me that if that is what has been
conveyed by an hon Minister or a departmental
official, it behoves the Ministry to go ahead with
the matter and honour the commitment that was
made.

I therefore take this opportunity to call upon the
hon the Minister for Housing and Agriculture to
do just that, and to investigate this problem
thoroughly. If the people out there deserve to be
granted a lease in terms of which they can farm, I
urge the hon the Minister to grant that lease.

The MINISTER OF THE BUDGET AND AUXILIARY SERVICES AND OF LOCAL
GOVERNMENT: Mr Chairman, I want to
reassure hon members that the question of leases
for agricultural purposes was intended to be only
a very temporary measure. I had occasion to
inform hon members in this Chamber, when I
was entrusted with that portfolio, that this land
had been earmarked for urbanisation purposes.
There is a great demand for land for urbanisa-
tion, especially from the Black communities.

I do not blame the hon member for Springfield
for his views, as he was simply relying on what
the hon member for Central Rand had said.
However, the hon member for Central Rand
wrote me a letter which he has forgotten about,
asking us to cancel the lease. [Interjections.] He
wrote me a letter to say land was being abused.
[Interjections.] He said that people were not
using the land for agricultural purposes, but were
in fact using it for the purpose of squatting. He
said that in his letter to me. I remember it well.
He said some people were using the land for
clubhouse purposes, and his request was that we
cancel those leases. [Interjections.] I cannot
understand the hon member's submissions in this
regard.

I think, however, we must promote agriculture.
[Time expired.]

Mr Y M MAKDHA: Mr Chairman, unfortunately
I cannot enter into the fray, but I have also been
approached by several of the individuals who
have leases.

The basic history is that four years ago most of
these farmers were on the old farms in Extension
4. They were forcibly removed.

Unfortunately the present department has given
them 30-day leases. It is not a very good
situation. It is actually ridiculous. I spoke to a
farmer earlier this morning, because I was going
to participate in the debate. I would like the hon
the Minister to listen to what I am going to say
now. Sheiks Poultry Farm, for instance, have
plans to develop the area, but they may spend a
million rand in developing the area and 30 days
later the lease may be cancelled. It does not
make sense.

I think all the responsible officials, hon Ministers
and hon MPs should get together to try to resolve
this problem. because we do have bona fide
farmers and we need to give them security of
tenure, even if it means selling the land to them.
One particular individual is at present leasing a
piece of property which is on a 50-year floodline.
That situation is really not acceptable.
I trust that the hon MPs who are responsible for the Lenasia area—there are many of us—will get together with the hon the Minister and the officials, as promises have been made to resolve the issue. [Time expired.]

Mr D K PADIACHIE: Mr Chairman, I probably have a short memory, but I think the hon the Minister of the Budget and Auxiliary Services and of Local Government has no memory at all. As a Minister he has done nothing whatsoever. If he remembers correctly, I sent him a letter stating that we should do something about the farmers. If the farmers have abused their land, we should now draw a line so that we can give all proper farmers land. This is what we are saying today. Give the genuine farmers the land. For one and a half years the hon the Minister sat on his backside and did nothing. [Interjections.]

Mr Y M MAKDA: Mr Chairman . . . [Interjections.]

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! The hon member for Central Rand may proceed.

Mr D K PADIACHIE: I apologise, Mr Chairman, he sat on his behind. [Interjections.]

The time has come for us to do something concrete. The hon member for North Western Transvaal has said quite clearly that this is happening. All hon MPs in the Transvaal have this problem. The farmers have approached us.

The hon the Deputy Minister was there last week and he saw for himself what was happening. People are waiting and sitting . . . [Time expired.]

The MINISTER OF HOUSING AND AGRICULTURE: Mr Chairman, it must be categorically conceded that we are discussing the matter in a very generalised manner this afternoon.

The hon member for Springfield made a specific suggestion. I have a lot of respect for people like that who look at these problems and suggest something that is worth pursuing. He suggested that, if necessary, the issue be investigated and that the matter be set straight with these farmers, regardless of any injustice that has been done to them. In that regard I want to suggest for the present and the future, that complaints should be specific in order to make the direction clear. One should take absolutely clear. It must be stated whose lease has been cancelled, when this was done and by whom. [Interjections.]

Mr D SAKALINGUM: By your department’s official! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF THE BUDGET AND AUXILIARY SERVICES AND OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Bring the evidence. The MINISTER OF HOUSING AND AGRICULTURE: If we receive such a complaint, it will be information on which we will have no option but to take action. [Interjections.] We will then pass such information . . . [Interjections.]

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! The hon the Minister is on his feet.

The MINISTER: We will then pass such information on to the department so that the relevant action can be taken. I cannot say anything more. I can say a lot about other areas, for instance about the agricultural lands that are under investigation by Kgosi Bush. I can talk about Palmridge area where 19 plots were identified and nine have already been allocated. I can talk about Pretoria where it was intended to have agricultural holdings. That matter is being investigated.

To conclude, I want to make it very clear that there must be some agreement between the lessor and the lessee, namely the House of Delegates and these market gardeners or farmers. That aspect is being given due consideration and will be regularised in the future.

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

Own Affairs:

Two former Ministerial Representatives: debt

1. Mr K CHETTY asked the Minister of the Budget and Auxiliary Services: [26]

(1) Whether two former Ministerial Representatives for the Minister’s Council of the House of Delegates, whose names have been furnished to the Minister’s Department for the purpose of his reply, owe any moneys in respect of motor vehicle loans granted to them by his Department, if so, (a) what are the details in this regard and (b) what are their names;

(2) whether it is the intention to take any action in regard to these moneys; if not, why not, if so, (a) what action and (b) when;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

(1) Whether a community hall is to be built in Merebank; if not, why not, if so, (a) when and (b) at what cost;

(2) how many community halls are in service in the Merebank area;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

(1) No.

(a) Falls away.

(b) Falls away.

(2) The Durban City Council indicated that there are 12 halls, all in private ownership in the Merebank area, of which the majority are available to the community for hiring.

(3) Yes!

Mr Chairman.

Although this matter really falls within the jurisdiction of the hon the Minister of Education and Culture I wish to point out that in view of, inter alia, the concerted effort by my colleague’s Department to promote culture, a need was identified for the provision of a suitable facility for the schools in the area and consequently a decision in principle was taken to provide a regional school hall which can be used by the schools in the area, as well as the community at large, if necessary.

However due to the severe financial constraints this Administration has to contend with, the matter is under review and no final decision has been taken as to when and at what cost such a facility will be provided, if at all.

Hon members will recall that in my reply to Question No 2 on Wednesday, 25 April 1992, I indicated that community halls are not regarded as a priority as the limited funds available in the Housing Development Fund are urgently required to provide housing for the many poor families awaiting a roof over their heads.

Community hall: Merebank

*2. Mr K CHETTY asked the Minister of Housing and Agriculture:

(1) Whether two former Ministerial Representatives for the Minister’s Council of the House of Delegates, whose names have been furnished to the Minister’s Department for the purpose of his reply, owe any moneys in respect of motor vehicle loans granted to them by his Department, if so, (a) what are the details in this regard and (b) what are their names;

(2) whether it is the intention to take any action in regard to these moneys; if not, why not, if so, (a) what action and (b) when;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?
Help Cluny Farm to beat the dry season

By Shirley Woodgate

The ravages of the drought have been measured nationally in millions of rands.

At Cluny Farm near Kyalami, the losses are measured in bales of hay and the failed vegetable crop.

But the significance to the 40 ha farm tended almost entirely by about 40 intellectually handicapped adults, is as dramatic as the countrywide crisis.

Less than 50 km from the lush gardens of Sandton, the scorching heat of the past few months, combined with a lack of summer rains since September, has slashed the annual hay crop at Cluny from 3 000 bales of hay to only 50.

Administrator John Cruickshank said instead of being able to produce enough cattle fodder for the winter, lack of water had forced him to buy bales of hay for the small Jersey herd which supplies milk for the residents, with enough over to produce the famed Cluny cream.

The farm, established 30 years ago as a welfare project deriving its income from the sale of surplus produce, contributions from residents’ families and Government subsidies, is experiencing a sudden shortfall of funds.

This means little to Anthony, who has worked in the bakery making the popular Cluny bread for all of his adult life.

As one of the severely brain-damaged residents aged between 18 and 60 who spend their days working on the farm, his condition is incurable, his chances of mental improvement are nil.

But he has become a master baker specialising only in the 200 high-protein whole wheat loaves he produces with pride virtually every day of his life.

Like Anthony, the other residents specialise in their own fields: working in each of the four residential homes, preparing meals, caring for the fowls, tending the vegetable garden or cleaning the stables and working in the dairy.

The drought is an administrative nightmare to John Cruickshank, who has appealed to the people who live nearby, who have tasted Cluny bread or Cluny cream, to donate funds to the ailing farm.

Telephone him at (11) 702-1690 if you can help beat the drought which has crept right on to the doorstep of the city.
tape blamed in famine forecast

The agency estimated the region needs about 13.5m tons of grain. AID said that economically Zimbabwe would be hardest hit by the shortages. Mrs Ina Perlman, executive director of Operation Hunger, told the panel her organisation would need $9m a month until January to feed the 2.2 million people who had applied for help, but she hoped this would be provided by the South African government. However, she said the state was wasting desperately needed funds on its nutrition development programme, which was "not appropriate in the context of massive hunger relief".

In addition, there were "clear indications" that South Africa's "top-heavy bureaucracy" had already been holding up funds promised to Operation Hunger and was causing "unacceptable levels of delay and interference".

Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Mr Jeffrey Davidow told the panel that the region's "fragile" democratic reforms were at risk. South Africa was being forced to divert roughly $1bn (about R2.8bn) from "essential outlays for the socio-economic needs of its poor majority", he said.

Furthermore, the migration of rural farmworkers to the cities — more than 100,000 so far — was creating "additional strains on housing and social programmes and could push urban crime rates even higher."
Govt expected to increase drought aid

CAPE TOWN — Government is expected to announce a large payout in drought relief to farmers today.

One of the major items on the agenda of a Cabinet meeting yesterday was deciding the amount of drought aid for farmers.

Former finance minister Barend du Plessis provisionally allocated R1bn for relief with the qualification that it might be increased once the situation had been fully investigated.

According to sources the R1bn is likely to be doubled and possibly even trebled.

Auction

Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk recently stated that about R2bn was necessary to bring relief from the drastic situation caused by the drought, taking into account the imports of maize and wheat.

GERALD HEILLY reports that last year the Land Bank was forced to auction 267 farms — double the number for 1990 — and agricultural authorities warned yesterday that the rate at which drought-affected farmers were sequestrated was bound to increase.

A Land Bank spokesman said the bank last year auctioned 267 farms mortgaged to it, compared to 128 in 1990.

An SA Agricultural Union spokesman said yesterday the only way to prevent more farmers being forced into bankruptcy was for government to approve additional aid of at least R1bn.

Union spokesman Koos du Toit said in the past eight years more than 3,000 farmers had been forced into bankruptcy.

Du Toit said the number would increase dramatically this year without generous state aid.

In previous years drought damage was mostly confined to the summer grain areas. However, this year distress was virtually nationwide. Cattle and irrigation farmers, he said, were probably the most distressed.

Du Toit said it was expected that Van Niekerk would make an announcement about additional aid today.

Meanwhile the National Maize Producers' Organisation has warned that unless adequate production credit is made available the area planted to maize this summer will shrink by a third.

If only 2-million hectares are planted — as will be the case if there is insufficient credit — imports will be necessary again next year, particularly if the drought persists as climatologists have warned it may.
THE government is expected to announce a large payout in drought relief to farmers early today.

The cabinet met yesterday and one of the major items on its agenda was deciding the amount of drought aid that should be allocated to farmers for relief.

Initially, former Finance Minister Mr Barend du Plessis provisionally allocated R1 billion for relief with the qualification that it might be increased once the situation had been fully investigated.
Food crisis: Billions in aid

A catastrophe in the making for Southern Africa

The Argus Foreign Service
WASHINGTON. — The drought in Southern Africa has caused a higher crop loss than the devasting one in Ethiopia and Sudan in 1983 and 1984, the Agency for International Development warned today.

Executive director of Operations Robert Mrs. Perelman told a congressional committee that although South Africa was able to import enough maize to meet its shortfall, up to 2.5 million destitute people in the country would go without.

The Agency for International Development, which operates under the aegis of the US State Department, said the average cereal crop loss for the region was expected to be between 50 and 60 percent.

"South Africa and Zimbabwe, which normally export grain to their neighbours, have been especially hard hit. Their crop losses are projected to be in the range of 50 to 80 percent," the AID statement said.

"This crop loss is worse than that suffered by Ethiopia, Sudan and several Sahelian countries in the terrible African drought of 1983-1985."

It said the 1986 drought resulted the biggest emergency relief effort ever mounted in Africa.

Several factors — the developed economies of South Africa and Zimbabwe, the early recognition of the problem on the part of governments in the region and early warning of the crisis — gave realistic hope of avoiding catastrophe.

Mrs. Perelman said it would need R50 million a month to feed about 2.2 million people.

Political Staff

Drought aid to farmers and communities amounting to R3.8 billion over four years was announced today by Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Klaas van Niekerk.

He said it could be regarded as the most significant rescue bid in the history of South African agriculture.

It was to help relieve the effects of the most serious drought this century which had caused the large-scale import of maize.

Loan assistance including the consolidation of debt, emergency assistance, and the allocation of some State land are included in the relief measures.

The aid was financed at yesterday’s Cabinet meeting, it is in addition to R200 million budgeted for this financial year for assistance to agriculture.

One of the steps to be taken is to provide some guarantees for farmers’ debts at co-operative and the Land Bank.

The measures are meant to prevent the concentration of thousands of farmers, which would disrupt the rural economy and would lead to mass imports of basic food.

The assistance will also safeguard industries and businesses dependent on agriculture.

Farmers whose debts were too high would, however, probably have to leave the land.

Included in the relief measures is a co-operative credit society to farmers who are members of 35 co-operatives in drought-stricken areas and the subsidization of interest rates on production inputs.

Dr. Van Niekerk said the price control to bring the allocation to farmers would be:

Financially assist as many farmers as possible and keep them on the land,

- Change the State debt guarantees and go to agriculture back to free market principles regarding finance.

- Retain as many employment opportunities as possible.

- Dr. Van Niekerk said R2.4 billion was involved in a guarantee to co-operatives to enable them to grant production credit to farmers.

- superb reports that Anglican bishops have allocated R100 000 for drought relief work in Southern Africa.

The money will be made available through churches in the sub-continent.

The Synod of Bishops of the Church of the Province of Southern Africa said, "We are deeply concerned at the drought which affects all the countries of our Province.

- Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu this week added a contribution from funds under which could be allocated to R100 000.

Most significant rescue bid in history of SA agriculture, says Minister
Govt unveils R3.8bn rescue package for drought-stricken farmers

CAPE TOWN — Government unveiled a R3.8bn drought aid package for farmers yesterday, described by Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk as "the most significant rescue bid in the history of SA".

The aid — to be spread over four Budgets — is in addition to the R355m budgeted for the current financial year for assistance and agriculture. It is also in addition to the 5% subsidy on Land Bank long-term loans, and includes the R1bn allocated in the current Budget for special aid.

Van Niekerk said the aid package effectively scrapped government's existing guarantee scheme for farmers in terms of which the state made guarantees to farmers on co-operatives enabling them to grant production credit to farmers in difficulty.

The SA Agricultural Union — which asked government for R3bn in addition to the R1bn granted this year — welcomed the package.

Part of the package is loan assistance, which includes the consolidation of debt, emergency assistance and the allocation of some state land.

Van Niekerk said the measures were aimed at preventing thousands of farmers from being sequestrated, something which, he said, would severely disrupt rural economies, lead to mass imports of basic foods and have a major impact on the economy.

He made an "urgent appeal" to financial institutions not to foreclose on farmers as a task group responsible for implementing the plan was working out the details.

He said government had decided not to repeat the mistakes of previous years when it bailed out farmers by guaranteeing their debts.

The major problem farmers had was that over the years they had accumulated debts of about R2.4bn with 33 co-operatives and were now unable to get production credit following the failure of crops.

Government was helping to remove their arrear debts to enable financial institutions to consider applications for production credits according to normal financial principles.

In terms of the aid package, government was granting farmers a once-off input subsidy of R578/ha for crop farmers who were members of the 33 co-operatives operating in the disaster areas.

Farmers would get R175/ha for carry-over debts and a further maximum of R100/ha. Co-operatives would get a further R100/ha for settlement of irrecoverable debt and to finance production credit.

With the assistance now envisaged, the state in effect buys out of the guarantee for carry-over debt at co-operatives and the Land Bank, and all agriculture guarantees fall away.

GERALD REILLY reports that agricultural spokesmen said the package had come just in time to rescue the industry.
R3,8bn pledged for drought aid

Political Staff

THE government yesterday announced a R3,826-billion package designed to ease the plight of drought-stricken farmers over four years.

Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk said the programme “can be regarded as the most significant rescue bid in the history of South African agriculture”.

He said the measures would “relieve the effects of the most serious drought yet experienced in South Africa this century” and without state intervention serious disruption of the economy could take place.

Meanwhile concerned Anglican bishops have also allocated R100 000 for drought relief.

Mr John Allen, media secretary for Archbishop Desmond Tutu, said yesterday the archbishop added a contribution from funds under his control of R50 000 to bring the allocation to R100 000.

“It’s only a drop in the ocean but the Anglican church felt it wanted to play its part as far as it can,” said Mr Allen.

The drought has given rise to large scale imports of maize and has taken scores of farmers to the brink of bankruptcy.

Dr Van Niekerk said the government plan was finalised at Wednesday’s cabinet meeting.

Subsidy

The relief measures comprise loan assistance and steps have been taken to guarantee farmers’ debts at co-operatives and the Land Bank.

Farmers who are members of 33 co-operatives in drought-stricken areas will get a one-off input subsidy amounting to R375 per hectare.

Dr Van Niekerk stressed the aid was in addition to the R355bn budgeted “for financial assistance for normal and drought circumstances”. It was also in addition to the subsidy on interest rate applicable to long-term Land Bank loans.

The minister said the measures being planned would “prevent the sequestration of thousands of farmers, an action which would lead to mass imports of basic food in the next year”.

However, he said the assistance would not protect all farmers with carry-over debt against foreclosure.

The removal of arrear debts from the farmers’ balance sheet would alleviate the ability of banks to grant production credit to farmers, the minister said.

“Farmers who had a total crop failure will be helped to continue their farming activities,” he said.
Gabriele 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.

"All because of (President) PW de Klerk's reforms, the African National Congress and the Pan African Congress and all the black extremist organisations are in the towns now," he said.

"All because of (President) PW de Klerk's reforms, the African National Congress and the Pan African Congress and all the black extremist organisations are in the towns now," he said.

Last week the killers of Jan Pretorius made sure they got far away.

She was murdered on Tuesday night by six men who were acting as a vigilante group. She was found dead in a car in a field near the town of Bloemfontein.

The attack was an attempt to turn the Free State farming districts into virtual war zones with tough iron control and anti-guerrilla measures aimed at disorganising the movement of blacks.

One of the resolutions was a call to pull police forces out of the towns to have "feeding black political and ethnic groups". This was the reason for the arrest of the four suspects.

One man said:

"Police said they were opening a murder licence for the community were involved in the mass lynching — four months later no one has been charged. The matter has been referred to the attorney general.

"The Free State is 'getting like Rhodesia', said Reut. There, farmers were 'outgunned' and were having to defend themselves off their land.

"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'.
Droughts and windfalls

The drought has knocked farmers flat on their backs, threatened rural economies and raised prices for consumers. But, amid all the losers, there is one winner: government.

The fiscus could collect a windfall of more than R200m from imports of maize and soya oil-cake needed to offset the crops lost to the drought. Government could make R138m by importing maize at the cheap world price and selling it at the higher local price, which is set by the Maize Board for all maize sold in the country.

And it should collect another R70m-R80m from the tariffs it charges on imports of soya oil-cake for the animal feed industry. The R200/t tariffs were imposed a few years back to "protect" local soya producers. Little, if any, soya cake is ever imported. But now government and local oil expressers, who take the oil out of the seeds, don't want a drop in the tariffs on the huge imports of soya oil-cake forced by the drought.

The total windfall, which could reach R220m, will exceed government's R90m net "profit" last year, when the wheat crop suffered from erratic rains and government imported wheat at low prices to sell to consumers at high local prices.

The high tariffs on a product — soya cake — that SA cannot supply has created the most controversy. "The drought has slashed the sunflower seed crop to about 170,000 t, compared with last year's 590,000 t," says Barry Hundley, feed committee chairman of the SA Poultry Association.

"This will force us to import about 400,000 t of soya oil-cake (which is more protein-rich than sunflower cake) at a cost of about R360m, of which about R80m will go into the State's coffers. We asked the oil expressers for support to get the tariffs dropped, but, because they refused, we will now have to pay the premium."

As for maize, the board now expects local deliveries of only about 400,000 tl of white maize and 700,000 t of yellow maize from farmers this year. SA's annual maize consumption totals about 6.5 Mt, meaning that imports of about 4.6 Mt are required, taking into account part of the 1 Mt the board retained from last year's 7.8 Mt crop.

Last week's maize-price rise will mean larger profits when the board begins to sell the imported maize.

"The board announced a 13.4% increase in the price for yellow maize to R475/t — but this is based on last year's list price of R419/t," says Hundley, who is also production director at Rainbow Chicken. "I understand that about 92% of all the yellow maize was sold last year to contract buyers. These buyers paid only about R383/t for their yellow maize, based on the board's discount scheme."

Due to the shortage, there will be no contract sales this year. So the new price represents a 24% increase over the price of most of last year's crop.

Government makes its money from the R30 difference between the new maize price of R475/t and the current landed price for US maize of less than R445/t. With 4.6 Mt coming in — shipments began a few weeks ago — the windfall could be R138m.

The unexpected receipts from the soya cake tariffs will go straight into government coffers. But the maize money will go towards subsidising the fixed costs of the under-used northern grain silos, hard hit by the drought: 70% of the costs will be paid by government, a total of R173m.

"The maize industry's share of this subsidy has enabled us to keep the selling price within the inflation rate," says the board.

Hundley does not agree with this interpretation. "Not only will the effective yellow maize price increase be well above inflation, but the R138m will not be 'the maize industry's share' of the huge subsidy — it will be paid by the buyers of maize. The co-ops (owners of the silos) will not be forced to suffer any loss due to the drought, but will be bailed out by government soaking the board's consumers."

But board deputy GM Hans Swart says: "The board trusts that any profits made on government's import account for maize will be used to benefit the maize industry and specifically for the benefit of the end-user."

All of this, of course, could easily become academic. Prices are rising on the Chicago Board of Trade, with US maize prices increasing by about R12/t "over the past few days," says Swart.

So, by the time the final maize shipment arrives almost a year from now, that big windfall could be just a memory.
Farmers grateful for R3.8 bn aid scheme

By Helen Grange
Pretoria Bureau

The drought-ravaged farming community breathed a sigh of relief yesterday after learning of the Government's R3.8 billion farmers' aid programme, launched in a bid to stave off ruin for South Africa's rural economy.

Thousands of farmers have lost entire maize plantations as a result of the worst drought this century, and would have had to wait another 15 months for their next income.

In a statement yesterday, SA Agricultural Union president Ben Fondie expressed thanks and appreciation to the Cabinet and the Ministry of Agriculture for the extensive aid measures.

The measures were in accordance with the union's representations and would bring great relief in respect of carry-over debt and new production credit, ultimately making an important contribution towards increasing the profitability of agriculture, he said.

Koos Botha of the Free State Agricultural Union said: "We are very pleased with the amount. The northern Free State farmers are in a very bad situation and can't wait for the income from next year's maize harvest."

Meanwhile, farmers in the eastern, western and northern Transvaal are struggling to irrigate even subsistence farming land.

Hotels in the Tzaneen area are imposing voluntary water restrictions and are leaving their gardens unwatered.

Dams near Rustenberg, including the Olifantsfontein dam, are completely dry. However, drinking water is being supplied by the Rand Water Board.

A farmer on the Springbok Flats said he had never seen the water level in dams as low.

Compared to last year, Transvaal dams have extremely low water levels. The Hartbeespoort dam, 93 percent full last year, is only 43 percent full. The Vaal dam, 86 percent full last year, is 39 percent full.

Should the public be told?
R3.8-bn rescue bid for farmers

Sowetan Correspondent

THE Government yesterday announced a R3.8 billion rescue bid for farmers currently in the grip of the worst drought this century.

The aid will be distributed over four Budget years in an effort to keep farmers on their land, to save their workers from starvation, to stave off ruin for South Africa’s rural economy, and ensure food security for the country.

One billion of it, already set aside in the Budget, will be spent this year.

The Cabinet yesterday approved what Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk called “the most significant rescue bid in the history of South African agriculture”.

But he also announced that the Government would simultaneously buy itself out of guarantees it had issued on behalf of cash-strapped farmers hit by repeated crop failures.

Guarantees

Van Niekerk signalled that the State would in future not offer ready guarantees when farmers were in trouble. Farmers would be exposed to market forces in applying to financial institutions for loans.

“There is pain attached, hard pain,” he warned farmers.

The State’s withdrawal from the guarantee system would also improve discipline among financial institutions, which had in the past freely given farmers loans in the knowledge that the State would intervene and make good debts that farmers could not meet.

“However, it does not mean that the Government does away with its responsibility towards the farmer regarding disasters and other factors beyond his control,” he noted.

The State had since 1984 guaranteed R2.4 billion to cooperatives, to extend production credit to farmers.

It is understood an estimated 7 000 farmers presently face sequestration. This would hit roughly 200 000 people on their farms.
Softly, softly on land issue

By SEKOLA SELLO

THE ANC, only three weeks away before holding an important policy conference, does not seem anywhere near resolving one of the major problems facing it: the question of the land.

A draft document of the ANC which is currently being discussed by the membership before the policy conference at the end of this month, clearly shows the dilemma facing the organisation.

**Objectives**

The introduction to the document says two of the three basic objectives of the ANC policy are:

- First, to overcome the legacy of inequality and injustice created by colonialism and apartheid.
- Second, to develop an economy and state infrastructure that will progressively improve the quality of life of all South Africans.

The other side of the dilemma is how to redress the inequalities without creating serious economic disruptions. The ANC is aware of the trials and tribulations faced by Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe who has been trying to solve a similar problem for the past 12 years.

The ANC’s draft document on land and agricultural policy clearly reflect this dilemma. The document notes that “dispossession and denial of rights to land have resulted in the present unequal division of land and landlessness, which will require legislative intervention far beyond the mere repeal of apartheid land laws”.

Aware of the opposition land redistribution policies will definitely elicit among whites and most likely also taking international opinion into account, the document calls for a very cautious approach on this issue.

The document calls for a comprehensive land reform programme which will include the following:

- Redressing the injustices caused by apartheid’s policy of dispossession;
- Addressing demands and grievances concerning land restoration and ownership by the creation of a special land court through which competing claims to land can be resolved;
- The recognition and protection of the diversity of tenure forms in our country;
- The creation of institutions to which the homeless and landless will have access in order to obtain land, shelter and necessary services;
- Affirmative action to ensure, among other things, access to land with secure rights for residential settlement, as well as access to good agricultural land, which will create new opportunities in this sector.

The ANC envisages a land claims tribunal which will hear cases of people competing over any piece of land. According to the document, priority will be given to victims of forced removals, “who had their lands taken by the apartheid state”.

ANC economist Tito Mboweni recently explained on SATV that there are cases “in living memory” of people whose lands were expropriated by government. These people, he said, had a strong case to demand their land back.

**Allay fears**

In order to allay the fears of those who may be affected by these land reform measures, the document proposes that “compensation will have a big role to play in dealing with competing claims”.

However, the document is less clear on how an ANC-led government will recognise and protect tenure under which most whites own the land – and their expected resistance to giving it up – while at the same time being legislatively able to acquire land for the dispossessed.

Twelve years after independence, Mugabe is still trying to resolve an almost identical problem.

Can the ANC succeed in reconciling the needs of the dispossessed and the dispossession? The ANC document on land policy – it must be emphasised this is still a draft form – does not seem nearer solving this vexing problem.
SOUTHERN AFRICA faces a cataclysmic crisis — a famine with the proportions of the great disasters on the Indian sub-continent.

The images of famine to which South Africans have been exposed have been projected from a comfortable distance. The horror pictures of emaciated mothers and babies, of scurvy for grain handouts: these no longer have to be imported. The sheer hopelessness of famine laps at our borders.

The drought which has dehydrated the country’s farms has visited itself upon our neighbours a thousand-fold. Their fragile rural base has been savaged. As a result millions across our borders face starvation as winter approaches.

In countries like Mozambique, a delicate agricultural sector has been brought to its knees by the long-lasting effects of strife spawned by destabilisation and civil war. Zimbabwe is the worst affected by the famine: its projected yield is only a quarter of the previous year’s production and the proposed nationalisation of commercial farms has punched a hole in agricultural confidence.

Clearly, drought and famine pay no respect to ideology or to forms of government. But political change can deepen their effects. The ending of apartheid has made the region’s borders more porous than ever. Countless pairs of feet are criss-crossing southern Africa. Most, however, have no doubt about their final destination — South Africa.

Operation Hunger estimates it will feed two million people this year, a figure which will increase as more cross the border.

There may be the temptation to deal with the issue in the long-accepted South African way. Fob off questions, keep the public in the dark, shuffle decisions between government departments and hope that the problem will go away.

This would be a grave mistake.

This famine should be the beginning of an enduring commitment to foster and support the countries of the Southern African Development Co-ordinating Conference to ensure adequate food security for the entire region.

Right now, we can help them by using our transport and communications systems to ensure that the food passing through South Africa’s ports reaches its destination speedily and without waste.

But there is more.

Within these countries, transport is woefully inadequate. Distribution networks will need both support and expansion. Without this, those in most need will simply starve to death.

Transport is the key. South Africa should help its neighbours increase and hone their effectiveness.

In the long-term, the region must pool its agricultural know-how. This will involve careful use of South African technical expertise.

But we, too, can learn from our neighbours especially in the area of subsistence agriculture.

The broad goal of this sharing will be to ensure that a robust and sustainable class of smallholder farmers takes root throughout the sub-continent. But they must have confidence in grain as a profitable crop: if not, as now, it will go unplanted.

The region also needs to share information. South African scientists, for example, should dovetail their efforts at developing an adequate early warning system with the one used in neighbouring countries.

With this, there needs to be a regional effort at building a grain reserve.

Those touched by famine, the region’s inhabitants, are the crucial players. They need to be involved in what happens to them. This means openness by the government to prevent rumours that lead to panic.

Decades of strife have battered southern Africa. If badly handled, this crisis could compound old suspicions. It should instead be creatively used to deepen understanding and so prove untrue the old aphorism “when hunger enters at the door, understanding leaves by the window”.

Peter Vale is research professor and co-director of the Centre for Southern African Studies, University of the Western Cape. David Catling is a senior research fellow at the Institute of Social Development.
**Cosatu aids drought victims**

By DAN DHLAMINI

Cosatu has demanded that no farm workers or other workers be retrenched as a result of the drought.

Launched 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 rural areas.

Cosatu has allocated R1000-million this year's budget for drought relief. The bulk of which will be used to prevent white farmers from going bankrupt and to win their confidence for votes in the forthcoming elections - instead of preventing mass starvation.

The statement claims only R20-million has been allocated to farm workers.

It added that millions are facing famine in the bantustans.

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.

By T and MBAT

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Farmers warn on aid package

Own Correspondent
PRETORIA. — Unless the allocation and distribution of the R3,8 billion rescue package for the agricultural industry are properly targeted and managed, many of the potential benefits could be lost.

This is the view of agriculturists, who said at the weekend there had to be a acute realisation of the urgency of opening up production credit lines for summer grain farmers.

National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo) general manager Mr Giel van Zyl said at least 40% of maize farmers had lost their credit-worthiness. Cooperative and bank credit was closed to them and they would be dependent on government aid to plant and grow the 1992/93 crop.

Mr Van Zyl said Nampo welcomed the aid package, saying it acknowledged the role of agriculture in the economy. If the aid was properly allocated, one of the major benefits would be the saving of thousands of black farm workers' jobs.

Another would be the halting of the drift into economic stagnation of platteland towns, where hundreds of small businesses were threatened.

The industry was not looking a gift horse in the mouth, but the wheels of bureaucracy ground slowly and it was hoped the aid programme would be approached with the necessary sense of urgency, he added.

Transvaal Agricultural Union president Mr Dries Bruwer said the funds were not only aimed at helping farmers, but also taxpayers and consumers.

The aim was to ensure a continued adequate supply of food. Provision had not necessarily been made to solve the core problems of the industry.

The measures indicated considerable assistance to crop farmers, but the union was concerned that insufficient provision had been made for cattle, fruit and vegetable farmers.

Mr Bruwer warned input suppliers against raising prices because of the aid, thereby sabotaging the aim of the relief measures.

Sapa reports that an urgent campaign is to be launched by Cosatu to address what is seen to be the government's poor response to the drought in rural areas and in homelands.

In a statement issued in Johannesburg on Saturday, the union federation charged that the money allocated by the government for drought relief would mainly to help white farmers stay off bankruptcy, and would prevent mass starvation.

"Of the amount allocated for drought relief, a meagre two percent, or R20m, has been allocated to farm workers (less than R200 per farm worker). This doesn't even take into account the millions facing famine conditions in the homelands," said Cosatu.

MAPUTO. — Mozambique estimates that up to three million of its people could starve to death in the worst drought Southern Africa has seen this century.

The government, in collaboration with UN agencies, plans to ask the world this week for urgent assistance for this nation of 15 million people.

"The current Southern African drought is threatening Mozambique with the worst disaster in living memory, putting the lives of millions of Mozambicans at risk," says a draft of the appeal.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said in Rome on Thursday that 17.2 million Africans would need foreign help to survive the year, mostly because of drought, but also because of war.

The Mozambican government and the UN estimated in December that 1.8 million Mozambicans needed food aid to survive 1992.

That was because of the war being waged by Renamo rebels and drought in a few regions. Total aid requirements were put at 986 325 tons.

But that estimate was made before the year-end rains failed. The new appeal asks for at least 300 000 tons more.

The latest estimate puts total needs at 1 286 350 tons of food, mostly maize, rice and wheat, for the 12 months beginning May 1, 1992.

The deterioration of the situation between last December and now is stressed in the draft appeal.

The appeal document, which officials say will probably be presented to donors on Wednesday, notes that the passage of relief convoys is a major problem. — Sapa-Reuter
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

(c) in respect of what specified period is this information furnished?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND AGRICULTURE:

Yes.

(a) (i) One.

(ii) None. However, in an effort to meet the demand for farming land in the Transvaal, vacant land in the ownership of the Housing Development Board was re-allocated for farming purposes in two areas. This land was not immediately required for housing projects.

(b) (i) Natal: 365 hectares

(ii) Transvaal: 167 hectares

Total 532 hectares

(c) 1991/1992 financial year.

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

Own Affairs:

Additional agricultural land: Indian farmers

20. Mr K CHETTY asked the Minister of Local Government and Agriculture:

Whether his Department has acquired any additional agricultural land for Indian farmers in Natal and the Transvaal since the repeal of the Group Areas Act; if not, why not; if so, (a) how many farms were so acquired in (i) Natal and (ii) the Transvaal, (b) what is the total extent of the land involved in each case and

Botha, Dr W J—

General Affairs:

Finance, 841

Burrows, Mr R M—

Own Affairs:

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Carlisle, Mr R V—

General Affairs:

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Own Affairs:

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Own Affairs:

Education and Culture, 854

Haswell, Mr R F—

General Affairs:

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General Affairs:

National Education, 911

Jacobs, Adv S C—

General Affairs:

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Pauls, Mr P J—

General Affairs:

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Pienaar, Adv C H—

Own Affairs:

Agricultural Development, 33, 940

Pienaar, Mr D S—

Own Affairs:

Education and Culture, 753
Payout calls mooted over fraud probe

By Jo-Anne Collinge and Pretoria Bureau

Rural communities who suffered as a result of massive corruption in the Department of Development Aid (DDA) would almost certainly demand compensation, National Land Committee spokesman Bahle Sibisi warned yesterday.

"The question is who is going to pay for this. Communities should not have to pay — they have already suffered enough," said Mr Sibisi, in response to the Pickard Commission's findings that millions of rand had been misused over a long period before the DDA's disbanding.

The NLC said: "The Government has not failed to point to the lack of funds available to improve the living conditions, meet development needs and make land available to black rural communities."

It added that a case in point was the Government's restriction on the restoration of land to people who were uprooted under the policy of forced removals.

Mr Sibisi said the NLC, which works extensively in rural areas, would be studying the full report of the Pickard Commission and consulting with communities directly affected by the misuse of funds.

The NLC said the commission had brought to light what people had long suspected. "The suffering and misery of many black rural communities who have been forced to deal with the DDA bear testimony to the incompetence and corruption of this department. Many attempts were made to bring to light the experiences of these communities, to no avail."

Despite the disbanding of the DDA, the Government would be held accountable, the NLC said. The organisation stated it was astounded by the extent of mismanagement "and the duration for which it was allowed to continue. The inaction of the Government makes them accomplices in this crime."

It was unfair to see the entire public service as corrupt because a handful of civil servants in the DDA were "bad boys", said Public Servants Association general manager Dr Hans Olivier.

Defending the more than 1 million public servants in the country, Dr Olivier said the same corruption could be found in the private sector. "That doesn't mean the whole private sector is corrupt."

"There were maybe two handfuls of bad boys in the Department of Development Aid, and proper disciplinary action should be taken against them. However, many others in the department were not guilty at all, and it is absolutely wrong to paint them with the same brush," he said.

Lessons to be learnt
— Page 15
SA asks EC for drought aid

JOHANNESBURG. — South Africa has formally approached the European Community for emergency drought relief aid for Southern Africa.

In a letter to the EC, South Africa said the drought could spell disaster for the region if emergency measures were not taken.

Confirming the request, an EC spokesman in Pretoria said the organisation would be responding regionally.

A spokesman for the Department of Foreign Affairs said although South Africa was traditionally not an aid recipient, the drought would place enormous pressure on the country's already restricted budget.

Meanwhile, South Africa is expected to be excluded from a UN-sponsored conference in New York at the beginning of next month when donor countries will be asked to pledge aid for the region.

Drought aid to farmers could be withheld if they did not keep proper financial records, Deputy Minister of Agriculture Mr Tobie Meyer said yesterday. Speaking in an agricultural debate, he said a departmental survey had found that 41% of farmers at Potchefstroom had not kept financial records.

The Department of Agriculture had set aside R5 million in drought aid for workers on farms, he said. — Sapa
his Durban office on 2 March 1992, at which the decision to allow Mr Sayed a lease pending the sale was stated.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Mr Chairman, I do not want to become entangled in the local issues of Lenasia, but through experience I know that both the former Department of Community Development and its successor, the Administration: House of Delegates, applied the firm policy that when dealing with genuine, bona fide resettlement cases, transactions were concluded by private treaty. That was the case where we had fewer applicants than sites.

I agree with the hon the Minister of Housing and Agriculture that when one has more applicants who are confirmed resettlement cases than available sites, the best method is to offer them on a competition basis on the understanding that the highest tenderer will be given the site. A condition is stipulated in the tender document that if there are tenders that are not resettlement cases, preference will be given to displaced persons, even if they do not submit the highest tender, provided that there is not a very big difference between the amount they tender and the highest tender, so that this will not cause problems with the Treasury.

I think the policy should be determined by the Housing Development Board. It reflects a serious state of affairs when hon Ministers are directly instructing junior officials on how to allocate sites and whom to allocate them to. [Time expired.]

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, with regard to the hon member for Lenasia East, I should like to point out that the letter to Mr Sayed to which she referred, was withdrawn shortly afterwards, because the regional representative acted prematurely by giving the authority without the Housing Development Board’s approval.

Unfortunately I did not have enough time to conclude my statement—I shall do so later—but I think that one needs to know what policy and procedure are being adopted, it will leave very little room for complaint. What is important is that when we have a policy, we must pursue it rigidly to the satisfaction of everyone concerned.

Mr D K PADIACHYE: Mr Chairman, it seems as if there was some kind of fiddling, because if the regional representative did act prematurely, it means that something is wrong. In that case, I would suggest to the hon the Minister that the regional director be suspended until further investigation of this matter takes place.

This is not the only issue. It seems that the regional director did bring a lot of issues to our notice with regard to certain things that have been happening and decisions that have been taken in the Ministers’ Council.

The issue is not one-sided; there are many sites to it. Many people have applied for land in the Lenasia area. Unfortunately this issue of Mr Sayed came in. We do not doubt his sincerity as a trader in the area or that he is in need of industrial land, but there are many others who were waiting even before he was. Interjections.

There is much land there. The question of how it was allocated is what is at issue here.

It seems that the issue of allocations has been questioned in the past. Some sites have been put out to tender. In the case of others, because the hon the Chairman of the Ministers’ Council has given the okay, they have been allocated to people. That is the question that must be answered today. Whether we draw the line? Do we allow the political arm to take decisions or do we put everything out to tender? What is the situation? This is the problem we have in Lenasia East are confronted with.

Some of the small businessmen are going down to local affairs committees asking for land. These committees agree that they must get land, but that depends on the Ministers’ Council and apparently the Ministers’ Council then takes a different decision. [Time expired.]

Mrs R EBRAHIM: Mr Chairman, I agree with the hon member for Central Rand. He made some very valid points.

This is a matter of principle and of who set the precedents. I believe that precedents were set by the hon the Minister of Housing. Incidentally, if the hon member for Central Rand was alleging that there was a fiddle, for his information the regional representative was totally opposed to this allocation. He made his feelings known on two occasions. A meeting took place in Durban on 2 March which was attended by the entire board, Mr Reed, and all the regional representatives—there must have been about 30 officials—and even at that meeting the regional representative opposed this allocation, but he was instructed to carry out certain decisions. If he acted prematurely or ultra vires, he is an agent of the board and the matter can be sorted out between them. I think, however, the claim of estoppel in law might hold, in that the agent will have to bear the brunt of what his juniors did.

[Time expired.]

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I do not want to disagree with the last two speakers. It is clear that there are misrepresentations in respect of communication, but subsequently the matter was regularised to the extent that this person was asked to hold on so that the normal procedure could be put into effect. I am ad idem with the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition.

I wish just to complete my statement. There are basically four alternatives when it comes to disposing of sites. The first is to lease sites to individual applicants for a specific period at a specified rental. The second is to sell sites to individual applicants by private treaty at a specified price, normally a market-related price.

Thirdly, the sites can be sold to persons who have responded to advertisements of sale by tender of sites, and whose tenders are the highest. In this case, the offer price is given and the highest prices tendered must be higher than or equal to the offset prices.

Fourthly, the sites can be sold by auction, in which case the highest bidder purchases the site. In this case a reserve price is set and the successful bid must be higher than, or equal to, the reserve price. This practice has thus far not been resorted to.

I may also mention that the Housing Development Board has recently approved that a deposit of 10% of the prices tendered be asked from tenders in an effort to discourage successful tenders from withdrawing before the validity period expires, as such action causes unnecessary and sometimes costly delays and duplication. In the case of unsuccessful tenders such deposits will be refunded without interest being added. In the case of successful tenders the deposit will be viewed as a payment towards the purchase price, but also without interest, or forfeited by the successful tenderer should he withdraw and not conclude the sale.

In conclusion, I wish to point out that the policy of the Housing Development Board in general terms is to opt for and give preference to the sale of its property by public tender as prescribed by the State Tender Board. It is a not a hard and fast rule, however, and the said board, which is the legal owner of such property, has to and does allow itself to be guided by the dictates of prevailing circumstances in special cases.

[Time expired.]

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

Own Affairs:

*1. Mr K Cheety—Education and Culture. [Question standing over.]

*2. Mr M Rajab—Education and Culture. [Question standing over.]

Purchasing of land: North Coast area of Natal

*3. The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION asked the Minister of Housing and Agriculture:

(1) Whether he or his Department intends purchasing any land for agricultural purposes in the North Coast area of Natal; if so, (a) where is this land situated and (b) what is the asking price (i) per hectare and (ii) in total;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF HOUSING AND AGRICULTURE:

(1) No.

(a) Falls away.

(b) Falls away.

(2) Yes. Mr Chairman.

Hon members of this House will agree that as in the case of land for housing, the search for and acquisition at reasonable cost, of suitable land for agricultural purposes, is an on-going process. Thus was suitable land originally identified, but the price thereof at R25 000.00 per hectare,
tare, as was the case in the Doornkop area, was evidently too exorbitant to consider. For this reason the Director-General requested that the search for other suitable and cheaper land should continue, which culminated in the identification of a farm in the Nonotii area by the Department of Agricultural Development: Administration: House of Assembly, who acted as our Administration's agent, since this Administration has no legal powers to acquire agricultural land.

The said Department appointed a valuator to value the farm and on the basis of the valuation of R4 067 700.00, recommended the acquisition thereof.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPosition: Mr Chairman, on a point of order: The hon the Minister's answer to the first part of my question was "no". In reply to the second part of the question the hon the Minister is now covering the ground of an official interpretation that has been handed in.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! May I ask the hon the Minister whether he is responding to the question as it appears on the Question Paper or to an interpretation which is still to come?

Mr Y M MAKDA: Mr Chairman, in his reply the hon the Minister said that he was making a statement as requested under section 2 of the question. As far as the interpretation is concerned, it has not gone through the Whip's committee yet and it is not on the Question Paper. Accordingly, the rule of anticipation does not apply.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! The hon the Minister may proceed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPosition: Mr Chairman, further to the point of order: In the light of the fact that the hon the Minister's answer to question 3(1) is "no", there is no need for a statement.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! No, my interpretation is that although the request for the hon the Minister to make a statement on the matter is interrelated to the main question, it is still something that stands on its own. The hon the Minister is entitled to make a statement on the matter.

The MINISTER: The farm, totalling 365 hectares, is situated on the Natal North Coast about 65 kilometres from Stanger. The original asking price was R4 000 000.00, whilst the finally negotiated price was R3 332 750.00 for the land plus R57 250.00 for the pool A sucrose quota of 2 209 tons, totalling R3 900 000.00.

The farm in question is 9 kilometres from the nearest MB and consists of—a 50 hectares of registered land planted with sugar cane, 180 hectares of which is under a well developed irrigation system;—7 hectares planted with Litchis, under micro jet irrigation and which is nearing bearing stage;—0.5 hectares planted with mangoes, 2 years old; and—57.5 hectares for housing, roads and other non-usable land, such as river verges, sheep bush land, etc.

The housing consists of—a Main house of 500 square metres;—a garage of 170 square metres;—a spare bedroom of 45 square metres;—2 cottages, totaling 310 square metres;—a workshop of 264 square metres;—a packshed of 392 square metres;—16 compounds totaling 1 441 square metres.

Water for year-round sprinkler irrigation of approximately 265 hectares is available from 2 dams in the Menguin and Nonotii rivers, even in extreme drought conditions.

Cane production over an 8-year period averages at 15 500 tons per year, which is equivalent to 1 940 tons of sucrose.

The all-inclusive price of R10 650.00 per hectare compares favourably with the price of R12 760.00 per hectares which was recently paid for a nearby farm which lies 3 kilometres nearer to the MB, has no irrigation infrastructure except a small portable plant and with no possibility of dam construction.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPosition: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, in particular with regard to the amount of approximately R10 000 per hectare paid for this particular piece of land, is the hon the Minister aware of the fact that the Administration is considering leasing this land back to the seller and if so, at what price? Secondly, does the hon the Minister's Department value the advice given by the Natal Cane Growers Association, which, by the way, was negative? Thirdly, is it not correct that the original report of the extension officers was negative and that they were subsequently pressurized by a new Minister to change the report?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I would like some time to go into all the details. I would like to reply to the question, but my answer would not be complete.

Mr N SINGH: Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply and his reference to an evaluator being appointed, could he tell us who this person is? Secondly, could he tell us whether the Agricultural Credit Committee was asked to value this farm?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I ask the hon member for Umzinto for his understanding. I will do the necessary research and give him an answer.

Mr N JUNUNU: Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, may I ask him when the land was acquired and what the present status of the land is? Is the land being let or not? If it is being let, what are the terms and conditions? Furthermore, since the milling sector has already attached, I would like to know whether the crop on the land is being harvested at this stage?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, the hon member for North Coast is a sugar cane farmer and, if I may say so, I think he ought to know whether it is the harvesting and milling season. I am not in the know about these issues. However, with his second question, the land has been acquired by the general affairs department.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPosition: As an agent!

The MINISTER: Yes, as an agent. The hon member also wanted to know how long ago the land was acquired, and the answer to this is a month or two ago. I understand from reliable sources that the registration of the sale is almost through. That is all I can tell the hon member for North Coast at this stage.

Mr N SINGH: Mr Chairman, further arising from the hon the Minister's reply, regarding the registration of sale, would I be correct in saying that this land will be subdivided and sold off to farmers? I also wish to ask the hon the Minister whether he can give us the value of all the items he referred to as "housing" in his reply.

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I will do so with pleasure.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPosition: Mr Chairman, there is time for another supplementary question?

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! I think there have already been five supplementary questions.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPosition: Mr Chairman, there have been three.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! The hon the Leader of the Official Opposition may proceed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPosition: Mr Chairman, further arising from the hon the Minister's reply, in any transaction relating to the acquisition of land by our Administration, is it the policy of the Department to state that no agents were involved in the transaction?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I do not know what specific aspect of a transaction the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition is referring to, but I do not think that is a normal practice.

Amount paid to housing consultant

3. The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPosition asked the Minister of Housing and Agriculture:

(1) What amount was paid to the housing consultant in 1991?

(2) whether the contract period of this consultant has been extended; if not, why:

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF HOUSING AND AGRICULTURE:

(1) R439 659.76.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES
Minister waxes lyrical

CAPE TOWN — Self-penned poetry, dusted with harsh metaphor on the ravages of drought, tied up Agriculture Minister Kros van Niekerk’s closing speech during the Own 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 my 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 R3,5bn drought-aid package. — Sapa.

Relief programme ‘includes farmworkers’

CAPE TOWN — The Agriculture Department had set aside R5bn 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 the government’s poor response to the plight of farmworkers.

Meyer said the Health and National Population Development Department had earmarked R2bn for poverty relief, plus a R10m grant to Operation Hunger. Another R150m 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.
SA asks EC for drought aid in southern Africa

"SA HAS formally approached the EC for emergency drought relief aid for southern Africa.

SAPA reports that in a letter to the EC, SA said the drought could spell disaster for the region if emergency measures were not taken.

An EC spokesman in Pretoria confirmed the request, said the organisation would respond regionally.

A Foreign Affairs spokesman said although SA was traditionally not an aid recipient, the drought would place enormous pressure on the country’s already restricted budget.

However, SA is expected to be excluded from a UN-sponsored conference in New York next month when donor countries will be asked to pledge aid for the region.

Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk yesterday urged banks and suppliers not to repossess drought-hit farmers until his department had worked out details for distributing its R3.8bn in drought aid.

But in Parliament, Deputy Minister of Agriculture Toby Meyer warned that drought aid to farmers could be withheld if they did not keep proper financial records. Speaking during the agricultural development budget vote debate, he said a departmental survey had found that 41% of farmers in Pretoria had not kept financial records. “This raises questions about the management prowess of our farmers,” he said.

GERALD REILLY reports from Pretoria that Van Niekerk said in an interview banks, other financial institutions and input suppliers had a duty to get meaningfully involved in the operation to rescue the farming industry from disaster. It could not be questioned, said Van Niekerk, that the farmers’ producer price index had fallen far behind the consumer price index.

FNB senior GM Viv Bartlett said yesterday wherever possible the bank helped farmers in financial difficulties. But where it was apparent that an applicant for further aid could not trade himself out of his problems, “we have no alternative”.

A Volkskas spokesman said the bank treated all cases involving financially distressed farmers with sympathy. However, there were some sequestration proceedings in the pipeline — involving heavy legal costs — which could not be halted. But these involved hopeless cases beyond further reasonable aid.

Dries Bruwer (CP Lydenburg) told Parliament yesterday that commercial banks had told him they were prepared to consider forming a consortium to take over the functions of the Land Bank.

Such a move would mean that the farmer, who worked with his commercial bank on a day-to-day basis, would have a more direct line to total financial servicing. A farmer often had to borrow from his commercial bank anyway when the Land Bank came breathing down his neck for repayment of loans.

Removing the administration of some Land Bank funds from the activities of co-ops might improve relationships between co-ops and their members, as the co-ops would not have to chase after farmers.

Bruwer also said the CP would oppose the establishment of subsistence farmers on high-yield agricultural land because this was not in the interests of SA. The state would have to take a very careful look at the justification for subsistence farming as against the interests of commercial farmers.

Public Enterprises Minister Dawie de Villiers said Eskom had written off almost R500 000 in unpaid electricity bills incurred by western Transvaal farmers last year.

Replying to a question from Bruwer, he said the debt of R493 634 had been notched up by 260 farmers. In the central Transvaal Eskom wrote off R158 101 owed by 78 farmers and in the Free State debt of R25 324 was also written off.
R26-m to appease white landowners

THE Government is forging ahead with plans to buy land from white plot owners outside Soweto for R26,5 million - in spite of warnings that the land might be useless for housing development.

According to a memorandum from the Department of Local Government and National Housing to the Department of State Expenditure, the Transvaal Provincial Administration is to buy out an area known as Dooomkop 239 IQ west of Soweto.

An unnamed Cabinet Minister allegedly promised the white owners that the State would buy their land and the Cabinet was convinced it would "not be wise to not fulfil their expectations".

The memo, given to Sowetan’s sister newspaper The Pretoria News by a source within the public service, tells of a "ministerial liaison" with the owners who had complained of a wave of thefts and assaults in the area.

According to the memorandum, the Cabinet was approached to approve the transfer of funds set aside for the black community from the National Housing Fund to pay for the purchase because "the purchase of this land is the direct result of urbanisation and it is therefore regarded as justified to use funds allocated for the black community for this transaction".

The memorandum, addressed to the Director-General of State Expenditure, says the Cabinet approved the transfer of R26,425 million to the TPA in February this year while taking note of the "possible fruitless expenses associated with it".

The land was rezoned in July last year for agricultural use after the TPA said the ground was dolomitic and could not be used for township development.

In an interview, one of the land owners, Mr Fansu du Plessis, a former National Party MPC for Rooddepoort, said he had asked Finance Minister Mr Barend du Plessis to buy the land.

"He agreed with me the land should be bought by the Government," he said.

The Pretoria News has also been told the land deal had overridden normal channels and procedures because publicity might draw a flood of similar requests.
Govt to buy 'useless' land

The Government is going ahead with plans to buy land from white plot-owners outside Soweto in spite of warnings that the land might be useless for housing development.

According to a memorandum from the Department of Local Government and National Housing to the Department of State Expenditure, the Transvaal Provincial Administration is to buy out an area known as Doornkop 239 IQ, west of Soweto, after an unnamed Cabinet minister promised the white owners that the State would buy their land.

About 70 smallholdings form the area.

According to the memorandum, the Cabinet was approached to approve transfer of funds set aside for the black community from the National Housing Fund to pay for the land because “the purchase of this land is the direct result of urbanisation and it is therefore regarded as justified to use funds allocated for the black community for this transaction”.

The land, which was originally valued at R50,3 million and zoned for township development, was rezoned in July last year for agricultural use by the Deputy Minister of Planning only after the TPA said the ground was dolomitic and could not be used for townships.

At the same time, the land was revalued at R26,4 million.
Agricultural debt may soar to R20bn

PRETORIA — Agriculture’s total debt could soar to R20bn by the end of the year after the summer harvest, Co-operative Council chairman CG van Velden said yesterday.

Speaking at the biennial co-operative congress, he warned the agricultural economic situation was “very dark” and its recovery could only be long and painful.

Despite the efforts of co-operatives and state aid, many farmers had been unable to survive financially. Some co-operatives had even faltered and the current disastrous season would intensify this trend.

Poor economic growth, unbridled inflation and the rigid interest rate policy were placing a tremendous strain on farmers and their co-operatives.

The security situation in rural areas continued to worsen, as these areas became increasingly depopulated.

The inability of agriculture to absorb further production cost increases as well as the inability to recover them in product prices would affect the recovery of co-operatives and the rural areas.

Meanwhile, Sapa reports that government’s decision to contribute to the preservation of breeding stock by means of interest subsidies was welcomed by the Meat Board yesterday.

The board said in Pretoria the interest rate on section 34 medium-term loans by the Land Bank for the purchase of breeding stock from drought-stricken areas was to be subsidised by 5% for a year, amounting to only 16% effective interest on such loans. The board appealed to all meat producers to refrain from slaughtering valuable breeding stock.

It is reported from Cape Town that Agriculture Minister Klaas van Niekerk told Parliament yesterday more than 1 404-million tons of maize would be channelled through SA ports by June 30 for hunger relief in southern Africa. He said SA would receive 977 000 tons, Zimbabwe 407 683 tons and Zambia 20 000 tons.

Mozambique, in turn, appealed to the world yesterday for massive food aid to save more than 3-million people from starvation, Sapa-Reuters reports from Maputo.

Prime Minister Mario Machungo told foreign diplomats and aid agency representatives recent surveys indicated “an almost total crop loss in the centre and south of the country”. It was foreseen that famine would wipe out one fifth of the country’s 15-million people unless food aid arrived in time.

“The current drought could be the worst disaster in memory for Mozambique, threatening to reach incalculable dimensions and consequences,” Machungo said.

His appeal puts total needs at 1.3-million tons of food for the 12 months beginning May 1 1992. The total value of aid requested, including logistical support, seeds, farm tools and health assistance in addition to food, comes to $457.45m.

Water restrictions have been imposed throughout the Kruger National Park after the disclosure that most of the water in the reserve is being used for irrigation.

SABS reports malpractices

MADDEN COLE

The SA Bureau of Standards (SABS) has blamed consumer apathy for large-scale malpractices in the bakery and service station sectors, which could result in consumers being cheated out of millions of rands annually.

In his annual review released yesterday, SABS director-general J P du Plessis said a survey last year had discovered that 50% of the bakeries inspected produced under-weight bread, and 13% of all leaves failed to meet minimum weight requirements.

The survey’s results disclosed “a frightening lack of business ethics” in some sectors of the industry.

Although the bakeries had been warned and the matter publicised, they had continued these practices.

A random survey of petrol pumps showed that 10% of meters were inaccurate. A survey of weighbridges in the PWV and Transvaal country areas showed “a disconcertingly high number of inaccurate instruments”.

The SABS would recommend amendments to legislation to enable courts to impose more appropriate sentences. However, consumer organisations should urge consumers to report cases of short measure.
Policeman held for arms cache

POLICE yesterday seized a large arms cache and arrested a prominent KwaZulu policeman who is alleged to be a "warlord".

Ten other people were arrested at Umfazi on Wednesday night for operating a protection racket.

The arrests, including three women, followed a raid to the Montclair police station by a resident who claimed he was threatened by the gang. He was told he could not operate a business at Umfazi unless he paid.

Police spokesman Captain Balu Naidoo confirmed yesterday that members from the Montclair firearm unit and the reaction unit had made the arrests.

"At this stage the accused are facing charges of extortion. However, we are considering handing over the case to the special investigation unit for them to take over," said Naidoo.

He said among the weapons found were two G3 rifles - mainly used by the KwaZulu police - an R1 rifle, a Mossberg shotgun, an HMC sub-machinegun, four pistols, 211 rounds of ammunition, a teargas grenade, a "thousand foot" flare, five holsters, a car radio, a portable telephone and R1 100 in cash. - Sapa.

Matter of fact

IN a report on page 1 in Sowetan yesterday a sub-headline read: "Race to face with killer".

This headline got on to this page erroneously and had no relevance to any of the stories or people on the page.

Court asked to decide on land dispute

THE Government has recommended to the Garankuwa Regional Court to do an on-site inspection to determine whether a disputed piece of land is on the South African or Bophuthatswana side of the border.

Forty-seven people are facing charges of illegal squatting in the homeland after being arrested on a piece of land somewhere on the border between the two countries.

Prosecutor Mr IM Molotisane submitted to magistrate Ms ES Manyoni yesterday that the court should visit the location of the squatter camp.

The attorney for the squatters, Mr Jake Maseka, put it to the court that the accused were arrested by the Bophuthatswana police while occupying an informal settlement in Kwelefontein, which borders the homeland's area of Kameelfontein.

The complainant, Chief James Mamogale, leader of the Bokwena-Bu-Mogopa tribe of Hebron, west of Pretoria, told the court the squatters were unlawfully and illegally occupying a part of Kameelfontein in Bophuthatswana.

He said the land was owned privately by a section of his tribe.

There was some drama in the packed courtroom when Maseka put it to Mamogale that he also sublet shacks in his own backyard, which by implication was tantamount to encouraging illegal squatting.

Mamogale replied that certain people had approached him looking for "a place to sleep" and that in return these people had thanked him with "something".
DROUGHT RELIEF

Not much left for farmers

Most of the State’s R3.8bn drought aid package for embattled farmers, announced with much fanfare last week in Cape Town, will go towards paying off government’s own R2.8bn commitment to farming co-ops. Farmers will get only R1bn of the money directly.

The morass stems from an old State guarantee scheme gone haywire.

During the 1983 drought, government issued an R800m guarantee to farming co-ops in summer rainfall grain-producing areas. The guarantee extended to credits, for input costs, provided by co-ops to struggling farmers in order to allow the flow of credit to continue.

But, says the Department of Agriculture, “the mistake was made of allowing further carryover debts, caused by weak maize and wheat crops in following years, to be included under the guarantee scheme, which was meant to apply only to 1983 debts.”

So, while farmers obviously will also benefit from this year’s first R1bn instalment on the four-year, R3.8bn package (to which must be added the R355m in drought relief budgeted earlier this year), the massive bill now being paid by taxpayers would have been avoided if the proper controls had been in place in the mid-Eighties.

Government says its main aim is to close out the State’s commitment to the co-ops under the guarantee package, thus allowing market principles to apply to future agricultural financing.

The escalating farm debt — R18bn at the end of last year — has been aggravated by recurring droughts, with this year’s most devastating. But the debt would be much less if the correct policies had been followed in agriculture.

The initial mistake was made in the early Eighties, when government allowed the farming co-ops — which had a total turnover of well over R2.2bn last year — to act as the Land Bank’s production financing input agents. This role, coupled with their roles as wholesalers and retailers for farming requisites and agents for the various control boards, was protected by a statutory lien over farmers’ annual crop proceeds in favour of the co-ops.

Because the co-ops were not only protected by this lien but also backed by the State guarantee, as well as the provision of Land Bank funds, the necessity of keeping strict controls over farming credit was reduced.

Government has now finally seen the light — but it has yet to remove the statutory lien, which compelled commercial banks to base their financing decisions on the value of property rather than on cash-flow considerations. This led to a disastrous escalation of short-term debt in agriculture, as banks started financing everything from crops to trucks on overdraft facilities.

Backed by the security of farm property, this seemed a safe bet — especially when lending rates at anything up to 8% above prime became the norm. But with the latest drought disaster and drop in farm values, the house of cards is in danger of collapsing.

While government is now pulling out of its guarantee commitment at great cost to long-suffering taxpayers, it is also putting the squeeze on the banks by placing the onus on them to provide future funding on cash-flow and commercial considerations, rather than on the “security” of a farming sector that is faced with financial disaster.

The whole issue was to be thrashed out at a meeting of affected parties in Pretoria this week. But the pressure will now be squarely on government to consider the invidious financing role of the farming co-ops and the continued existence of the lien on farm crops,

which has become a major problem for commercial banks.

“In fact,” says a spokesman for a major banking group, “we will have to seriously reconsider our future operations in the farming sector unless government seriously faces up to this issue.”

Arnold van Heerden
Drought pushes up producer price inflation

By Sven Lünsche

Producer price inflation moved up in March as the drought put pressure on agricultural food prices.

The Central Statistical Service reported yesterday that producer inflation — the year-on-year increase in the Production Price Index — rose to eight percent in March from its record low of 6.7 percent in February.

However, economists said yesterday that the underlying trends indicated that producer price rises would be maintained at recent levels in the months to come.

This was confirmed by the mere 0.5 percent rise in the PPI from February to March this year. This low increase was mainly due to the low cost of imported commodities.

In March the rise in the cost of imported producer goods was 0.1 percent higher than in February and 4.1 percent up on March 1991.

The index for locally-produced commodities, however, increased by 0.8 percent over February and 8.9 percent over March last year.

A breakdown of monthly commodity price rises is led by agricultural items (7.3 percent), fishery products (10 percent), textiles (2.1 percent) and clothing (2.9 percent).

As the drought forced farmers to kill more stock and thus raise their supplies to the abattoir the price of fresh meat fell by 1.8 percent during the month. So far this has not been reflected in the meat prices paid by consumers.
Land report 3 months late

THE first report of the advisory commission investigating claims for the restoration of land removed during the apartheid era was released yesterday—more than three months after it was completed.

The report of the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation was tabled in Parliament yesterday but the Conservative Party immediately attacked the government for keeping the report secret for more than three months.

"It is disrespectful of Parliament," the CP said in a statement issued by its black affairs spokesman, Mr Schalk Pienaar.

"It is just another example of the incompetence and clumsiness of the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs, Mr Jacob de Villiers, unless there are also other minister reasons, for which the minister owes the public an explanation," he added.

The commission, whose chairman is Mr Justice T J van Reenen, met four times in December and February and its first report was signed in February.

It said that before its establishment, controversy and suspicion arose within certain communities and organisations.

"Discussions with representatives of the communities resulted in the allaying of fears and suspicions and the commission is now being accepted as a forum for addressing land claims."

Most of the claims the commission is investigating concern the restoration of land taken from black people.

Zevenfontein sites chosen

JOHANNESBURG. — About 1000 Zevenfontein squatter families are to be resettled on two sites north of Randburg and Sandton, the Transvaal Provincial Administration announced yesterday, finally ending a protracted battle over the community's future.

The two sites — portions of Nietgedacht and Diepsloot West — are to be expropriated and developed at a total cost of about R20 million, Transvaal Administrator Mr Danie Roughe said yesterday. — Sapa
The IMF Loans - there are strings attached.

Like most money lenders, the IMF attaches strings to loans. The IMF imposes what it calls "conditionality" on its loans. Conditionality means that, in order to be given a loan, a country must follow a set path of economic development. The IMF calls this path an economic Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP). Since the IMF is controlled by the major capitalist countries, they believe that economies can grow fastest when they help to maximise the profits of companies. Therefore the IMF's programme is designed to help businesses make high profits. Among the measures commonly recommended by the IMF are:

1. Removal of subsidies: Subsidies are government payments to those who produce or sell basic necessities. For instance, if a subsidy is given to mealie-meal sellers, those who sell mealie-meal can charge lower prices, because part of the price of the mealie-meal is covered by the government. The IMF believes subsidies are a waste of taxpayers' money and help support inefficient businesses.

2. Cutbacks in government spending: The IMF generally believes African governments are inefficient and overstaffed. They recommend big cutbacks in government staffing and services.

3. Promotion of traditional exports: The IMF usually encourages African countries to increase efficiency in the production of their traditional exports such as minerals (copper, for example) and cash crops. Rather than promoting production of manufactured goods in African countries, the IMF believes such manufactured goods should be imported with money made from exports.

4. Devaluation: The IMF encourages countries receiving their loans to reduce the value of their money, in other words to "devalue" their currency. This supposedly makes a country's exports cheaper. This is done to promote the sale of exports. The value of a country's currency affects the price of its imports and exports. Zambia has devalued it's currency many times. A radio that cost 200 kwacha in 1985 would cost a Zambian 12,600 kwacha today, about a whole year's salary for many workers.

5. Privatisation: The IMF believes government owned companies are always inefficient. Therefore, the IMF recommends that nationalized companies be sold back to private owners.

Secure the IMF loans, Zambia had to follow the IMF's development path, which was as follows:

Cutbacks and Retrenchments

To comply with the IMF, Zambia reduced thousands of civil servants. Many services were reduced due to lack of money. Health services were especially hard hit. By 1987 more than half of the vehicles belonging to the Ministry of Health were out of service because the government had no money for repairs. In addition, most Zambian doctors left the country. The value of the Kwacha had fallen so low that by 1987 the salary for a graduate doctor was less than 100 Rand per month! Medicines were also in great shortage.

Subsidies and Food Riots

The IMF tried on several occasions to force the Zambian government to remove the subsidy on mealie-meal. In 1987, there were widespread riots when the subsidy was removed and price of mealie meal doubled. The government was forced to restore the subsidy. In 1990 there were riots again and an attempted coup when the subsidy was removed. To this day however, the subsidy has not been restored. Today a 25 kg sack of mealie meal costs a teacher half a month's salary.

Further Debt

Because the price of copper has never recovered, Zambia has slipped further into debt. More than 40% of the government's annual budget goes toward repaying its debts. To make matters worse, it is estimated that Zambia has only enough copper reserves left to produce for another twenty years. What will they do when the copper is all gone?

What is the Solution?

The IMF would say that Zambia spent too long following a model of "socialism" where government was too active in the economy to get our teeth, look, listen. They would particularly blame the current problems on the Zambian government's nationalisation of the copper mines. The IMF would recommend privatisation of the mines and other state-owned companies. Socialists economists would analyse the situation differently. They would say that Zambia never changed its colonial economic structure. Socialists would argue that by only relying on selling copper, Zambia was digging a hole in the ground for itself. They would say that the only way for Zambia to succeed in the future is to begin to produce a wider variety of goods.

Nearly all would agree that some part of Zambia's problems are due to a lack of democracy. Kaunda and UNIP ruled for 27 years without holding an election. While the masses suffered many UNIP members reaped the benefit of "independence". This year Zambia held elections, and Frederick Chiluba, an ex-trade unionist, was elected President. He received almost 80% of the votes cast in the elections. Chiluba has promised to restructure the economy more tightly along the IMF's line. He has promised to privatise all state industries and open the door to foreign investors. He blames the country's economic crisis on the errors of the Kaunda government. He says: "We are like a country awakening from a coma. We are weak and ill but still alive... For too long government was the problem. This crisis needs discipline, hard work, honesty, clean government and a determination to get our teeth, look, listen and tackle head on."

Questions for discussion:

A) Do you think Frederick Chiluba has the answers for Zambia's problems?
B) Is the IMF correct in its demands? Read the points (1) to (5) in the box on the IMF, and think what would happen if the IMF demanded these changes in South Africa.

Books and pamphlets on the IMF and the World Bank are available from the Institute For African Alternatives

4th floor, Sable Centre, 41 De Korte St. Braamfontein, 2001

Their telephone number is: (011) 339-6752 Fax: (011) 339-1127
Karoo — land of the forgotten people

May 16 to May 21 1992

A major national road runs through the arid Karoo — yet the 50 towns scattered through the area all suffer from a lack of infrastructure, resources and facilities.

In a terrain where most inhabitants are dependent on revenue from farming, unemployment is pegged at 71 percent.

No major development initiatives have reached the Karoo for decades and the two phrases which best describe the situation are “economic stagnation” and “abject poverty”.

Even politically, the Karoo is light years behind the rest of the country. The process of change which has swept through South Africa over the past 18 months has had almost no impact on the region.

Strict divisions between racial groups remain and the notion of “master” and “slave” is still very much in evidence — the legacy of apartheid in its most base form.

Development academics who have researched socio-economic conditions in the area have all reached the same conclusion: the area should have been declared a disaster zone years ago.

The shortcomings of political organisations in the Karoo and the lack of co-ordination of development programmes around education and housing are largely a result of the distances between towns and the repressive climate under which activists are forced to operate.

Take us with you, don’t neglect us any longer, is the call from Karoo activists who want an end to urban arrogance.

Ruby Marks, coordinator of a resource centre based in Beaufort West, reports:

I had a taste of this last week while visiting Karoo townships. A mysterious male checked my movements all day, telephoning schools to see if I had arrived, sometimes minutes before I reached them.

I was stopped by policemen in a van on a lonely stretch of road between Prieska and Middelburg later that day. They tried to convince me to return to Cape Town and not cause trouble in the Karoo. Most of their tirade is unprintable.

Nowhere in the country are the effects of apartheid as marked as in the Karoo. This is clearly demonstrated by the extreme dependence of the black community on whites and the pervasive white control of economic power.

The poverty has resulted in a mood of apathy. Lacking a strong voice of their own, most residents have lapsed into fatalism. They seem to accept their lot, adopting the phrase “Die mens wil, maar God — en die wit man — beskik (Man proposes but God — and the white man — disposes).”

The Karoo Resource Centre (KRC) was established two years ago in Beaufort West as a satellite project of the Cancer Research and Information Centre (CRIC).

It faces the difficult task of working without any debate on the milieu in which it operates. Economic stagnation and social problems like teenage pregnancy and alcohol abuse are combined with a lack of organised alternative formations to give direction.

Two conferences scheduled to take place soon are intended to address development issues in the Karoo.

The first is an education conference planned for May 16 by the KRC and local community organisations.

They will discuss the formulation of education policy, priorities for the region, community control of farm schools, illiteracy, pre-school education and the need for educate centres and trained workers.

It is hoped the conference will lead to the establishment of an educational commission. The Karoo will have an opportunity to make an input on what the new education system should look like.

A second conference, the Conference on Poverty and Development in the Karoo, will be held from June 26 to 28.

A co-ordinating committee consisting of farmers, social workers, local state departments, agricultural unions, churches and community representatives have been meeting to discuss the poverty and how it can be eradicated.

A meeting is scheduled to take place in the first week of June with Minister Kraai van Nickerk so the issue can be put on the government’s agenda.

Activists in the Karoo often complain that the ANC is not interested in the suffering of people in the area. They feel the ANC will only come to the region if there is a constituent assembly and the organisation needs votes.

Urban service organisations sometimes offer projects clearly unsuited to the region. Such projects cannot be implemented because of a lack of infrastructure to support the schemes.

This creates suspicion in rural areas that service organisations try to “hitch” the Karoo onto their agendas to get funding for their continued existence.

Some complain that urban political activists and trade unions create dust clouds as they pass through the Karoo — only stopping if they have accidents or must fill up with petrol.

Academics are regarded as tourists passing through who do not stop to offer anything meaningful. They do not help residents or local organisations to define how their research could help the community.

Karoo activists complain about a lack of hands-on involvement from progressive trade unions, despite calls for help in organising the poorest of the poor, the farmworkers.

Even progressive newspapers give rural communities scant attention.

This indifference to a region facing severe economic stagnation is astounding.

The impoverishment of the rural areas is a direct result of skewed development which places short-term profit gain ahead of comprehensive planned development.

The solution lies in changing the power relations between urban and rural areas. The present imbalance is neither inevitable nor eternal.

To rectify the problem rural areas must be politically uplifted and integrated into national political initiatives.
**Parks Board backs down on Machavies**

By DAN DHLAMINI

THE National Parks Board (NPB), which intends developing Machavies into a game reserve, will not continue with the project before consulting the Barolong ba Modiboa who are reclaiming their ancestral land.

In an interview this week NPB executive director Dr Anthony Hall-Martin said he had arranged a meeting tomorrow with lawyers representing the Barolong to discuss the matter.

The interview follows a court case which revolves around the Machaviesland, about 20 km from Potchefstroom.

This week Barolong Action Committee (BAC) chairman Johannes Ntismane and 50 members of the tribe appeared in a Potchefstroom Magistrate’s Court charged with trespassing on municipal land.

This was the Barolong’s second attempt in two years to reclaim their land from where they were forcibly removed in 1971.

Last December, 25 tribesmen were arrested for trying to reoccupy Machavies, which is also known as Matlwang.

Charges against them were subsequently dropped. Potchefstroom town clerk J du Piessis said this was “for humanitarian reasons”.

On Good Friday another scuffle broke out when the authorities claimed the tribe had broken a visiting agreement and again allegedly tried to reoccupy the land. The case will be heard on June 16 and the tribesmen are out on bail.

This week Ntismane said the committee would await the outcome of trial before talking to Hall-Martin.

Hall-Martin said his letters to the BAC had drawn no response.
The State has a fine crop of weeds

By DAWN BARKHUZEN and EVELYN HOLTHAUSEN

THIRD GENERATION Transvaal farmer Janie Smuts, 48, pulls no punches on the subject of the SA Development Trust Corporation.

"They farm in a way that would have bankrupted any private farmer years ago," he said bluntly.

The corporation took over 34 500ha from 63 farmers and plots owners. It was prime cotton and maize land.

"Now the weeds stand three metres high. It will take years to get rid of them."

The weed crop is flourishing on land under central pivot irrigation, which the state bought from farmers for about R7 000 a hectare.

Maize yields are down from roughly five tons a hectare to 1.5 tons.

The 105ha on which the corporation claims to have harvested represent a third of the land previously cultivated by the farmers.

RECORDS

Mr Leon Frost, a former Department of Development Aid official who was based at Rust de Winter for three years, claimed last week that the corporation's claims about the crop yield statistics presented to the Pickard commission by more than 50 percent were exaggerated.

"A single Rust de Winter farmer used to produce more than the entire wheat harvest now produced by the corporation," said Mr Frost this week.

"The equipment worth millions of rand has gone to waste. People were stealing stuff from the sheds at night — but the real reason for the losses is that no records were kept."

When people took equipment or implements to use, they didn't sign release forms as they were supposed to. They just took what they wanted and moved stuff around so much we lost track of everything.

"Most of the thefts were never reported — not to me and not to the police. I would discover things had disappeared when I went looking for them."

"When I reported this to the DDA head office, I was told I should not interfere in corporation affairs," said Mr Frost. During his three-year period at Rust de Winter, Mr Frost said, the level of management deteriorated to such a degree that:

- Six cattle were left without water for so long they tried to drink dip, fell into the trough and drowned;
- A central pivot irrigator worth more than R100 000 was smashed into four pieces when officials pulled it across a ditch. The loss was written off as "wear and tear";
- Officials pulled down fences so they could take short cuts across fields;
- Farming implements were left to rust in the veld and sometimes damaged beyond repair by tractor or bobcat drivers; and
- The wheat harvest was at risk when officials destroyed a recorded 1 057ha of land at Rust de Winter.

"When I asked for the records to be kept, I was told they were "too far down the pipeline"."

Mr Frost said the corporation's claim that there was insufficient water for farming:

"In the worst drought years of the 80s, when our dams were down to two percent capacity, most of our land was still under cultivation and we managed to produce substantial crops," he said.

His wife, Hilary, said she refused to return to the farm that had been her home for 18 years because the chronic neglect "broke my heart".

This week, a Sunday Times team visited the area and saw:

- Fields flooded by weeds more than 3m high;
- A R180 000 central pivot irrigation system broken into pieces lying in the veld;
- Derelict sheds and houses, some demolished.

HEARTSORE

The local school has closed down and the only remaining shop owner in the area, Mrs Helen Francis, says her business is down 60 percent and she doubts she will survive the year.

Farm labourer Jackson Mngwe, 60, who has lived in Rust de Winter for 45 years, said he had never seen such neglect.

"I am heartbroken. Most of my friends and co-workers, even the old ones, have been forced to leave the farms they had lived on for years in search of work and food."

Retired University of South Africa theologian Professor Braam Viljoen, twin brother of former SAPF general Constand Viljoen and the PFP candidate in the 1987 election, farms 1 057ha of land at Rust de Winter.

He described the corporation's management of the farms as "socialist" and said the once-productive land became "a thorough disaster" under its control.

"Rust de Winter farmers supported a community of more than 3 000 people before the DDA, the SA Development Trust and the corporation became involved.

"Now only a few hundred people live here, and they are all struggling to make ends meet. It's not only a disaster, it's a disgrace."
The State has a fine crop of weeds

By DAVID BARKHUZEN and EVILYN HOLTZHAUSEN

THIRD-GENERATION Transvaal farmer Jamie Smuts, 48, pulls no punches on the subject of the SA Development Trust Corporation.

"They farm in a way that would have bankrupted any private farmer years ago," he said bitterly.

"The corporation took over 34,950ha from 63 farmers and plot owners. It was prime cotton and mealie land.

"Now the weeds stand three metres high. It will take years to get rid of them."

The weed crop flourishes on land under central pivot irrigation, which the state bought from farmers for about R3,000 a hectare.

Maize yields are down from roughly five tons a hectare to 3.8 tons. The 1,065ha which the corporation claims to have harvested represent a third of the land previously cultivated by the farm owners.

RECORDS

Mr Leon Frost, a former Department of Development Aid official who was based at Rust de Winter for three years, claimed corporation officials inflated the crop yield statistics presented to the Pickard commission by more than 50 percent.

"A single Rust de Winter farmer used to produce more than the entire wheat harvest now produced by the corporation," said Mr Frost this week.

"Equipment worth millions of rand has gone missing. People were stealing stuff from the sheds at night — but the real reason for the losses is that no records were kept.

"When people took equipment or implements to use, they didn't sign release forms as they were supposed to. They just took what they wanted and moved stuff around so much we lost track of everything.

"Most of the thieves were never reported — not to me and not to the police. I would discover things that had disappeared when I went looking for them.

"When I reported this to the DDA head office, I was told I should not interfere in corporation affairs," said Mr Frost.

During his three-year period at Rust de Winter, Mr Frost said, the level of management deteriorated to such a degree that:

• Six cattle were left without water for so long they tried to drink dip, fell into the trough and drowned;
• A central pivot irrigator worth more than R100,000 was smashed into four pieces when officials pulled it across a ditch. The loss was written off as "wear and tear";
• Officials pulled down fences so they could take short cuts across fields;
• Farming implements were left to rust in the veld and sometimes damaged beyond repair by tractors or bakkies crashing into them.

Mr Smuts said farmers whose land was bought by the state had been led to believe the main purpose of the takeover was to divide the land into units for the settlement of Ndebele farmers.

"But there's no sign of development for that purpose and, if they carry on at the present rate, it'll take 100 years before anything happens," he said.

He scorned the corporation's claim that there was insufficient water for farming.

"In the worst drought years of the 80s, when our dam was down to two percent capacity, most of our land was still under cultivation and we managed to produce substantial crops," he said.

His wife, Hilary, said she refused to return to the farm that had been her home for 18 years because the chronic neglect "broke my heart."

This week, a Sunday Times team visited the area and saw:

• Mealies dwarfed by weeds more than 3m high;
• A R180,000 central pivot irrigation system broken into pieces lying in the veld;
• Derelict sheds and houses, some deserted.

HEARTSORE

The labour force in the area has declined from 2,500 to 700.

The local school has closed down and the only remaining shop owner in the area, Mrs Helen Francis, says her business is down 65 percent and she doubts she will survive the year.

Farm labourer Jackson Mtshagwana, 60, who has lived in Rust de Winter for 45 years, said he had never seen such neglect.

"I am concerned about my future. Most of my friends and co-workers, even the old people, have been forced to leave the farms they had lived on for years in search of food and work."

Retired University of South Africa theologian Professor Braam Viljoen, twin brother of former SADF chief General Constand Viljoen and the PFU candidate in Waterkloof in the 1987 election, farms 1,057ha of land at Rust de Winter.

He described the corporation's management of the farms as "socialist" and said the once-productive land was being "an absolute disaster" under its control.

"Rust de Winter farmers supported a community of more than 3,000 people before the DDA, the SA Development Trust and the corporation became involved."

"Now only a few hundred people live here, and they are all struggling to make ends meet. It's not only a disaster, it's a disgrace."
NEWS OF NEGLECT... A former nationalist, Johannesburg editor of New Age, Margaret Smith of the Sunday Times, Paul Trewhela of the Rand Daily Mail (since imprisoned as a member of the illegal Communist Party), Hugh Lewin and Raymond Eisenstein (also sentenced to jail terms for 'sabotage'). In the case of the first two at least, the main purpose in holding them was to obtain information, and to intimidate other journalists who might be tempted to report anti-government activities with some degree of sympathy.

There is no doubt in the minds of most journalists that further restrictions on the Press are being planned. One Bill already passed extends the provisions of the Official Secrets Act to cover "police activities in the preservation of internal

vicissitudes both of ownership and policy, first supported the project for Federation, then questioned Federation and was severely rebuked, then settled for a modest role as sympathetic critic. It is now (1965) edited by the liberal Mrs. Eileen Haddon, who has earned Government disapproval for the interest she has taken in political prisoners, and her attempts to obtain them legal defence and assistance for their families. She has been restricted to the Salisbury area under the Law and Order (Maintenance) Act.

Thomson's Daily News, started as the first daily newspaper directed to an African readership, in 1962, had a short life, since it was banned in August 1964 under the Law and Order
Drought grips green land

By FRED KHORALU / 19712

THE DROUGHT at presents grips many parts of the country could well be non-existent in the Natal south coast judging by the Umagabha River which gracefully makes its way into the sea, showing a healthy level of water and river banks which were once a blanket of greenery.

But behind the soothing facade, the sad reality which thousands of local people faced with is that there is a drop of water to drink. The "Green Drought" is severe.

The clear water which makes a three-kilometre journey from the estuary of Umagabha River is a valuable resource to this area. Further upstream, the river peters out and the riverbed is as dry as bone. There are occasional stagnant puddles covered with green algae, ideal breeding places for mosquitoes. However, all the way through the river banks are deceptively green - hence the term "Green Drought".

Explaning how the green drought came about, John Allwood of World Vision said that it was due to the occasional drizzle in the season which was supposed to be the rainy season kept the water table just within reach of plants.

But, Allwood warned, the approaching dry winter season would deplete the soothing greenery as the water table is likely to fall and underground sources will dry up and the vegetation will disappear. The water crisis has already started manifesting itself in more than one way.

In recent weeks there has been an increase in the number of babies with gastro-enteritis and dehydration and other water-related diseases, said Dr Les Haines of DG Crookes Hospital in Scottburgh.

"This increase is because people obtain water from rivers with low levels of water and high concentration of germs," Haines said.

A local woman who had walked for six kilometres in search of water was rescued by her water container carefully balanced on her head. The N3 southern freeway slices through Umagabha and it is always busy.

With this bad news in mind, villagers from Mablongwa area, a reserve adjacent to Umagabha, have collected R40,000, while those of Manewe have gathered R9,000 towards a scheme to get a water supply from the Umzinto Joint Services Board.

Mandi Gumede, chairmain of an ad hoc committee entrusted with the task of raising funds for the water project, says the money raised thus far is a small fraction of "the millions of rand" needed to see the project through.

In Umagabha though, many villagers have to travel kilometres to get water from the local holiday resort. From as early as 6 am people queue up at the resort's bar where the water is rationed out for each household. The rationing stops at 8 am.

The process starts all over again at 11 am when schoolchildren line up to collect bucketsful of water for their families.

Desperation has taught the locals some lessons in ingenuity.

While some dig the dry riverbed and wait patiently for the water level to rise, others have seen the highway draining water from pipes offered the side of the road to control the flow of water running from natural fountains. They scoop the water from the noisy puddle and carefully fill their containers.

While human beings scramble for the water, cattle can be seen snuffing the dry river bed in desperation, continuing their long vigil for drinking water.
Land Bank eases part-time farmers' lot

By George Nicholas
Agricultural Correspondent

The Land Bank is making it easier for part-time farmers, such as smallholders who work in towns, to obtain loans.

It is prepared to apply its loan policy as flexibly as possible in order to accommodate certain part-time farmers.

The bank says in its annual report that its object in doing so is to enable these part-time farmers to establish themselves as full-time farmers.

In the past year the bank offered loans amounting to nearly R19 million to 72 part-time farmers who were in the process of establishing themselves as full-time farmers.

Farmers who owe money to the bank but have been forced by abnormal weather conditions to accept temporary employment are also free to approach the bank for further loans.

These farmers now number more than 300 and jointly owe about R56 million to the bank.

The financing of part-time farmers already amounts to 12 percent of the bank's total loans to individual farmers.

Short-term and medium-term finance by the bank is already fully available to part-time farmers, such as professional men, who are members of agricultural co-operatives.

The bank says it is also sympathetically disposed towards young and beginner farmers in need of financial aid and is doing everything in its power to assist them to buy land.
Cloud seeding costs R5m a year

The Water Research Commission says in its annual report that it spends R5m a year on plans to beat the drought by stimulating rainfall artificially.

Commission scientist George Green said research into artificially stimulating, or seeding, clouds for rainfall had been going on worldwide for many years but that SA led the field in the technology.

Seeding means adding chemicals such as potassium chloride (normally used as a fertiliser) or dry ice (frozen carbon dioxide) to clouds to encourage rainfall.

Green said the commission received requests from all over southern Africa for access to rainfall stimulation technology.

Research had been conducted in a corridor from Nelspruit in the eastern Transvaal to Bethlehem in the northeastern Free State, the report said.

Further research into possible environmental or climatic impacts was still necessary before the techniques could be used on a large scale, Brown said.

But the concept of rain stimulation has drawn criticism from farmers and environmentalists.

Save Our Rain Action Committee (Sorac) secretary Eve Henkel, who lives on a plot in Nelspruit, said rather than encouraging rain, seeding actually prevented it.

She said the drought in the area had been caused by experimenting with rainfall over the past 20 years.

“There is drought wherever they operate. It is the crime of the century. All we have for water now is the swimming pool.”

Henkel said petitions had been forwarded to the Water Affairs Department demanding a halt to the research.

Brown said there were misconceptions about seeding which the commission hoped to counter with an information campaign.
Enterprising prison farm angers lowveld business

By Clyde Johnson
Lowveld Bureau

Barberton hoteliers, restaurateurs and businessmen are at loggerheads with the local prison farm.

They allege the farm, part of a maximum security prison, is providing cheap holiday accommodation and meals and undercutting liquor prices.

Mother's Day lunches two weeks ago were allegedly being offered at prices that businesses could never match and a "sakkie dance", where alcohol was allegedly served, was advertised.

At the prison, correctional services include farming, a piggery and farming-related activities.

It also has six self-contained guest cottages. The rate is R27,50 a night for a six-bed chalet for members and R32 a night for the public.

Margaret Holmes, who runs five self-catering bungalows, says this is unfair competition.

"The prison authorities have no labour costs, pay no rates and taxes, and get subsidised liquor. No wonder they can offer such cheap accommodation," she said.

Other allegations levelled at the prison farm are that it caters for events at prices nobody else can afford.

It is also said to be running a farm butchery, thus depriving local butchers of business.

Responding, Brigadier Andre Terblanche, head of Barberton's correctional services farm, said: "Like all private-sector clubs, ours, too, is strictly for members only."

Regarding the Mother's Day luncheon, he said it was strictly for members. He denied that the event had been advertised for the public.

He agreed that the chalets were open to the public but added it was only during the off-season.
Massive drive to distribute food

SPOORNET said yesterday that the massive drive to distribute food relief to drought-stricken areas on the sub-continent was well under way, with nearly 500,000 tons of maize already discharged, Sapa reports.

"It is the first time in the history of the UN Food Help Scheme and the World Food Programme that such an operation has been conducted as a preventative measure," Spoornt spokesman Jacques Pienaar said.

Since the first maize shipment in April, Portnet had unloaded 265,394 tons of maize for local consumption and 179,101 tons for re-export to neighbouring countries. Spoornt had distributed 73% of all cargo discharged at the harbours, Pienaar said.

Meanwhile, our Durban correspondent reports that Natal Agricultural Union director Steve Shone said government's R3.8bn agricultural aid package was a highly complex exercise to preserve jobs and get the industry back on its feet.

The package was intended primarily to relieve the state of a commitment incurred in 1983 and 1984 to help co-operatives keep credit lines to farmers open during those years of drought.

"In the end, farmers would have to operate like any other sector open to market forces."

Sapa reports that Free State Agricultural Union GM Lulu de Jager said yesterday that interest rates were one of the main obstacles in farmers' battle to survive.

The price of primary agricultural products would have to be adapted so that the farmer was able to continue production.
The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION:


The above-mentioned section reads as follows:

"Prohibition in respect of females—
(1) No female shall take part in any tournament as a boxer or a wrestler.

(2) No person shall—
(a) hold or assist in holding any tournament in which any female takes part as a boxer or wrestler;
(b) negotiate with any female with a view to procuring her services as a boxer or wrestler at any tournament."

(2) No Section 21A of the Act defines the matter clearly.

Professional boxers: maximum age to qualify

Mr P K PANDAY asked the Minister of National Education:

Whether the maximum age for a boxer to qualify as a professional in the Republic differs from the maximum age or ages applicable in the rest of the world; if so, (a) why and (b) to what extent?

D173E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION:

Yes. Licences for applicants are considered in terms of regulations 2(3), 2(4) and 2(5) enacted in terms of the Boxing and Wrestling Control Act, 1954 (Act No 39 of 1954). These regulations do not only determine the allowable age limit, but also prescribe other requirements regarding the general state of health of the applicant as well as his proven boxing ability in the boxing ring. The authority that licences professional boxers in South Africa is the South African National Boxing Control Board.

(a) There are differences regarding the maximum age limit boxers in the various countries. Therefore there is a difference between the age limit in South Africa and that of some foreign countries. The medical safety codes of the different international boxing control bodies prescribe the maximum age limit for professional boxers. This is done to protect the boxers.

(b) The differences which occur are slight. The maximum age for a boxer to register varies world-wide mostly from 35 to 36 years. In South Africa the maximum age is younger than 35 years which reflects the general tendcency in the world.

INTERPELLATION

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

Own Affairs:

Natal North Coast area: Sandela

1. The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION asked the Minister of Housing and Agriculture:

(1) Whether, prior to the acquisition of the farm known as Sondela in the Natal North Coast area, his Department requested and/or received any reports from extension officers and consulted any organizations on the advisability of proceeding with this transaction; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

(2) whether the transaction was handled through an agency; if not, why not; if so, what is the name of this agency?

D176E.INT

The MINISTER OF HOUSING AND AGRICULTURE: Mr Chairman, the answer to the first question is yes. Three reports were received from the Department’s extension technicians, the first during 1988, the second during 1990 and the last in 1991.

The Department’s extension technicians consulted with a senior economist of the South African Farmers’ Association and with the Department of Agricultural Development in the House of Assembly about this particular transaction. Both the 1988 and 1990 reports of the Department reflect that principal agricultural extension technicians have regard to the fact that the farm in question is located in an area prone to drought conditions.

The lack of an assured water supply largely contributed to the finding that it would be imprudent to recommend the purchase of the farm in question by this Administration. Other factors which supported this finding were the following. Production is poor during droughts and excellent during good rainfall seasons. The soil is suitable for intensive vegetable production. The farm is subdivided into smaller farming units and developed for the purpose of cane farming only. The units will not be feasible for farm purposes.

However, in 1991, following upon a further investigation for suitable land which could be purchased at a reasonable price, the farmers again examined this proposition, during which it was established that a new dam had been constructed across the river, which incorporated a spillway, in addition to the older dam, which was then in the process of being cleared of silt. It was found that the supply of water for irrigation was now secure.

The person appointed to value the farm valued it as a single production unit on the basis of which it was concluded that the farm as such was good value for money. Discussions followed with the Department of Agricultural Development where various alternative usage concepts were canvassed. It was finally decided and approved by the former hon Minister of Local Government and Agriculture that the farm should be purchased and farmed as one unit under the co-operative system, which basically entails the following: Firstly, the Administration acquires a farm with the object of the interested farmers forming a co-operative to retain the sucrose quota. Secondly, undivided shares are allocated to identified farmers, say 20 or 30 of them. Thirdly, the Department of Agricultural Development will finance each individual to acquire his share in the co-operative. The maximum number of farmers permitted in such a co-operative will be cleared with the Registrar of Cooperatives. Fourthly, each farmer will have an undivided share in the co-operative with its own board of directors. The equipment, irrigation system, sucrose quota, manager and labourers will be shared by all the farmers in the co-operative.

With regard to the second part of the question, as indicated in the statement I made on the matter in the debate on Question 3 on 13 May 1992, I very clearly stated that the Department of Agricultural Development of the Administration: House of Assembly had acted as our agent, since we do not have the legal power to acquire agricultural land. As far as I am aware, the services of a private-sector agency were not engaged.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Mr Chairman, the facts divulged by the hon the Minister of Housing and Agriculture are startling. There is no doubt about the fact that somebody, either in the Ministerial section or in the administrative section, was determined to purchase this land, in view of the fact that two investigations—one in 1988 and the other in 1990—revealed that this particular farm was not suitable. Our Administration was looking for farmland at the time when the Group Areas Act was applicable. When the group areas legislation was repealed, a lot of farmland became available.

When the hon the Minister referred to drought conditions and to people who had been consulted, he indicated that the farmers were consulted again. Reference has not been made to institutions that were consulted. One such institution is the SA Cane Growers’ Association, which is the voice of Indian farmers in Natal. The other is Cedara. I believe that Cedara Agricultural College was also consulted. Our own technical officers twice turned down this farm. What need was there for somebody to go and ask for an additional report? I believe the SA Cane Growers’ Association was consulted. The reply given verbally by the SA Cane Growers’ Association was that the farm was unsuitable and that they did not want it. This is a scandal.

I want to suggest that the hon the Minister confirm in that agreement that was entered into between the Administration and this particular owner, somebody wrote "No agents involved".

Mr K MOODLEY: Who was the owner?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: It was a White person.

What was the need to write that into this agreement? I understand somebody also wrote: "Well done" after two institutions had indicated twice that this land was unsuitable. The only argument is that the dam has been restructured. I believe that farmers in the area are still of the
view that this dam is very siltly. It is not in the rain-shadow area, but in a drought zone. This is the biggest scandal!

I want to ask the hon the Chairman of the Ministers' Council a question. Why did the hon the Minister of Local Government and Agriculture hide these facts when he had negative reports, and was advised that this was not suitable? Why was this farm acquired in a hush-hush arrangement? Was it brought to the Ministers' Council? This matter requires investigation. I want to say to the hon the Chairman of the Ministers' Council that merely informing us that the examination will not clear this. This is going to be a very big scandal. I want to say that this is the tip of the iceberg as far as certain Ministries are concerned. I believe that a certain agency was handling the sale of the farm about five years ago, and that was why special mention was made in the agreement of the fact that no agents were involved. How would we know if commissions were given under the counter? [Time expired.]

Mr M RAJAB: Mr Chairman, I must agree entirely with the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition that the facts that have been presented to us this afternoon are indeed startling and that they constitute a scandal.

This obviously took place long before the hon the Minister and was not new to him. I would expect him not to carry the can for a colleague. I would expect him, particularly in view of the statements made by the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition, to investigate this matter fully. Just as we expect Indian hon Ministers to be accountable, we expect Indian hon Ministers in this House to be accountable too. [Interjections.]

It seems highly suspicious and highly irregular to me that the advice of technical officers was disregarded and that this matter had to be reviewed twice. To me it seems highly scandalous that we did not get the representations made by organised commerce and industry in this regard into account, although they are people of very high reputation.

A question that also needs to be asked is whether this purchase was sanctioned or approved of by the Ministers' Council. If the matter was not approved by them, is that not also highly irregular? I heard the hon the Minister say that a certain corporation was going to farm this particular piece of land.

Mr K MOODLEY: It was a suggestion.

Mr M RAJAB: It was a suggestion, the hon the Member for Swellendam, Dr. He said it would like to ask the hon the Minister whether this farm is farming this particular piece of land. There is a suspicion, and statements have been made in this House to this effect that the original owner is still occupying that land. If this is so, it is scandalous. It is absolutely scandalous for the Administration to pay something like R4.5 million for a piece of property and then to be paid a rental of R1 per ton. [Interjections.]

Mr M MARAJEE: [Inaudible.]

Mr M RAJAB: That hon member is absolutely right. If we are pointing fingers at the Department of Development Aid, we also need to point fingers at hon Ministers in this House. [Interjections.]

I would appeal to the hon the Chairman of the Ministers' Council to institute a full and thorough investigation into this debacle immediately before the stink comes to his particular door. [Time expired.]

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I heard the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition and the hon member for Springfield.

HON MEMBERS: Springfield!

The MINISTER: I am sorry. I mean Springfield. It was once called Springfield, so the hon monarch must forgive me. I would like to answer the last question first. The last owner in this case happens to be the first tenant. The facts regarding the tenure do not satisfy me and I have not approved the tenure as yet.

As a preliminary or reasonable step, I have asked the study group to meet urgently in order to look into this matter and possibly carry out an inspection in loco. Hon members who want to go out there and see for themselves, form their own perceptions and receive their impressions either this way or that way, will have the opportunity to do so. Depending on their observations and those of everybody else, if need be, I can take this matter to the Ministers' Council for its decision.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE MINISTERS' COUNCIL: Mr Chairman, about two weeks ago, when I heard that trains were flying around about concern about the purchase. I went to Durban with the hon the Deputy Minister, visited the offices of the Department, including the two Indian officials, and reminded them that they had not recommended the purchase of this particular farm. I then told them that I had now heard that the deal had been concluded via the House of Assembly, and that the farm had been purchased. I asked them what prompted this development.

Their response was that at the time when the first two investigations were done, they could not report favourably on the availability of water on a seasonal basis, or on the environment of drought conditions. They had done a lot of investigations into possible land purchases, and found that if the land was good it was expensive, so they looked at this again, because a weir or a dam had been built on the river with a slipway to prevent silting. The farmer was also clearing out the silt from an older dam. Their calculations were that when this process was completed there would be an adequate supply of water to more meet the needs of the cane farming which was done on that land. It was on that basis that they reversed their original opposition.

I am merely conveying to hon members what I was told by these gentlemen. Apparently the Department of Agricultural Development in the House of Assembly also investigated this and felt that this was a proposition. The land was bought on that basis. I want to say to hon members a query has been raised and I believe this House has the right to investigate it. After the investigation we will know the correctness of the proposition. I would recommend that the hon the Minister go ahead, take note of what has been said and let it be looked into.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Mr Chairman, the SA Cane Growers' Association is an important body. This dam sits there, and the hon the Minister concerned has a record in our Administration that unless his instructions are carried out to the letter, he suffers. We know how the staff is treated at the Marking Board and at the Truro House as far as this particular hon Minister is concerned.

A very senior official of the SA Cane Growers' Association telephoned me and told me that that dam sits very badly, and that the most they would pay for that particular farm was R2.5 million. The fact that the present hon Minister had to stop re-letting, and I understand it was supposed to be given back at R1 per ton, is a scandal. The study group is for another purpose. I want to suggest to the hon the Chairman of the Ministers' Council that we should have a house committee so that the actions of the hon the Minister can be investigated. We must have nothing short of a house committee.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE MINISTERS' COUNCIL: Mr Chairman, with your permission I would just like to say one thing which will complete this. I told that extension officer that there was no question of leasing at R1. I told him that people who are waiting for that land and let them take ownership right now, because in a few months one could cut the cake and they could have the benefit of the sale.

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, in the first place I am pleased this afternoon that the hon the Chairman of the Ministers' Council has lent his support to the holding of an investigation. One can call it a house committee or whatever one likes. I think that will satisfy all parties concerned, clear the air and remove the disquiet which is not only present in this House. The disquiet is also present outside this House with regard to the people who are directly involved in farming.

I think this is adequate evidence to hon members that we on this side do not want to hide anything that is causing them to feel concern or distrust, and to that end we will work together.

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS

1. Mr M RAJAB asked the Chairman of the Ministers' Council:

A. Whether he has appointed a committee to investigate the reasons for the allegedly unfounded attacks made by the Minister of...
What is happening is that we are trying to close the stable door after the horse has bolted. However, that is only part of the solution. The more important, credible solution is the steps being taken now to ensure that these things do not happen and are not happening even as we speak.

We agree that it is good that the Government appointed Mr Justice Pickard and we compliment the Government on that. It is good that the Government intends to prosecute these people and that procedural steps are being taken to ensure that such things do not happen. It is also good that structural adjustments are taking place and that bilateral talks are taking place between the TBVC states and our country. We applaud that and we endorse that.

We wish to encourage the Government in the steps it has taken, but we say they should go beyond that and speak to the people out there in our country who do not believe that it is possible to have good, orderly and credible government. The Government should tell them that action is being taken and that steps are being taken to put these things right. The most important thing at this stage in our country is that it which was part of an ideological system—the rot that set in was part of that ideological system—is being swept away. That is the most important thing that has happened. We now accept that the principles of apartheid and all that it spawned were rotten and that those things are being swept away. The present Government is taking the lead in doing so. [Time expired.]

Mr M RAJAB: Mr Chairman, I appreciate the hon the Minister's commitment to tracking down those who were responsible, but I must point out that they have obviously covered their tracks and that in a court of law it might be difficult to get a conviction.

I spoke about the SA Development Trust Corporation Ltd. At all hon members know the commission reported adversely on the workings of this particular corporation. We therefore also call on the hon the State President to institute a further independent investigation into allegations of irregularities, misuse of public funds and inefficiency in the corporation's management system which were ventilated in weekend media reports.

Finally, what also needs to be investigated is how the Department of Development Aid, a State department with a budget of nearly R6 billion, managed to become such a mess and to find out who was responsible in terms of ministerial accountability, which is an accepted convention of the political system from which ours is derived. The Government's silence in this regard has been deafening.

The chairman of the SA Development Trust Corporation Ltd, Mr Van de Walles, is a former Director-General of the Department of Development Aid and has thus far escaped a full public scrutiny of his affairs. It is time that this took place.

In the final analysis, public money must be protected from the vigilant and thieves must be punished. Those who fail to prevent the theft must be called to account.

The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS: Mr Chairman, I wish to go on with the point raised by the hon member for Springfield relating to the SA Development Trust Corporation Ltd. May I say at this point that, in response to the recommendations made in the Pickard Report, the auditing firm of Strydom and Company was appointed to do such a study and go into the utilisation of national assets from that angle.

With regard to the second point, I agreed with the SA Development Trust Corporation Ltd in October last year that they would transfer their functions and operations, which take place on a regional level, to regional corporations, and that is now in the process of implementation. By the end of August, 70% of this devolution should be complete.

To respond to the hon the Leader of the Opposition, I really believe that I would never be able to do justice to the complex role played by the hon the Minister for State Affairs in South Africa, specifically in respect of the policy of normalisation and that of the abolition of discrimination on the basis of race or colour. His experience was brought to fruition in the ambit of his responsibility in the Department of Development Aid.

I might say that in my office I have had the opportunity to experience first-hand the meticulous with which he completed his work, the responsibility with which he executed his job, the depth of his knowledge and the incisiveness of his questions in comments and queries. I really do not think the ineffectiveness of the various investigations he instituted can be laid at his door.

I will have the point the hon the Leader of the Opposition raised about the public servants investigated in order to have this matter exposed properly.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! I regret that the hon the Minister has exposed himself to the situation that his time has run out.

QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:
General Affairs:

Advisory Commission on Land Allocation

1. Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

(1) Whether the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation appointed by the State President has received any applications for compensation; if so, what are the relevant details?

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS:

(1) No applications for compensation have been received. However the Advisory Commission have received numerous requests and representations falling within the ambit of its objectives. In a nutshell this entails advice to the State President regarding the identification of—

- land belonging to the State or any State institution and acquired for the purpose of promoting the objects of a law repealed by the Abolition of Racially Based Land Measures Act, 108 of 1991;

(continued)
The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) Yes, a case of murder has been investigated by the South African Police. Except for an identification parade, to be held in the coming week, and the post mortem report, which is still being awaited, investigations have already been completed. The case docket will be handed to the Attorney-General for his decision as soon as these aspects have been dealt with.

(2) No.

Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 380C (3) of the Standing Rules of Parliament.

Re zoning of sites: Lenasia/Lenasia South

*3. Mrs E BRAHIM asked the Minister of Local Government and National Housing:

(1) Whether any residential, creche or religious sites in the Lenasia and Lenasia South area have been rezoned by his Department for business purposes since January 1989;

(2) whether any betterment fees were paid; if not, why not;

(3) whether the comments of the respective management committees were obtained in this regard; if not, why not.

(4) No.

The MINISTER of LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL HOUSING:

(1) Yes, the following sites have been rezoned from residential, creche, or religious sites for business purposes since January 1989:

(a) Erf 1879, Lenasia South
(b) Erf 136, Lenasia
(c) Erf 4423, Lenasia
(d) Erf 2612, Lenasia

(2) Whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER of LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL HOUSING:

(1) Yes, the following sites have been rezoned from residential, creche, or religious sites for business purposes since January 1989:

(a) Erf 1879, Lenasia South
(b) Erf 136, Lenasia
(c) Erf 4423, Lenasia
(d) Erf 2612, Lenasia

(2) Whether he will make a statement on the matter:

D14E

Residing on sites: Lenasia/Lenasia South

*4. Mr K PANDAY asked the Minister of National Education:

(1) Whether he intends allowing overseas women wrestlers to take part in wrestling contests in South Africa; if not, why not; if so, when;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter.

D14E

Overseas women wrestlers

D14E
Aid crisis for victims of drought

By Helen Grange, Pretoria Bureau

Thousands of drought-ravaged farmers and their labourers are fast running out of money for food and other essentials — and public donations to the SA Agricultural Union's Special Emergency Aid Fund can last only for another three months.

SAAU president Boel Fourie warned yesterday that the R1 716 million in the fund would not be sufficient to aid 1,565 families and 10,000 workers and their dependants in the Free State, northern Cape, eastern Cape, western Cape and Natal for much longer.

Deserving cases have yet to be identified in the Transvaal, but it is expected that the fund will require at least R12 million in order to provide aid for Transvaal farmers over a year.

The Government recently earmarked R3,6 billion to assist farmers.

However, these funds are aimed at keeping farmers productive on the land and not for their immediate domestic needs. The money has yet to be channelled to farmers.

The SAAU has meanwhile made the first payment of R31 000 from its Special Emergency Aid Fund to relevant provincial unions. This money will be distributed to needy families and farmworkers.

The aid will have to continue for at least 12 months, according to the board of trustees administering the fund.

The largest donor to the SAAU fund were members of the SA Police, who raised nearly R34 000 for farmers.

Mr Fourie said in Pretoria yesterday that organised agriculture was deeply touched by the concern and sympathy shown to affected farmers and their workers by the community. He expressed special gratitude to police members for an "exceptional contribution".

Farmers can expect their first income only next year, when crops are harvested.
'Farmers could go hungry'  
GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Hundreds of farmers, their families and workers will go hungry unless donations to the SA Agricultural Union's emergency aid fund are speeded up.

Union president Boet Fourie said yesterday contributions so far amounted to R1.7m and the target to supply desperately needed aid for the next 12 months was R12m.

The amount donated so far would last three months to aid 1 363 farmers' families and 10 000 workers and their families. By the time more distressed farmers were identified the need would have grown. He said the first payment of R51 000 had been made to provincial unions.

Fourie said the union was "deeply touched" by the donation of R83 915 from the SAP.
Education

Put rural areas on the map, says Gerwel

Those with high expectations that a democratic government would deliver immediate equality in education had to realise this was not going to happen, said UWC rector Professor Jakes Gerwel.

He was delivering the keynote address at the Education Conference for the Karoo.

Gerwel said the rural areas had to be put on the national education agenda. The freedom of the rural areas was indivisible from the freedom of other areas.

Gerwel said South Africans needed to start thinking about reconstruction, particularly the development of skills and human resources.

"How are we going to use education to inculcate and develop democracy in South Africa?"

"How are we going to construct an education system that serves development and addresses the historic inequalities of race, gender, class and the divide between the urban and rural?"

Gerwel said the negotiation process had missed an urgent need to expand and improve black education.

"It will be the greatest betrayal if we get a political settlement in South Africa but the management of society remains in the same hands," Gerwel said.

"Thus, there is an urgent need to provide skills to black people so they can become part of the management."

"The government will try to stall or predetermine change during the transitional process. In education, they are trying to change things so that the new state will not inherit too much."

Gerwel said a demand which had to be placed at the forefront of educational negotiations was that education should be a basic right for all South Africans.

People tended to speak in broad terms when negotiating educational issues. These needed to be replaced with specific demands for teachers, desks and textbooks so the state found it difficult to escape its responsibility, Gerwel said.

A national summit in Broederstroom this year mooted the idea of an education negotiating forum — "one with bite and which is representative of all".

"But this does not mean mass action loses its place — our demands will not be heard, felt and understood unless communities organise themselves around these demands."

He said it was easy to get caught up in "technicalities" when discussing a future education system. But it needed to be non-racial, non-sexist and relevant, and also teach people to read and write.

Communities needed to control the financing and resources of education. Access needed to be expanded as there were more children outside school than in the classroom.

"There is a tension between the quality of education and the quantity — people are already criticising UWC for broadening access."

"There is also a tension between democracy and efficiency. The most democratic way of dealing with things is not necessarily going to be efficient," Gerwel said.

Echoing these views, the dean of the education faculty at UCT, Professor Michael Ashley, said people should not rely too much on the state to improve education.

"It has an important role to play, but must do this in partnership with others," Ashley said.

"A government is limited in terms of what it can achieve because it is bureaucratic, inefficient and easily corruptible."

"There is also a tendency for a government not to be accountable to the people who support it through taxes and reliance on the government tends to produce passivity."

Ashley said the demand for a single education department was an important one, but was not a solution to the education problems in the country.
Rural towns in the Karoo were afforded an opportunity to voice their demands concerning education in a new South Africa at a groundbreaking conference in Beaufort West last weekend. REHANA ROSSOUW reports:

**ITERACY training in rural areas could teach adults how to drive a tractor, service it when repairs are needed and eventually take control of the tractors from white hands.**

This idea emerged from the Education Conference for the Karoo where delegates decided that tackling illiteracy and taking control of farm schools were key areas around which education policy for rural areas should be formulated.

People from rural areas often complain they are neglected by urban organisations and are out of reach with national political debates and changes.

The conference, organized by the Karoo Resource Centre, was held to overcome this problem by giving people from the region an opportunity to discuss formulating education policy.

Beaufort West principal Mr Richard Haasbe said the conference was aimed at assisting in bringing about an education system in South Africa which would empower rural areas.

"We want an education that will enable both the parent and the child to deal with the social environment around them," Haasbe said.

"We want an education system that will give the rural population knowledge to adapt their environment to suit them and their needs.

"Education will be an instrument of power over the rural environment." Principals, teachers, parents and students from 25 Karoo towns attended the conference. White schools in the region, although invited, did not attend.

The 250 delegates elected six people to serve on a rural education forum which will serve as a conduit through which the education concerns of the Karoo will be sent to national forums.

The conference was sponsored by oil company Engen. Organisers will be receiving more funding to publish the outcome of the discussions and distribute it throughout the Karoo.

Delegate stressed the need to ensure that debate on rural illiteracy and farm schools be placed on national agenda.

Karoo farm schools are administered by the Department of Education and Culture, as opposed to those in other rural areas, which are administered by the Department of Education and Training.

The farm schools are dependent on the largesse of farmers, who donate land for the buildings. Most are managed by churches and the equipment is provided by the government.

Most Karoo farm schools are in need of upgrading and repair and many require bursaries for their students as the distances covered daily to match school are so great that they lead to a high drop-out rate and demotivation.

The literacy rate in the Karoo is alarmingly high. Malmesbury has an illiteracy rate of 60 percent and Franschhoek 45 percent.

A major cause of child illiteracy is the migration of parents from town to town due to a shortage of employment in the region. Children are thus forced to drop out of school at an early age and seek employment. Young girls, especially, are sent to work as domestic at an early age.

Most principals at DEC schools in the region, particularly in schools in newly viable areas, express strong reservations about the opening of white schools to all.

The high school fee students have to pay at formerly white-only schools result in only a small percentage of black pupils gaining access to these schools, mostly benefiting only children of teachers in the region.

These principals also feel threatened by the partial opening of white schools as it affects their diminishing enrolment, which could result in their schools being closed.

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**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH**

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**TITLE:**

**YEAR:**

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Rural voices learning to turn up the volume

The political climate is changing from resistance to reconstruction. Now community service organisations are realising that co-operation with the state may be necessary. Justin Pearce speaks to people running community services in rural areas:

SOUTH AFRICANS are entering an era where all can enjoy full political rights — in theory that is. But for those who have been excluded from political processes, it will take more than a new constitution to secure them a place in a democratic system.

Rural people — geographically removed from the centres of government and often poorly educated — are particularly ill-equipped to make themselves heard.

The people of Alexandria, a small Eastern Cape town, are one such example.

There is no industry to provide jobs and about three out of every four people are illiterate. This means education and career guidance programmes are an indispensable means to self-empowerment.

Such programmes are offered by the Alexandria Career Centre (ACC). Co-ordinator Mr Mncedisi Skepu believes leadership, negotiations and learning to look at issues critically must be the focus of development.

"We are empowering people to negotiate on the basis of strength." Workshops aimed at local organisations hope to impart skills in local government and negotiation — activities which are new for the people of Alexandria.

"We might hear calls for 'one city, one tax base', but what do people mean when they say this?" asks Skepu.

The ACC was founded at a time when foreign agencies were cutting back on South African funding. But, given the conservative outlook of the local white community, the centre's founders had no choice but to look overseas.

Funding constraints mean Skepu is the only staff member.

With the state taking the initiative in providing community resources, Skepu believes centres need to think about redefining their roles.

A delicate question is whether centres should begin to co-operate with new initiatives by the state.

Another question concerns the relationships between centres and civic associations. This in turn depends on the future direction taken by the cities themselves.

"We need to interact with the cities. Our services are something that should be provided by the cities."

Skepu believes that to achieve a democratic society, civic associations need to reflect the aspirations of ordinary people rather than being politically aligned.

"The resource centres, unlike the cities, are non-aligned. In Eastern Europe, socialism failed because it was divorced from the human element, from sectors of civil society such as academics and churches."
Famine: Mrs Quayle vows to tell world

JOHANNESBURG. — Jobless and hungry residents in a Witwatersrand squatter camp yesterday heard Mrs Marilyn Quayle, wife of US vice-president Mr Dan Quayle, say she would make the world aware of their suffering.

Mrs Quayle was in Viakfontein, south of Johannesburg, on her whistle-stop visit to this country to focus world attention on famine in the Southern Africa.

About 30 million people are affected by the severe drought, which has hit Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi and South Africa.

Mrs Quayle spoke to the dozens of Viakfontein children who were being fed by Operation Hunger, to whom the American government contributed $500 000 (about R1,4 million) in 1991.

"Thank you for letting me see your children," she said. "I bring you greetings from the President of the United States."

Speaking at Jan Smuts Airport before her departure, Mrs Quayle said she thought she had accomplished the aim of highlighting the need for food aid to Southern Africa, and praised South Africa's part in the programme.

The US has committed $380m (about R754m) worth of food aid to Southern Africa.

Mrs Quayle earlier visited South Africa's railway grain operations centre here, where the cereals shipped in from the US and Argentina are routed to affected neighbouring countries.

Of 8,5m tons of grain due to arrive over a 12-month period, well over half has already been dispatched, according to Spoornet.

Some 450 000 tons destined for Malawi arrived yesterday and 144 goods trains have already been dispatched on the grain run.

The South African government has not asked for food aid from the US, and sold 100 000 tons of its own grain to Zimbabwe and Zambia before the drought set in.

Mrs Quayle flew to Rome yesterday afternoon to attend a meeting on Southern African drought relief. — Sapa
The 'better-off' back changes in land distribution

Political Staff (3)ARG 25/5/92

SUPPORT FOR redistribution of land and wealth is strongest among the more highly educated sections of the black community, Market Research Africa says.

"As many as 59 percent of blacks in professional and managerial positions and 56 percent of those with matric or higher levels of education are in favour of a redistribution of land," according to an MRA press release summarising the findings of a survey.

Among unskilled and blue-collar workers 34 percent favour reallocating land, as did 29 percent of those without formal schooling. The average for the entire sample indicated that four out every 10 black urban residents would support a policy of land redistribution.
Farmers in the dark over govt aid for summer crops

Thousands of financially stressed farmers still do not know what slice of government's R3,8bn emergency aid will be allocated to them, or when.

Nampo sources warned at the weekend that time was running out for farmers to order inputs for maize, groundnut, sunflower and other summer crops.

However, a member of the aid implementation committee said finality had almost been reached on procedures for allocating the funds and Agriculture Minister Krais van Niekerk might make an announcement before the weekend.

Farmers fear there could be bureaucratic delays in allocating the aid. They will have to submit written justification for the amounts they claim and these will be evaluated before allocations are made.

The SA Agricultural Union's (SAAU) office in Pretoria and Nampo's office in Bothaville have been inundated with calls from anxious farmers wanting to know how and when they will receive aid.

Among the organisations represented on the committee are commercial banks, the Land Bank, the SAAU and government.

According to Nampo, thousands of farmers are waiting anxiously to see whether their share of the aid will be sufficient to set them up for the planting of new summer crops.

Planting and developing last season's drought-reduced maize crop cost about R2,3bn.

About a third of that was production credit granted to farmers by commercial banks, co-operatives and other financial institutions.

Nampo warned that thousands of hectares would lie fallow unless farmers were given access to adequate production credit.

The area planted to maize in the coming season could be a lot less than 3-million hectares, which even in favourable growing conditions, might not yield a crop large enough to satisfy domestic need.

If drought conditions persisted deep into next summer, the crop could be even smaller than this year's 2,3-million tons. The shortfall has necessitated the import of 4,5-million tons at a cost of more than R2bn.
Drought-hit farmers face another blow

The Argus Correspondent
PRETORIA. — South Africa’s drought-ravaged farming community is bracing itself for yet another blow this year with the expected failure of the winter wheat crop — which will plunge thousands of farmers even further into debt.

The continued drought has left soil in the Free State and Transvaal too dry for wheat planting and the government expects it will have to import about a million tons of wheat at a cost of more than R280 million at the end of the year, says deputy general manager of the Wheat Board Andries Liebenberg.

This is in addition to about 4,627 million tons of yellow maize about to be imported by the government at a cost of R1.851 million until the end of April, 1993, in the wake of the failure of the summer maize crop.

This double blow to farmers, who are struggling to feed their families and labourers while awaiting emergency aid from the cash-strapped South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) public donation fund, will drive South Africa’s ailing rural economy into deeper crisis.

(The SAU fund is aimed at attending to farmers’ and farm workers’ immediate food requirements, as opposed to the government’s R3.8 million relief programme aimed at rescuing the agricultural sector for future production. The SAU says it has funds to support the farming community for only another three months.)

Already 7,700 farmers are in serious financial straits, and many of them will be sequestrated in spite of the government’s relief programme, says Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk.

Wheat farmers have until the end of June to wait for rain before planting, but farming authorities doubt that unseasonal rain will fall.

Dr Van Niekerk said imports might have to take place more often in future, especially to keep up with the approximately one million extra children who had to be fed every year.

Worst affected by the drought are homeland subsistence farmers, who are joining Operation Hunger’s food queues in their hundreds every day.

Dr Van Niekerk said the government would accept emergency food from the United States.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa says about 100,000 farm labourers stand to lose their jobs because of the drought. Dr Van Niekerk said R30 million of the government’s emergency aid fund had been allocated to keep full-time farm labourers employed.

The government had also earmarked R30 million of the fund to help farmers keep their animals alive and subsidise transport rebates for feed.

The white maize crop estimate for 1991/92 of 985,000 tons compares dismaly with last year’s crop of 3,810,000 tons.

The national crop estimate committee of the SAU expects a yellow maize crop in 1991/92 to be a mere 1,448,000 tons, which is not quite as bad as the white maize crop estimate. Last season 4,016,000 tons of yellow maize was produced in South Africa.

The grain sorghum crop will reach an estimated 95,000 tons compared with last season’s crop of 240,000 tons. There is expected to be a sunflower seed crop of 175,000, which is only a fraction of last season’s 589,000-ton crop.

Soya bean production is also down, with a total crop of 68,000 tons expected, as against last year’s 128,000 tons. Dry beans will also be in short supply, with only 27,000 tons expected compared with last season’s crop of 100,000 tons.

Only ground nut farmers seem to have evaded the rigours of the drought. A crop of 81,000 tons is expected, which is 3,000 tons more than last season.
in the front bench here said we must change the Act. If this will help and prepare to look at the matter, because I am concerned about the aged who are being chased out of their flats. [Interjections, I am concerned about this. If it will help, the hon members are welcome to give me information and evidence which will enable us to review the Act.

I am not prepared to allow people to be thrown out and left on the streets while we try to build houses and some people become rich.

That is why it is not correct to say that we are giving in to pressure from the large concerns. It is not true. We want to look after the interests of the ordinary people and the poor people. If hon members can help me... [Interjections] The hon member for Carletonville must keep quiet. What nonsense is he talking again now? [Interjections] Excuse me, Sir, but that hon member is interrupting me again. He does not know what it is about. [Interjections] I want to invite hon members to give me information. I undertake to investigate the matter if necessary, and if any amendment must be made, I shall submit it to the Cabinet. We shall then look into what we can do in relation to this matter.

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

Ova Affairs:

Voluntary retirement by teachers: offer

1. Mr A GERBER: asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

(1) Whether his Department indicated earlier this year that some teachers could retire voluntarily on accelerated, adjusted pension; if so, (a) what are the relevant details and (b) for how long does this offer apply?

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Protection against poisonous chemicals and metals

264. Mr L F STOFFERG asked the Minister of Agriculture:

What steps is his Department taking to protect the population against the undue, accumulative intake of (a) pesticides, (b) fungicides, (c) iodine, (d) steroids, (e) antibiotics, (f) verminicides, (g) growth hormones and (h) other poisonous and dangerous chemicals and metals found in agricultural, meat and horticultural products for human consumption?

For written reply:

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

The Fertilisers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act 36 of 1947) contains various provisions aimed at the efficient protection of the population against hazardous substances.

The Act requires that any person who applies to register a remedy must submit the following information:

- The results of sufficient trials to substantiate claims made for the product. Specialist scientists are called upon to evaluate such data, pass comments, and to make recommendations.
- In the case of crop protection agents designed to control insect and diseases on crops, trial data must be submitted to prove that such agents have no phytotoxic effects on the crop it is intended to protect.
- Results must be submitted to illustrate a breakdown curve of the active ingredient following its last application in order to ensure a safety period.
- The results of research and development trials that were undertaken to establish the likely ultimate fate of a compound after it had been introduced into the environment and the effects it may have on non-target organisms.
- A toxicological report on the active ingredient's likely effect on mammals and other vertebrates and invertebrates, especially regarding carcinogenicity, mutagenicity and possible side-effects on the offspring. It is expected that data shall also be submitted to illustrate the compound's Big impact on the environment, plant and animal life.
- A proposed user label that will inform the user regarding warnings, precautions, storage and disposal of the product and its original container.

The above-mentioned information is carefully evaluated with a view to registration and before an application is granted the following steps are also taken:

- Liaison with other Government departments, where applicable, as regards applications for registrations and collating the opinions of relevant specialists.
- All applications for registration are discussed at INDAC—the Standing Inter-Departmental Committee for Safeguarding Man against Poisons—which consists of representatives of the Departments of Agriculture, National Health and Population Development, Environmental Affairs, Water Affairs and Forestry, the Agricultural Research Council and the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences of the University of Pretoria.

This committee ad vises the Registrar: Act 36 of 1947 on the desirability of the registration of all compounds. In this way the committee serves as a barrier to prevent toxic compounds from ending up in the people's food basket.

The following control measures, in terms of the Act, are further taken:

- Remedies shall not be contrary to the public interest. Continued use can be reviewed, or restricted, or even be withdrawn. For instance it can be mentioned that the use of synthetic growth hormones in livestock has been forbidden since 23 September 1983.

- Regulations were published in 1990 which prohibit the acquisition, disposal, sale or use of an agricultural or a stock remedy for a purpose or in a manner other than that specified on the label of a container or on such container.

- As part of its function to regulate Act 36 of 1947 the Directorate of Livestock Improvement and Agricultural Production Resources maintains an inspectorate. Members of this inspectorate regularly draw samples of all registered products which are then analysed to verify that they conform to declared standards. Any complaints lodged by producers are also investigated as to the abusive or indiscriminate use of remedies.

- Training to make persons aware of the responsible use of remedies is also receiving attention. For the past year the Department has been involved in the training of more than 800 staff members of co-operative societies and representatives of C.C.A. — P

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
of agricultural and stock remedy marketing companies. At present training courses are being designed for the correct application of such remedies by end-users, especially for the application of hormone weedkillers and Group Ia agricultural remedies. The electronic media is also employed in this regard. A series of relevant programmes have already been televised in the programme, Agriforum.

The overall involvement of other bodies must be acknowledged. For instance, the Department of National Health and Population Development is responsible for monitoring residues in goodfoods consumed locally by man. The Directorate: Plant and Quality Control monitors all export commodities. Likewise the Directorate: Meat Hygiene maintains a watch on the residues of agricultural and stock remedies found in meat.

Number of persons attacked/robbed/murdered on farms  

271. Adv J R De Ville asked the Minister of Law and Order:

How many persons (a) were (i) attacked, (ii) robbed and (iii) murdered on farms in South Africa in 1991 and (b) have been so (i) attacked, (ii) robbed and (iii) murdered from 1 January 1992 to the latest specified date for which figures are available?

B654E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

Yes.

(a) The person was arrested on 29 April 1992. He also appeared in court on a charge of sabotage on the same day. The case was remanded until 3 June 1992.

(b) Jacobus Johannes Christoffel Botha.

Department of Development Aid: staff

273. Mr P G Soal asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

How many members of staff (a) were employed by the Department of Development Aid at the time of its dissolution on 31 March 1992, (b) to which Government Departments were they transferred and (c) how many of them were transferred to each such Department?

B674E

The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS:

(a) 4 057 as well as 4 703 workers from the South African Development Trust.

(b) Department of Trade and Industry
Department of Justice
Cape Provincial Administration
Office of the Commission for Administration
Department of Agriculture
Department of Manpower
Department of National Education
Natal Provincial Administration
Department of Environment Affairs
Department of Education and Training
Department of Public Works
Provincial Administration of the Orange Free State
Department of Local Government and National Housing
Department of State Expenditure
Department of Regional and Land Affairs
Transvaal Provincial Administration
Department of Transport
Department of Water Affairs

(c) Department of Trade and Industry 2
Department of Justice 17
Cape Provincial Administration 90
Office of the Commission for Administration 37
Department of Agriculture 335
Department of Manpower 37
Department of National Education 11
Natal Provincial Administration 703
Department of Environment Affairs 10
Department of Education and Training 4

TOTAL 4 057

Workers from the South African Development Trust transferred to—
Cape Provincial Administration 90
Department of Agriculture 1 226
Natal Provincial Administration 1 414
Provincial Administration of the Orange Free State 797
Transvaal Provincial Administration 1 176

TOTAL 4 703

NOTE:
The figures in (a) and (b) also include cases of assault and rape and only apply to persons and workers in and around own houses.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
Dutch turn pastures over to ostriches

AMSTERDAM — Dutch farmers, keen to diversify as the EC slashes their subsidies, have hit on a new venture — ostrich farming.

SA farmers have bred ostriches for more than 100 years and Texan breeders prize the birds' leathery skin for making cowboy boots.

But the idea has only recently taken root in Europe as farmers seek an alternative for their pastures in the face of EC curbs on milk production.

Dutch farmers have already started breeding the birds. And entrepreneurs Jan Arends and Fred van der Horst, who plan a course for aspiring Ostrich farmers, say they have had about 150 inquiries.

Reporting the scheme, the Boerderij farming newspaper said ostrich chicks cost about 1,100 guilders ($110) each. But a 14-month-old bird can be worth 2,300 guilder ($270).

— Sapa-Reuters.
Drought a windfall for Transnet

The transport of maize from SA ports to relieve the famine threat in other southern African countries has come as a multimillion-rand windfall for Transnet.

Spoornet’s programme provides for the movement of about 8.5-million tons before April next year, with a current balance of 7.7-million tons still to be off-loaded at SA ports.

A breakdown of the total shows Zimbabwe will get 2-million tons, Zambia 900,000 tons and Malawi 800,000 tons. The overall total includes the 4.4-million tons to supplement SA’s failed crop, which includes consignments for the Botswanas, Swaziland, Lesotho countries.

A Spoornet spokesman said normal tariffs were being charged, but at this stage a reliable estimate of total revenue from the operation was not possible.

The spokesman said so far 630,000 tons had been discharged at SA ports.

Sapa reports a University of Pretoria civil engineering department report said the drought in the Transvaal and the northern parts of the Free State was the worst since 1921.

It said university researchers had been aware since September last year that the atmosphere and ocean circulation systems could once more experience an El Nino similar to that of 1982/3 and 1986/7. These fears had been confirmed.

The drought was at its worst between January and March this year.

At that time the entire Transvaal and Free State received between 24% and 46% of their normal rainfall.

Namaqualand and the eastern Karoo received only between 24% and 46% of normal rainfall, and even the usually rainy Natal coastal area received 39% of its normal rainfall.
under the set-aside scheme — will replace price subsidies and the budget could rise to $48bn in five years.

But consumers who pay an estimated $100bn annually above free market prices for their food, to fund production which is 24% over their needs, will benefit. Bread should be 3% cheaper while, for example, beef falls 15% and butter 8%. Running down the EC's stockpiles (25 Mt of grains, 800,000 t of beef and 700,000 t of dairy products) should help other producers locked out of the European market.

It, however, is only a crack, not total demolition. Europe's 10m farmers still command too much political clout. Analysts were quick to point out that, while the cereal subsidy move will bring Europe into line with free market prices, the latter are high because of shortages in the former USSR. The new lower EC price will still be 50% above world averages for the past four years.

The Irish European commissioner responsible, Ray MacSharry, was in no doubt that the GATT deadlock should now be broken even if EC Ministers could not summon up the will to support his call for a 35% cut in support prices.

The prize for getting agreement on the tariff reductions envisaged in the Uruguay Round is nearly a 30% increase in world trade to $4.5bn and everyone wants it.

Yet the press conference was barely over before sceptics were out in force. European farm productivity is increasing by 2% a year and this will blunt the efficacy of the set-aside plan. Policing it will be difficult and there is the question over the principle of income support for farmers which still constitutes a taxpayers' subsidy for a specific industry.

It was welcomed in Washington as "a step in the right direction" but there are other trade areas of disagreement, such as services and intellectual property rights. As French farmers reacted with customary vigour to the CAP deal, President Francois Mitterrand sounded a sour note about the lack of US concessions. Despite the top-level meetings, he said, "one cannot say discussion has advanced." British Agriculture Minister John Gummer was equally cautious: "The link between GATT and CAP reform should not be exaggerated."

But the fact that the EC has been able even to say boo to its most sacred cow can only bode well for the fate of the Uruguay Round next month and the Group of Seven summit in Munich in July.
THE ANC has recommended the redistribution of agricultural land, and the programme must be accompanied by measures which will ensure that the land is productively used.

This recommendation is one of several in a comprehensive document on land reform. Land reform is among the burning topics to be determined at the ANC policy conference which started yesterday.

In its land reform document, the organisation stresses that all South Africans must have access to land and ownership.

"In order to achieve the realisation of this entitlement, an equitable balance shall be established between the legitimate interests of the present holders of rights to land, and the legitimate needs of those without land and shelter."

Other major policy issues to be discussed are:
- A new constitution;
- Economic policy;
- A new system for local government;
- Housing, health and social welfare;
- Education and human resources’ development;
- Science and technology;
- Environment;
- Arts and culture;
- Sport;
- Media;
- Peace and security;

By IKE MOTSAPI

- Youth; and
- International relations.

According to a draft document which is under discussion, the basic objectives of the ANC policy are four-fold. They are:
- To strive for the achievement of the right of all South Africans, as a whole, to political and economic self-determination in a united South Africa.
- To overcome the legacy of inequality and injustice created by colonialism and apartheid, in a swift, progressive and principled way.
- To develop an economy and state infrastructure that will progressively improve the quality of life of all South Africans, and
- To encourage the feeling that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, to promote a common loyalty to and pride in the country and to create a universal sense of freedom and security within its borders.

"The central goal of the ANC economic policy is to create a strong, dynamic and balanced economy that will be directed towards growth.

"We want a mixed economy that will foster a new and constructive relationship between the people, the State, trade union movement, the private sector and the market."
that the discharge must have persisted for at least six weeks to produce the volume of contaminated water detected.

Reynolds says he had suffered a previous loss of net income from irrigation farming in 1986-87. On that occasion he compromised, accepting about R46,000 on a loss he had estimated at some R120,000, when Sasol accepted its liability in principle.

Reynolds emphasizes that saline water contaminates agricultural land: the water flowing from Secunda a year ago will take several years to leach out before the soil can be used again.

Worse still, says Reynolds, is the passive attitude of the Department of Water Affairs, which has not taken steps to control pollution in the Waterfall River, even though it conducted an inquiry into water quality and commissioned detailed reports by consulting engineers Stewart Sviridov and Olivier (SSO).

Reynolds says he informed the department of the latest pollution episode, but claims it is reluctant to act. Sakkie van der Westerhuisen, director of water quality management at the department, says the department has given high priority to promoting good water quality in the Waterfall River. He says SSO’s reports indicate a dramatic improvement in water quality since 1989 in the Trichardtspruit because of remedial measures taken by Sasol.

Nevertheless, the sodium and chloride contents remain a cause for concern from time to time. This is not acceptable to the department and will be addressed as part of the water-quality control plan for the area. Van der Westerhuisen rejects summarily Reynolds’s allegations of passivity, saying water-quality control has to be developed systematically over time — which the department is doing.

Sasol strenuously disputes most of Reynolds’s version. Jan Krynauw, a Sasol spokesman, says that upon discovering the seepage, it took steps to prevent further spillage and — with co-operation from the department — flushed the river with fresh water purchased from the Rand Water Board. This exercise was completed by the middle of June at a cost of about R300,000.

Sasol alleges that Reynolds, who informed Sasol’s intention to flush the Waterfall River with fresh water — suggested it would be cheaper for it to pay his claim. Sasol pointed out to Reynolds that this would be prejudicial to other farmers down the river and to the environment generally.

Sasol further says the water was not poisonous but merely contained increased salt levels. Even when the salt level was at its highest, it could still be used for most irrigation purposes for a short period. Sasol says that, when its representative observed Reynolds’s farm by helicopter, together with Reynolds, he saw that Reynolds was irrigating his farm with the very water at issue.

Sasol points out that one of SSO’s reports states that wheat can tolerate salinity of up to 400 ppm, while the maximum conductivity levels complained of ranged between 112 and 119 ppm.

According to Sasol, the flushing process was complete by the middle of June, well in time for Reynolds’s planting schedule. Indeed, the water quality by that stage was better than it had been for many years at that point in the season.

Sasol believes that Reynolds never had any intention of planting either wheat or potatoes. Sasol says Hannes considered that Reynolds could have planted wheat until the end of July and that the best time for planting potatoes was only in August.

In any event, Sasol proposed to Reynolds that he should plant and that Sasol would reimburse him for any losses in yield caused by poor water quality.

It also claims that Reynolds threatened to dump a load of salt outside its Rosebank headquarters and to stage a demonstration there with his labourers.

Sasol claims that one of Reynolds’s neighbours planted wheat and successfully irrigated it with the allegedly polluted water. Along the river, only one other complaint was received — from a farmer who found himself forced to use the saline water to irrigate carrot seedlings. As carrots are notoriously sensitive to salt, Sasol unhesitatingly paid compensation in this case.

Sasol says it consulted several agricultural experts, including Robin Barnard, a professor of soil science at Pretoria University, consulting engineers Watermeyer Legge, Pienaar & Ulmann and various officials at the Potato Research Station of the Department of Agricultural Development.

There the matter is likely to rest, as Sasol now says he has quit farming and will not continue to press his claim against Sasol.
THE DROUGHT

**Fuelling the drought spiral**

**FM 29.5.92**

Government says food prices have soared by nearly 30% over the past year, while Pick 'n Pay's Raymond Ackerman and the Premier Group's Peter Wrighton put the figure at around 15%. But, whatever the increase, food prices are sure to rise faster in the months ahead as the effects of the drought kick in.

With much of the maize crop wiped out, downstream users of imported yellow maize will be hit hard, sending a ripple effect of higher prices through the food chain. In other sectors, such as potatoes, a speculative frenzy unrelated to real market factors, is pushing prices through the roof.

Animal feed manufacturers will have to transport imported yellow maize to inland markets — and the maize component of animal feed prices will accordingly rocket by between 35% and 44%.

But why the huge maize-price increases, when imported maize can be landed here at only R44/5/t? For a start, government's R30/t profit — which will go towards subsidising grain co-operatives — will help to push this year's R475/t maize consumer price to 24% above last year's contract price of only R383/t. High transport costs from the coast can be added to this.

"Animal feed end-costs could rise by up to 30% this year, once all these factors are added in," says the Animal Feed Manufacturers' Association's Hennie Bekker. "With ralilage of R85/t/R113/t to inland markets, imported yellow maize would cost R388/t at some inland destinations or 44% above last year's contract price level of R383/t."

Bekker says the huge maize price rise will cascade through the food chain. "Eggs, milk and other dairy products, pork and poultry will be hit hard. In the case of broilers, where maize makes up 65% of the feed component, the maize price hike will add R94/t to feed costs.

In the case of egg-layers, the 55% maize component will lead to a price increase of R80/t. Dairy feed products, with a 50% maize content, will have to absorb a R73/t feed price increase this year."

Adding insult to injury, the MAIZE Board will still export 150,000 t of defatted maize germ to European customers this year.

The SA Feedlot Association's executive director, Piet de Wet, says: "While the redmeat industry will have to pay for costly imported grain, precious sources of energy are still exported. The association objects strongly to this step and requests that the board cease these exports immediately."

Meanwhile, animal feed manufacturers are negotiating with the oil expressers over the vexing R200/t tariff imposed a few years ago on imported soya oil cake.

The manufacturers have proposed that oil cake imports be avoided by letting local expressers — who manufacture vegetable oils from sunflower, soya and cotton seeds and sell the oil cake to the local animal feed industry — import soya seeds tariff-free this year. This means they will be able to continue production after local sunflower and soya stocks run out by October, says the manufacturers' association chairman, Munro Griessel, who is also CE of Epal.

"We expect the drought to slash local oil cake production to about 150,000 t, against market needs of about 550,000 t. Imports of about 400,000 t could be landed here at about R700/t, but the R200/t import levy would push this to about R900/t, to which must be added transport costs from the coast of about R85/t."

If tariff-free seed imports are allowed, feed manufacturers would pay a total of about R900/t for their oil cake this year — a saving of about R80/t on imported oil cake. The saving could be lower, Griessel says, because the Chicago market is already reacting nervously to weather forecasts in the northern hemisphere, with the El Nino phenomenon sparking fears of a drought.

"We would prefer increased local soya production, as soon as good rains return to SA, because the higher fibre content of sunflower oil cake is unacceptable and soya also has a superior protein composition," he says.

"The oil expressers, again, prefer sunflower because its oil content is about 42%, against soya's 16%-18%. The whole issue is complicated by the fact that overseas producers are heavily subsidised — which led to the original impoht of the R200/t levy."

As these debates over costly feed inputs continue, questions are also being asked about huge 400% increases in potato prices — even while most major markets are over-supplied and there is no real prospect of shortages due to the drought.

Potato Board commodity manager Gerrie de Jager says: "Prices have increased from R5 a bag to more than R20 a bag over the past few weeks, driven by a psychosis that the drought will cause shortages. But this fear is not based on fact. More than enough stocks are available to meet demand."

He says that though the Cape Town and Johannesburg markets are over-supplied by up to 100%, prices are surging relentlessly. Fresh produce agents — the only people allowed to sell at markets on farmers' behalf — are thought to be speculatively driving up prices.

"There may be slight scarcities in specific classes, for example quality potatoes used to make chips, but by and large there is an ample supply of potatoes. This situation should also apply during the coming winter."

Van Vuuren adds: "As virtually no value is added to the fresh product, one must ask whether excessive profits are being made at retail level. With daily sales of about 250,000 bags of 10 kg each, nationally, retailers, therefore, add substantially to the inflationary spiral."

Meanwhile, the Board of Trade & Industry's report on food-price increases should be completed shortly. "The report will then be handed to Trade & Industry Minister Derek Keys," says board chairman Nic Swart.

"While I will push for publication, the final decision will not be mine."
FARMERS and residents of the Rietpoort settlement on the West Coast are determined to hold onto their land and heritage despite a court battle with the local management board which administers the settlement.

The community has been protesting against poor services and an erosion of their rights since 1987.

Last week, four community members were served with subpoenas for not paying tax to the board since 1990. "We stopped paying in 1987 after we decided the board was not doing enough to solve our problems," said community leader Mr Johan Oewies.

Residents are expected to pay R45 a year in "house tax" to the board, but claim they do not receive the corresponding services. Their main grievance is a shortage of water, which has to be bought.

"Our herds have decreased because of a shortage of water, grazing land and food," he said.

A spokesperson for the management board, Mr Adriaan Dirkse, said the taxes were used to provide facilities for the community.
Neither revenge nor victimisation should be on the agenda. Wrongs that can be compensated for — like land restoration — must be on the agenda.

Paper on Land Reform of 1991, was very clear: "The interests of peace and progress (demand) that the present position should be accepted. Any attempt to return to the previous order will only disrupt the country's pace of development to the detriment of all."

It was only in the face of overwhelming opposition from the churches, organs of civil society and foreign governments that the government relented to a limited extent, setting up an advisory commission on land allocation.

But in case this raised any hopes, the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Hermus Kriel, made it clear that "a programme of restitution is not practical or financially viable".

Land restoration, especially of those large portions still owned by government departments, would be the first step, as the Association of Rural Advancement puts it, in healing apartheid's scars.

Neither revenge nor victimisation should be on the agenda, as we see them occurring in certain European countries.

Wrongs that can be compensated for must be on the agenda.

Slowly, there is a debate beginning on the topic of restitution for injustices. Even Business Day acknowledged: "It is widely accepted that part of the solution (to apartheid) includes reparations for past wrongs."

We must address the issue now if we expect constitutional rights and human rights to be observed in the future.

The injuries caused by apartheid cannot all be undone immediately, but the fruits of apartheid must not be left permanently in the hands of those who profited from it.

The battle lines for the debate on the content of our future constitution are now being drawn.

One major issue of contention is clearly the relevance of economic and social rights and their place in the constitution. Some claim these are not real rights but are either "directive principles of state policy", as the Namibian Constitution, or simply "ideals", as the South African Law Commission calls them.

To deny the existence of any rights except the ones associated with political freedoms, to marginalise rights which some lawyers may consider as non-justiciable, is to accept the bias in favour of the powerful. It is to accept a truncated view of humanity. It is like throwing a rope of sand to the poor and the dispossessed.

In accordance with the international standards of human rights, we must assert the indivisibility of human rights.

To promote civil and political rights alone is to create the appearance of equality and justice, while leaving socio-economic inequality untouched and even entrenched.

Put in another way, as the Indian Supreme Court described it, we must view the two generations of rights as two wheels of a chariot, each indispensable from the other.

The National Party's constitutional proposals of September 1991 will maintain the status quo.

There will be no reparations, no affirmative action, and change will be impossible because the presidency and the government will only be able to decide by consensus.

In other words, small parties will be able to veto any change.

These proposals must be rejected because they will block all progress towards reconstruction. They will discredit democracy and undermine constitutionalism. Reconciliation cannot be initiated on such a political and constitutional quicksand.
LONDON.—The Times has warned Western donors anxious to help relieve the worsening southern African drought to look further than merely offering economic aid.

It said in a leading article yesterday: "They must ensure rural communities survive and maintain their food-producing viability. They must ensure political stability and the continuation of economic reform.

"They must encourage African governments toward economic prudence."

Otherwise, it said, southern Africa's immediate survival might be at the expense of its eventual recovery.

The paper suggested "throwing money and food" at the victims of drought might be a temporary salve that in the longer term could exacerbate their distress.

"The principle that, where possible, Africa should buy food rather than get it free and buy it locally must be applied to governments as much as to individuals.

"Relief agencies have argued that forcing African governments to buy in food stocks with their hard currency reserves will slow down and possibly reverse economic reform and the process of structural adjustment.

"If, on the other hand, governments are simply bailed out, the principle of economic responsibility is replaced by aid-dependency."

Meanwhile, as many as 18 million people could starve, and another 180 million see their lives devastated, in the southern African drought, according to a report to be published by the United Nations and the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) next week.

They are appealing to the international community for nearly $700-million (R1,99 billion) to buy emergency rations for Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
Seized land: ANC pledge a ‘just’ fee

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The ANC intends protecting property rights, and says that if any land is appropriated by the state, “just” compensation will have to be paid.

This was one of the key stances adopted at the ANC’s policy conference which ended here yesterday.

The ANC also rejected special treatment for foreign investors. Such investors might also be blocked from investing in strategic areas and have limits placed on their local borrowing facilities.

On property rights, the adopted policy document states that “just” compensation will consist of establishing an equitable balance between the public interest and the interest of those affected.

This will not be based solely on the market value of the property, but there will be recourse to a special independent tribunal with an appeal to the courts.

ANC representatives accepted that nationalised companies would be compensated at a just rate.

Also endorsed was the concept of “mixed economy” which would foster a new relationship between the state, the trade union movement, the private sector and the market.

The ANC has pledged to introduce anti-monopoly and anti-trust policies.

A progressive tax system was endorsed, pledged to end indirect taxation on basic foodstuffs, health care and basic household services.

The ANC pledged to ensure that financial institutions channelled resources into productive investment and ended discrimination in lending against blacks, women and the informal sector or small-scale producers.

Yesterday, economists attacked the proposed conditions for foreign investment.

Nedcor chief economist Mr Edward Osborne said the ANC was saying that the whole investment should be overseen by an investment committee such as had been seen in Zimbabwe, “which resulted in bureaucratic stalling and all sorts of problems”.

Saccoo chief economist Mr Ben van Rensburg said the policy showed unawareness of the forces “which today drive decisions to invest offshore”.

Important factors were: Potential returns on investment, certainty in the political and economic environment, a proven history of macro-economic policies aimed at preserving the value of the currency and the ability of government to follow economic policies which foster sustained economic growth.
IDT earmarks R100m for poverty, drought aid

PRETORIA — The Independent Development Trust has earmarked R100m for short- and medium-term projects to relieve distress and poverty in drought-affected areas.

A spokesman said at the weekend the trust aimed to establish a national drought relief and development programme incorporating all agencies and networks already involved in relief.

It was vital that all efforts be co-ordinated to make the best use of funds, the spokesman said.

The short-term aim of the programme was to contribute to bringing about immediate relief to fight off the threat of starvation.

The trust's main focus, the spokesman said, would be to try to bring about a lasting solution to the causes of poverty.

Meanwhile, a US Embassy spokesman said the US would give southern African countries 1 650-million tons of emergency food at a total cost of $200m and would consider further donations.

He was unable to say what percentage of the food and aid would go to which southern African countries, saying that this would be determined by the US Agency for International Development Aid.

EC representative in Pretoria Tim Sheehy said the community had allocated 850 000 tons towards drought aid for the whole of Africa.

This was in addition to the normal food aid programmes supported by the EC.
R130m for SA drought aid  

Political Staff

THE government yesterday announced a drought-relief package of R130 million for the six non-independent homelands and for farmers on state land.

This follows an earlier announcement of R1 billion in drought relief for agriculture in South Africa.

The Minister of Agriculture, Dr Kraai van Niekerk, also said the report of the implementing committee on drought relief was received last Wednesday, a day before the May 28 deadline.

The report and recommendations were being evaluated and it was expected that an announcement would be made next Monday.

Dr Van Niekerk said the R130m would be for the sole purpose of drought relief and necessary control mechanisms would ensure the proper use of the funds.

Job creation programmes are included in the package.
main problem in regard to these portable and transportable toilets is not that the hole unfortunately constitutes a permanent fixture? [Interjections.]

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, the reply to that is yes, as far as the toilet is concerned, and no, not as far as the placing is concerned.

Hwblj community: use of farm Tweespark

8. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

(1) Whether he has received a request on behalf of the Hwblj community for that community to make use of the farm Tweespark, No 7331 DR6, which was held in trust by the former South African Development Trust; if so,

(2) whether he intends allowing the Hwblj community to make use of the farm; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS:

(1) No.

(2) The farm Tweespark is the property of the State which is, together with a number of other farms, being leased in terms of a written lease agreement to Gillemberg Farms. It is therefore under the present circumstances not possible to make the property available to the Hwblj community.

Cost of newspaper advertisements: Zevlevantein issue 1990

9. Mr P H DE LA REY asked the Minister of Local Government and National Housing:

(1) Which Department bears the cost of the newspaper advertisements by the Transvaal Provincial Administration on the Zevlevantein question, which appeared inter alia on 12 May 1992 in a certain newspaper, particulars of which have been furnished to the Minister’s Department for the purpose of his reply, (b) what has the total cost of these advertisements been to date and (c) what is the purport of the advertisement in the above-mentioned newspaper?

(2) Whether there are any private business undertakings or bodies that contribute to the defrayal of these costs; if so, what are the relevant details;

(3) whether any more similar advertisements are envisaged; if so, what subjects will they deal with?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL HOUSING:

(1) (a) The Transvaal Provincial Administration.

(b) The total cost of placing the advertisement in five daily newspapers on 12 and 13 May 1992 and in six regional papers during the week which ended on 15 May 1992, amounted to R130,801,93. The daily newspapers are The Citizen, The Star, Sowetan, Business Day and Beeld. The regional papers are Randburg Sun, Midrand Reporter, Vereeniging Nuus, Sandton Chronicle, Krugersdorp Nuus and Roodepoort Record.

(c) The intention of the advertisement was to emphasize, in the national interest, the realities of urbanization in the PWV area, and to defuse the emotional actions and the misconceptions regarding the presence of the Zevlevantein community north-west of Randburg and Sandton.

(2) No.

(3) At this stage no further advertisements of this nature are envisaged. Further advertisements in this regard may, however, be published should it be deemed necessary and in the interest of the public.

Compensation to injured national servicemen

10. Adv J J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Defence:

(1) Whether national servicemen who sustain injuries during their national service training that are caused by the negligence of other members of the South African Defence Force and that lead to permanent disablement, receive compensation therefore; if not, why not; if so,

(2) whether the procedure followed in calculating such compensation is the same as that followed in corresponding cases outside the Defence Force structure; if not,

(a) why not and (b) what procedure is followed in this regard?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) Yes, provided the claim is accepted by the responsible Government Department.

(2) In so far as financial assistance is concerned two separate dispensions are applicable to National Servicemen depending on the circumstances:

— National Servicemen who are already either in the employ of the Public Service or another employer who is registered in terms of the Workmen’s Compensation Act (Act 30 of 1941) fall under the jurisdiction of the Workmen’s Compensation Act.

— Other National Servicemen are covered by the Military Pensions Act (Act 84 of 1976).

(a) The basis of compensation in the categories differ in that the Workmen’s Compensation Act was enacted to compensate persons who are already employed in the open labour market for disabilities sustained during their military service. Calculation of the benefits payable is based on earnings, degree of disability and the type of work performed. In contrast the Military Pensions Act provides for persons who have not as yet entered the open labour market or whose employers have not been registered in terms of the Workmen’s Compensation Act and who sustained injuries whilst rendering military service. In such cases compensation is based on educational qualifications and the degree of disability.

(b) — The Workmen’s Compensation Act compels the employer to report accidents within 30 days of the incident for a decision and registration. In the case of a public servant who is rendering his national service the incident is reported to the member’s department who in turn submit the case to the Workmen’s Compensation Commissioner for further processing.

— With regard to the completion of the claim documentation of members who fall under the Military Pensions Act, the onus rests with the individual member but he is assisted by the SA Defence Force to submit his claim on the prescribed form to the Department of Finance.

Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 180C (3) of the Standing Rules of Parliament

Measures for cargo ships

*11. Adv J J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Transport:

(1) Whether his Department takes any measures to ensure that cargo ships sailing in South African territorial waters are not structurally so deteriorated that they may start leaking or even sink; if not, why not; if so, what measures;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

(1) Yes, when cargo ships enter South African harbours and it is proved or suspected that international legislation is being transgressed, ship-surveys of the Department undertake quality inspections.

(2) No. It is, however, customary to make a statement in specific circumstances when warranted.

Referendum: foreign heads of state approached by SA embassies

*12. Mr D P DU PLESSIS asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Whether there are any South African embassies which in any way, after receiving the
main problem in regard to these portable and transportable toilets is not that the hole unfortunately constitutes a permanent fixture. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, the reply to that is yes, as far as the toilet is concerned; and no, not as far as the placing is concerned.

Hwini community: use of farm Tweespalk

Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

(1) Whether he has received a request on behalf of the Hwini community for that community to make use of the farm Tweespalk, No 733D,DR6, which was held in trust by the former South African Development Trust; if so.

(2) Whether he intends allowing the Hwini community to make use of the farm; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS:

(1) No.

(2) The farm Tweespalk is the property of the State which is, together with a number of other farms, being leased in terms of a written lease agreement to Gillenberg Farms. It is therefore under the present circumstances not possible to make the property available to the Hwini community.

Cost of newspaper advertisements: Zevenfontein issue

Mr P H DE LA REY asked the Minister of Local Government and National Housing:

(1) (a) Which Department bears the cost of the newspaper advertisements by the Transvaal Provincial Administration on the Zevenfontein question, which appeared inter alia on 12 May 1992 in a certain newspaper, particulars of which have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, (b) what has the total cost of these advertisements been to date and (c) what is the purport of the advertisement in the above-mentioned newspaper.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL HOUSING:

(1) (a) The Transvaal Provincial Administration.

(b) The total cost of placing the advertisement in five daily newspapers on 12 and 13 May 1992 and in six regional papers during the week which ended on 15 May 1992, amounted to R130 801.93. The daily newspapers are The Citizen, The Star, Sowetan, Business Day and Beeld. The regional papers are Randburg Sun, Midrand Reporter, Vereeniging News, Sandton Chronicle, Krugersdorp News and Roodepoort Record.

(c) The intention of the advertisement was to emphasize, in the national interest, the realities of urbanization in the PWV area and to refute the emotional actions and the misconceptions regarding the presence of the Zevenfontein community northwest of Randburg and Sandton.

(2) No.

(3) At this stage no further advertisements of this nature are envisaged. Further advertisements in this regard may, however, be published should it be deemed necessary and in the interest of the public.

Compensation to injured national servicing

Adv J J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Defence:

(1) Whether national servicemen who sustain injuries during their national service training that are caused by the negligence of other members of the South African Defence Force and that lead to permanent disability, receive compensation therefore; if not, why not; if so, the procedures followed in calculating such compensation is the same as that followed in corresponding cases outside the Defence Force structure; if not, (a) why not and (b) what procedure is followed in this regard?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) Yes, provided the claim is accepted by the responsible Government Department.

(2) In so far as financial assistance is concerned two separate dispensations are applicable to National Servicemen depending on the circumstances:

--- National Servicemen who are already either in the employ of the Public Service or another employer who is registered in terms of the Workmen's Compensation Act (Act 30 of 1941) fall under the jurisdiction of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

--- Other National Servicemen are covered by the Military Pensions Act (Act 84 of 1976).

(a) The basis of compensation in the categories differ in that the Workmen's Compensation Act was enacted to compensate persons who are already employed in the open labour market for disabilities sustained during their military service. Calculation of the benefits payable is based on earnings, degree of disability and the type of work performed. In contrast the Military Pensions Act provides for persons who have not as yet entered the open labour market or whose employers have not been registered in terms of the Workmen's Compensation Act and who sustained injuries whilst rendering military service. In such cases compensation is based on educational qualifications and the degree of disability.

(b) The Workmen's Compensation Act compels the employer to report accidents within 30 days of the incident for a decision and registration. In the case of a public servant who is rendering his national service the incident is reported to the member's department who will in turn submit the case to the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner for further processing.

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--- Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 180C (3) of the Standing Rules of Parliament.

--- Measures for cargo ships

--- 11. Adv J J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Transport:

(1) Whether his Department takes any measures to ensure that cargo ships sailing in South African territorial waters are not structurally so deteriorated that they may start leaking or even sink; if not, why not; if so, what measures;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

(1) Yes, when cargo ships enter South African harbours and it is proved or suspected that international legislation is being transgressed, ship surveyors of the Department undertake quality inspections.

(2) No. It is, however, customary to make a statement in specific circumstances when warranted.

--- Referendum: foreign heads of state approached by SA embassies

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Whether there are any South African embassies which in any way, after receiving the
NEWS IN BRIEF
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SAAU pleads for delay

THE SA Agricultural Union has made a last minute plea to Man-
power Minister Leon Wessels to delay tabling amendments to the
Basic Conditions of Employment Act, due to take place on Friday.
It said yesterday the amendments could have serious consequences
for the industry.
main problem in regard to these portable and transportable toilets is not that the hole unfortunately constitutes a permanent fixture? [Interjections.]

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, the reply to that is yes, as far as the toilet is concerned, and no, not as far as the plugging is concerned.

Hwibi community: use of farm Tweepskloof

Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

(1) Whether he has received a request on behalf of the Hwibi community for that community to make use of the farm Tweepskloof, No 733 LDR6, which was held in trust by the former South African Development Trust; if so,

(2) whether he intends allowing the Hwibi community to make use of the farm; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL HOUSING:

(1) The Transvaal Provincial Administration.

(2) The total cost of placing the advertisement in five daily newspapers on 12 and 13 May 1992 and in six regional papers during the week which ended on 15 May 1992, amounted to R130 801.53. The daily newspapers are The Citizen, The Star, Sowetan, Business Day and Beeld. The regional papers are Randburg Sun, Midrand Reporter, Waverleyburg News, Sandton Chronicle, Krugersdorp News and Roodepoort Record.

(c) The intention of the advertisement was to emphasize, in the national interest, the realities of urbanization in the PWV area, and to cause the emotional actions and the misconceptions regarding the presence of the Zevenfontein community north-west of Randburg and Sandton.

(2) No.

The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS:

(1) No.

(2) The farm Tweepskloof is the property of the State which is, together with a number of other farms, being leased in terms of a written lease agreement to Gillenbrand Farms. It is therefore under the present circumstances not possible to make the property available to the Hwibi community.

Cost of newspaper advertisements: Zevenfontein issue

Mr P H DE LA REY asked the Minister of Local Government and National Housing:

(1) (a) Which Department bears the cost of the newspaper advertisements by the Transvaal Provincial Administration on the Zevenfontein question, which appeared in four daily newspapers on 12 May 1992 in a certain newspaper, particulars of which have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply,

(2) what is the total cost of these advertisements been to date and (c) what is the purport of the advertisement in the above-mentioned newspaper:

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Body of Convoy:?

(2) whether there are any private business undertakings or bodies that contribute to the defrayal of these costs; if so, what are the relevant details?

(3) whether any more similar advertisements are envisaged; if so, what subjects will they deal with?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL HOUSING:

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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Body of Convoy:?
not debate this now, but it is a subject which one could discuss at great length. However, I want to assure hon members that we are by no means overlooking the historical aspects of the shop.

The hon member for Springfield raised a very interesting and important point pertaining to the Group Areas Act.

Mr P NAIDOO: Mr Speaker, is the hon the Minister prepared to take a question?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The hon the Minister's time is very limited, but it is up to him to decide.

The MINISTER: I am prepared to take a question.

Mr P NAIDOO: Would the hon the Minister afford a similar opportunity to the thousands of householders who are much more deserving of such special treatment?

The MINISTER: I would like to, but I cannot. I had hoped to, but I could not. I might as well stipulate some of the conditions or factors that are taken into account before finally arriving at the price at which we are offering these shops. The situation of the shop is taken into account, as are the present condition of the premises and the type of business. If there are too many barber shops, for instance . . . [Time expired.]

Debate concluded.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Transfer of land to Minister of Public Works

69. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

1. Whether, in terms of paragraph 1(c) of Proclamation R28 of 31 March 1992, certain land under the control of his Department is to be transferred to the Minister of Public Works; if so, (a) what land is to be transferred and (b) what is the purpose in doing so;

2. whether the Government intends selling the land in question; if not, why not; if so, to whom?

The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS:

B737E

Yes.

(a) The properties mentioned in Schedule 3 of Proclamation No R28/1992 have already been transferred to the Department of Public Works with effect from 1 April 1992.

(b) To further dispose of the properties.

2. The Department of Public Works will dispose of the properties taking into consideration in this regard the advice of the

Advisory Commission on Land Allocation and the practical utilization of un-economic units. Further particulars in this respect should be obtained from the Department of Public Works.

Own Affairs:

Model C schools: subsidized posts to be lost

66. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

Whether his Department has already determined how many teachers in (a) ordinary public and (b) state-aided schools will lose their subsidized posts after the conversion from ordinary public schools to Model C schools has been completed; if not, why not; if so, (i) how many teachers in each case and (ii) how many of them (aa) with and (bb) without a pension?

B608E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

(a) (i) 155

(ii) (aa)* 155

(bb) 0

(b) (i) 3 661

(ii) (aa)* 3 658

(bb)** 3

* Depending on whether a person occupies a temporary or a permanent position and on his/her years of service an annuity or a gratuity or an annuity and a gratuity are paid out.

** Part time posts.
original, unaltered draft letter to which he referred in his reply to Question No 1 on 13 May 1992. approached foreign heads of state with the request that the South African Government be supported in the referendum of 17 March 1992, if so, (a) in what way were these heads of state approached and (b) what heads of state were so approached?

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

No. The letter, as I explained previously, was sent to missions for their information only. Furthermore I have sent a subsequent instructional informing missions that the final text, as amended by the State President, was on its way. All missions have confirmed that no Head of State was approached on the basis of the initial text.

(a) and (b) Fall away.

Trust Feed case: call by General Bar Council

*13. Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) Whether he will accede to the call by the General Bar Council of South Africa for a full public investigation, presided over by a Supreme Court judge, into the allegations of a police cover-up in the Trust Feed case: if not, why not.

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) The possibility exists. Former Regional Court president, Mr Willem Krugel, has already been appointed to co-ordinate and analyse the evidence and to advise me in this matter. As soon as I receive the advice a decision will be made.

(2) No.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

INTERPELLATION

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

Own Affairs:

Directorate: Financial Assistance/Land Bank

*1. Mr A A B BRUWER asked the Minister of Agricultural Development:

(1) Whether he envisages combining the functions of the Land Bank and the Directorate: Financial Assistance of his Department: if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr Chairman, the question is whether it is being envisaged to combine the functions of the Land Bank and the Directorate: Financial Assistance. The reply to both questions, on which I will issue a statement, is no. In my opinion it is not possible or desirable to combine all the functions of the Directorate: Financial Assistance and the Agricultural Credit Board on the one hand and those of the Land Bank on the other. The reason for this is that the primary mandates and tasks of the two bodies differ fundamentally from each other.

Where certain functions such as the consolidation of debts and the financing of beginner farmers and the advancement of production credit overlap, the rationalisation thereof in order to vest it in the Land Bank is indeed being considered and promoted. In a nutshell this means that the Land Bank provides the capital for these financing functions in these cases, and the Agricultural Credit Board subsidizes the interest on these amounts based on merit and the appropriation by Parliament of funds.

These functions form a relatively small component of the activities of the Agricultural Credit Board and the Directorate: Financial Assistance, whereas it is a main function of the Land Bank, besides the financing of co-operatives and marketing boards. The other functions of the Directorate: Financial Assistance and the Agricultural Credit Board comprise areas that are not dealt with by the Land Bank at all, for example the approval and control of soil conservation works and the payment of subsidies, the evaluation and allocation to farmers of state-owned agricultural land, the administration of various drought aid schemes for stock farmers and ostrich farmers, water and drilling projects, and the administration of aid schemes for flood damage.

Then there is also the approval and assistance with the erection and upgrading of housing for labourers, the administration of the land conversion scheme, as well as the facilitating of settlement agreements.

The Government needs an instrument in order to have particular functions, that cannot be performed by the private sector, available for the evaluation of emergency aid in particular.

The above-mentioned functions cannot be dealt with by the Land Bank, which is an independent body, on behalf of the Government. The Agricultural Credit Board is, however, a financial arm, the Directorate of Financial Assistance, is therefore an instrument in the hands of the Minister of Agriculture to carry out specific instructions of the Government in respect of dealing with disasters, emergency aid and financial assistance in specific cases and circumstances. The funds for this come out of the State budget and are allocated annually according to the circumstances in prevailing agriculture at the time.

On the other hand the Land Bank operates under the provisions of a specific Act. In terms of this Act the Land Bank is empowered to raise funds on the open capital market at market-related interest rates in order to supplement its own limited funds and then to lend it to farmers and agricultural concerns at market-related interest rates.

The Land Bank also reports to the Minister of Finance on its activities. Various investigations have already been launched by the Commission for Administration, Dr Japie Jacobs and Mr van Zyl, in order to determine the viability of combining these functions of the two bodies. [Time expired]

*2. Mr C E HERTZOG, Mr Chairman, in the first place I should like to apologise for the long member for Lydenburg who cannot be here today owing to other important business.

If certain functions of the Agricultural Credit Board and the Land Bank can be combined it is absolutely essential that the new body should be subject to the Agricultural Credit Act, Act 28 of 1966.

The position is that if a farmer's financial situation has deteriorated to such an extent that a settlement has to be considered, the Land Bank cannot go ahead and take the farmer's land and sell it, because the Land Bank is not bound by section 21(1) regarding the protection that the board may extend in order to give the farmer a chance to carry out the settlement.

Apart from the disadvantage for the farmer, it is also disadvantageous to the other creditors, because they are prevented from taking any action if protection has been extended in terms of section 21.

With the present position, it has happened that the Land Bank comes in when the negotiations with other creditors have reached an advanced stage, and takes the farmer's land and sells it, with the result that all negotiations collapse. As the Land Bank is not subject to the Agricultural Credit Act, it is also excluded when the creditors meet in order to settle. If the creditors should agree to a settlement, the Land Bank can come in at any stage and wreck the whole settlement and days of work.

At present the position is that the farmer no longer has a choice of going out in terms of section 28 if the settlement proposals are accepted at a meeting, but the Land Bank later acts against the farmer and wrecks the settlement. He is then simply sequestrated because enough assets have remained in the estate—once again to the detriment of the farmer and other creditors.

If such a step is taken it will cut out much unnecessary red tape for the farmer, especially when a farmer environs buying land. At present the position is that the farmer must first apply to the Land Bank for assistance and only if he is refused assistance can he apply to the board for consideration there, while months are wasted. Such a combined body would also have better security. At present the board in many cases has lower bonds than first bonds at its disposal, while the Land Bank has first bonds at its disposal. Farmers should under no circumstances be forced to pay higher interest rates, as are being paid at present. [Time expired]

Mr M A TARR: Mr Chairman, the Department administers four types of schemes, all of which...
represent some form of subsidy to agriculture. These are loans, consolidation of debts, purchase of land and subsidised interest rates, the subsidies on interest, conversion of land to farming patterns and we also have emergency assistance.

There are two points that the DP would like to make here, and the first is that we believe that over the longer term subsidies to agriculture should be phased out altogether. They have not achieved the objectives they were intended for, namely to help farmers in trouble and to make access to agriculture easier for aspiring farmers. Instead, subsidies have often been capitalised into land values, and they have helped to give distorted price signals resulting in wrong patterns of production. High land values have, in fact, made entrance into farming more difficult, and the wrong production patterns have made farming more risky. To the extent that the Department is responsible for the administration of subsidies, we believe these should fall away.

Secondly, with regard to the purchase of land and loans for the purchase of land, we believe the Land Bank as a specialist institution should handle this and should have overall responsibility. Subsidised loans for land should also be phased out and hence another function of this Department.

We therefore do not foresee the functions of the Land Bank and the directorate being combined, because we would hope that over time most of the functions of the directorate would fall away. They should continue to perform those which they do keep, like drought relief and assistance in situations like that.

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, with regard to what the hon member for Pietermaritzburg North said about the question of subsidies, we are in the process of phasing out subsidies. On the other hand, with the difficult farming conditions we have and the erratic climate in which farmers operate there are times when one has to ensure food security by means of subsidies keeping farmers in production, or else we will end up without a sufficient supply of locally produced food. We would then have to rely on imported food, which is usually expensive. In that regard we did discontinue the role that subsidies can play in facilitating this action.

With regard to the purchase of land, the department no longer funds the purchasing of land and we do not intend doing so in the future, because that is the function of the Land Bank. I agree with what the hon member has just said.

"With all due respect, I do not think the hon member for Ladybrand listened carefully to my explanation. We have not created a new body but have just brought about a rationalisation between the two activities so that certain functions that are the responsibility of the Land Bank do not go to the Land Bank, as I mentioned in respect of various transactions where money for production loans is involved and in respect of the consolidation of debt, and that on the part of Agricultural credit, relief is only granted in respect of the interest. However, I have already explained this.

I do not think the hon member need worry about the fact that the Land Bank has been so unapproachable, as he says. Indeed, the experience that we have is that the Land Bank acts in an extremely responsible way and in fact only in cases where it cannot do otherwise, does it proceed to take action in terms of the provisions of its Act.

In this regard the Agricultural Credit Board plays an important role. That is why it should also keep functioning separately, as he says. [Time expired.]

Mr J M BEYERS: Mr Chairman, we on this side of the House are in favour of the Agricultural Credit Board being incorporated into the Land Bank and that the Land Bank takes over all the functions of the ACB. We have been appealing for a long time, together with the formal agricultural sector, for one-stop financial assistance service for farmers where the farmer's total financial package can be addressed and meaningful and streamlined decisions taken on it. For the farmer the important advantage is in this sense that his total financial planning can then be finalized at one place. A further advantage, especially in view of the future constitutional dispensation that the Government is planning, is that the farmers' financial one-stop will not then be so closely associated with the Government than is the case at present with the ACB.

However, from this side of the House we impose two important conditions for the incorporation of the ACB—which in any case is apparently not going to take place, in view of the hon the Minister's reply. In the first place we state that all category 3 farmers that receive assistance from the ACB at present should still be assisted by the new body or combined body, with the same advantages and the same conditions as enjoyed at the ACB.

In the second place we feel—and we feel strongly about it—that the Directorate: Financial Assistance should not disappear, but should be available to render State assistance to farmers through particular channels, during emergency and disaster-related conditions.

In a country such as South Africa, with our particular climatology and fluctuating natural conditions, the State will always have to play an important role to keep agriculture healthy.

A further aspect that I believe has now become urgently necessary and on which we should like to ascertain the Minister's opinion, is whether it will be possible in such a possible new dispensation, for commercial banks to be responsible for agricultural debt, which as a result of excessive interest rates, at present constitutes about 30% of the total debt burden of farmers...[Time expired.]

Mr C E HERTZOG: Mr Chairman, it is of the utmost importance that certain functions of these bodies be combined. We have a great understanding for the idea that the Directorate: Financial Assistance should remain in existence to be of assistance to farmers in cases of disaster, but just as a train driver cannot accept financial responsibility for a train disaster, so a financial arm cannot accept financial responsibility in the present conditions for a disaster in agriculture. That is why we on this side of the House would really like to see certain functions combined, but that the Directorate: Financial Assistance remains in existence in order to be of assistance in emergencies.

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I can give the hon member for Ladybrand the assurance that that is exactly what we envisage in respect of certain functions must be combined and that should logically fall under a financing institution and not the State. But in respect of the functional arm that should deal with disasters, and remain the responsibility of the State, we must keep the Agricultural Credit Board and the directorate in place in order to be able to evaluate it at grassroots level. We cannot do without it, and that is exactly one of the reasons why we cannot combine the two. It therefore remains as is.

The hon member for Virginia asks for one-stop service in respect of financing. It is going to be transferred to the Land Bank, or we are going to try to do it. The other functions then remain with the Agricultural Credit Board.

The existing conditions in respect of category 3 farmers will be maintained. Under the auspices of the Agricultural Credit Board they can move in and out, not only at the Land Bank, but also at commercial banks in order to subsidise agricultural debt on a sliding scale for one year with low interest rates, and can then phase it out slowly.

The directorate will not disappear. Commercial banks that deal with agricultural debt therefore also be incorporated here. As far as the Agricultural Credit Board is concerned and farmers that serve on agricultural credit committees....

"The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! The hon member must resume his seat. The hon the Minister may proceed.

The MINISTER: They perform an important function and provide an unselfish service to farmers. I should like to express my gratitude on this occasion for the functions that they perform. It is one of the important things at grassroots level that should remain intact for the sake of agriculture. In order to do this we need to have the financial assistance arm and also the Agricultural Credit Board.

We are not planning to change radically, but we should like to make the whole process more streamlined with a view to a healthy financing policy.

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS
*Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Feeding scheme: amount distributed/available

220. Mr J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health:

(1) (a) (i) What total amount (R) has been distributed in terms of the Government's...
ANC workshop on drought relief

Staff Reporter

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."

"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.
The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG: — The Coordinating Committee on VAT (VCC), has called on the Government to use "the billions of rands in state secret funds" to stabilise the price of basic foods, amid warnings from the ANC that 1.5 million South Africans could starve because of the drought.

The ANC also said reports that the Government stood to make R400 million profit from the import and sale of wheat reflected a callous disregard for the plight of millions.

The VCC call came in response to predictions this week that the prices of some basic foods might rise by 45 percent because of the drought.

Meanwhile two of South Africa's largest trade union bodies, Cosatu and the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), have called on members to "mobilise" against the predicted increases.

VCC coordinator Dr Bernie Fanaroff yesterday said a sharp rise in the price of basic foods would "push millions of South Africans into starvation".

He said the VCC wanted the Government to use the R110 million profit it made on wheat imports last year, and the R60 million saved on subsidies, to stabilise food prices.

ANC economics department head Mr Trevor Manuel warned that South Africa was heading for a potential disaster on an enormous scale if the Government insisted on dealing with the crisis caused by the drought single handed.

Mr Manuel said more than R100 million of the R220 million budgeted for drought relief in the past financial year had been carried over to this year because Pretoria did not have the required infrastructure to organise relief effectively.
At first glance, the R3.8bn drought-relief package announced last month looked like just another budget-breaking handout to farmers and farm co-operatives that should go out of business if they can’t cope with the occupational hazard of droughts. But, on closer inspection, the relief package is part of an attempt to wean agriculture away from easy credit and establish more market-oriented principles in the socialist-style sector.

As part of the package, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk told the co-ops to let any farmer who exceeds a 50% debt/asset ratio to fall by the wayside. Farmers whose debts exceed 50% of total assets, even after their share of the drought relief is incorporated, will receive no more credit from co-ops (though they might be able to borrow elsewhere) and could be forced out of the sector.

"In the future, we will not be able to defend to taxpayers the use of their money for such (drought-relief) programmes unless financial discipline becomes part of the package," Deputy Agriculture Minister Tobie Meyer told the recent co-operative congress in Pretoria. "The first step is to bring agriculture back to a market-related keel. And farmers will have to make a contribution, for a start, by keeping proper financial records and having an acceptable farming plan as the basis for their operations."

Meyer said that, in one farming district, 41% of the participants in the relief scheme had no financial records of any value. Van Niekerk emphasised that this same message of financial discipline also applies to the R22bn-a-year co-ops, which will have to give credit purely on merit.

Next week the Minister will announce details of how the drought aid will be distributed, but the broad outline of where the money will go is known (Business & Technology May 15). Under the three-year programme, R1bn will go directly to farmers, mostly in the summer-grain production and grazing areas of the Transvaal and Free State. The other R2.8bn will go to the 35 co-ops in the region to pay off part of the farmers’ debt.

The total debt of the farmers served by the co-ops — who till 6.4m ha and produce 90% of the grain — will escalate to R7.66bn by the end of this season, or R4.9bn, according to the Department of Agricultural Development. It says that, of 10,220 farmers — members of seven of the co-ops — who produce 80% of the grain, 45% will have a debt/asset ratio of more than 50% after this year’s crop disaster. A total of 70% were in a "disastrous financial position" due to cash-flow problems.

So without help, farms would fall in mass sequestrations, leading to the collapse of many co-ops. The damage would extend to the Land Bank, which guarantees the creditworthiness of the co-ops, and the State, which stands behind the bank.

The farm-debt crisis was caused by two major factors — recurring droughts in the Eighties, and, more importantly, the poor credit decisions by the co-ops. They had little to lose because, since the 1983 drought, they have been backed by State guarantees that started at R800m, rose to R1.4bn and will total R2.8bn by the end of 1995.

While Van Niekerk’s rescue package is primarily aimed at preventing the co-ops from collapsing, farmers will benefit indirectly — even ones not hurt by the drought — because their debt with co-ops will be reduced by an average of R375/ha.

"With this step, the State again puts farm financing back within free-market principles," Van Niekerk says. "By removing accumulated debt from farmers’ balance sheets, it will enable financing institutions to grant production credit to farmers, based on normal financial principles. In this way, many farmers who this year had a total crop disaster will be assisted."

Volkskas Bank agricultural economist Chris Mosiert says the result of the R3.8bn aid package and government’s decision to buy itself out of the guarantee scheme will be to level the playing field between the co-ops and the commercial banks. "This will inevitably lead to more responsible financing of farmers by all institutions."

But, despite this effort to put farming on a firmer market footing, government has a long way to go to reform the co-ops and the whole area of agricultural finance. Unless it wants to see another debt crisis in a few years, government must change the Co-operative Act to limit the co-ops’ lending and financing powers on behalf of the Land Bank. It must also do away with the co-ops’ statutory lien over the farmers’ crop proceeds and allow co-ops to become companies operating in a truly competitive climate.

Pretoria University farm economist Jan Groenewald says: "The farming co-ops handle massive amounts each year. But they became financial institutions without the financial expertise one would expect from banking and credit institutions."
QUID DANGER

Chemicals are used extensively in agriculture in South Africa and throughout the world, and may present serious but preventable health hazards. MARIKA SBOROS reports.

VISIT a farm regularly and the sight of labourers slopping hazardous chemicals around as if they were cool drinks will probably be familiar.

Many of these farm labourers unwittingly poison themselves with these substances, and expose themselves and their families to possible later illness through carcinogenic or teratogenic (fetal abnormalities) effects, says Dr Lee in an editorial in the SAMJ.

Agrichemicals are used extensively in South Africa and throughout the world, and may present serious health hazards, says Dr Lenley London of the University of Cape Town's community health department in an article in the SAMJ.

Agricultural use is vast; more than 700 agents are registered with the Department of Agriculture as pesticides and fungicides, says Dr London.

Legislation controlling registration of agrichemicals in South Africa is based on a toxicity classification by the World Health Organisation and Food and Agricultural Organisation. However, this assessment of toxicity does not take into account many crucial worker has left the land.

Estimates of death or illness internationally from agrichemicals are difficult to obtain because of poor data collection systems. Data on agrichemical poisoning in South Africa are equally sketchy.

However, a Western Cape study has shown gross under-notification of between 50 and 600 percent, says Dr London.

As a more accurate measure of agrichemical poisoning, researchers are addressing the need to do a Cape study on safety training re-use and teaching contains with.

Problems in the farming context of non-occupational workers has left the land.

Dressed to da Cape study a safety training re-use and to containers with.
EXTENSIVELY in Africa and elsewhere, and may be preventable. RIKASBOROS

VISIT a farm regularly and the sight of farm workers 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 (fetal 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 agrochemicals can have much wider effects on populations far removed from farms, through environmental contamination and pesticide residues on foodstuffs, says Dr Lee in an editorial in the SAMJ.

Agrichemicals are used extensively in South Africa and throughout the world, and may present serious health hazards, says Dr Lesley London of the University of Cape Town's community health department in an article in the SAMJ.

The agricultural sector is one of the largest employers in South Africa, employing 1.15 million people on 82,000 farms in 1990 — 15 percent of the economically active workforce. As well, a large informal sector exists in agriculture, and is likely to grow as the economy enters a transitional phase in the future.

The range of chemicals available for agricultural use is vast; more than 700 agents are registered with the Department of Agriculture as pesticides and fungicides, says Dr London.

Legislation controlling registration of agrichemicals in South Africa is based on a toxicity classification by the World Health Organisation and Food and Agricultural Organisation. However, this assessment of toxicity does not take into account many crucial factors such as the presence of impurities from the production process and frequent or repeated exposure, says Dr London.

The assessment takes no account of chronic health effects from long-term low-grade exposure, and it does not reflect acute (non-fatal) morbidity. Many agrichemicals may manifest long after the farmworker has left the land.

Estimates of death or illness internationally from agrichemicals are difficult to obtain because of poor data collection systems. Data on agrichemical poisoning in South Africa are equally sketchy.

However, a western Cape study has shown gross under-notification of between 50 and 600 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 addressed to date, he says. A western Cape study found that low levels of safety training were practised and there was re-use and improper disposal of empty containers were preventable hazards.

Problems of agrichemical hazard in the farming sector must be seen in the context of the wider health needs of farmworkers, both occupational and non-occupational, says Dr London.

As important discussions over future health services are unfolding in South Africa, farmworkers' health must not remain a neglected stepchild of a future public health care service.

"Agrichemical safety should be integrated in a comprehensive health service aimed at health promotion and disease prevention for all South Africans," he says.
Rural folk desperate for water

THE water shortage in some areas of southern Natal is so severe that people are digging for water in dry river beds and drinking polluted water treated with bleach.

Says Southern Natal Joint Services Board chairman Prof Khabi Mangoma, "There's an urgent need for the co-ordination of the supply of water to these needy communities."

Mangoma explained that most of the main supply rivers for rural areas in southern Natal had dried up. Many springs in this region had also run dry while boreholes were delivering mostly sandy water.

Acute water shortages were being experienced about 10km from the coast to the interior in many areas of southern Natal.

Mangoma said it had been decided on Tuesday at an emergency meeting to discuss the drought in the region that Joint Services Boards would take over the problem of the water shortage there.

This would involve urgent measures to transport water to critical areas.

A statement after the meeting said it had been accepted that although dams in the area were on average about 70 percent full, rural areas were totally parched and a concerted effort was needed to obtain funds and resources to firstly get water to the needy areas.

Mangoma explained he was trying to arrange water tankers to transport water to the most critical areas.

In some areas people had dug in dry river beds for their water, while in the Vulamechho district near Scottburgh women stood for hours at night waiting to draw water from a spring.

Many of the springs and rivers that still held water were, however, heavily polluted and people were either drinking from these or - just as dangerously - applying a household bleach to the water with the mistaken idea that this would purify it.

Ninety out of 95 boreholes in the region were unusable because of the sand content in the water.

Mangoma said Murchison Hospital on the South Coast had informed him that 750 children from birth to five years old died there yearly from water-related diseases while another 16,000 people of all ages were treated every year for similar illnesses.

"The current shortage of water in the interior is a result of bad planning from the old apartheid structures," the professor said.

He explained that commercial farmers in the area had planned for drought situations and were not facing the crisis that rural communities were. This was because these communities had never been involved in the development of their domestic water supplies but had been made to accept Government "handouts".

"The JSB needs to establish development committees among these communities and through them establish a culture of accountability and community involvement because they all come from a culture of handouts."

Critical

The present problem, however, was that these committees were not in place and there was no structure in the communities to receive water that would be delivered there.

There was also the fear of the drought leading to more disease, he added.

"If the problem of the shortage of domestic water is not addressed soon, these communities can become a health hazard to the region - with perhaps an outbreak of cholera," Sapa.
Land report
3 months late

THE first report of the advisory commission investigating claims for the restoration of land removed during the apartheid era was released yesterday — more than three months after it was completed.

The report of the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation was tabled in Parliament yesterday but the Conservative Party immediately attacked the government for keeping the report secret for more than three months.

"It is disrespectful of Parliament," the CP said in a statement issued by its black affairs spokesman, Mr Schalk Pienaar.

"It is just another example of the incompetence and clumsiness of the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs, Mr Jacob de Villiers, unless there are also other ministerial reasons, for which the minister owes the public an explanation," he added.

The commission, whose chairman is Mr Justice T H van Reenen, met four times in December and February and its first report was signed in February.

It said that before its establishment, controversy and suspicion arose within certain communities and organisations.

"Discussions with representatives of the communities resulted in the allaying of fears and suspicions and the commission is now being accepted as a forum for addressing land claims."

Most of the claims the commission is investigating concern the restoration of land taken from black people.

Zevenfontein
sites chosen

Johannesburg. — About 1000 Zevenfontein squatter families are to be resettled on two sites north of Randburg and Sandton, the Transvaal Provincial Administration announced yesterday, finally ending a protracted battle over the community's future.

The two sites — portions of Nietgedacht and Diepsloot West — are to be expropriated and developed at a total cost of about R20 million, Transvaal Administrator Mr Danie Hough said yesterday. — Sapa
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 Lwandile 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 disease to the farm.

Bonnie Bird Farms decided to halt the move pending negotiations between the company and LHRS, held throughout the past week.

More meetings will be held next week. Mr. John Mdlunze of Bonnie Bird said yesterday the matter had been "resolved".

He refused to comment on the LHRS statement.

The lawyers, acting on behalf of the Farmworkers' Support Committee, who represents 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 Lwandile Hostel is a benefit of the employment contract," a spokesman for the LHRS said.

The employees' contract included "fully subsidised accommodation at Lwandile 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 widow and murdered her on March 28 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 Mhams Mchunu guilty of murder and to went to Mrs. West's home with the intention of "eliminating" her.

Mr. Justice Broom will pass sentence on Monday. - Sapa.

Dalling opposes anti-demo bill

THE Democratic Party and the ANC-aligned independents rejected the gathering's demonstration in the Union Buildings yesterday, saying it was an infringement of the right to protest peacefully.

In the second reading debate on the Bill, Mr. Davel Dalling (DP, Sandton) said the Union Buildings were a sacred 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 peaceful and it should be encompassed in one act.

DP-upper House Speaker Mr. Douglas Gibson (DP, Yeoville) said the previous demonstrations at the Union Buildings had led to a breach of order.

SP-upper House Speaker Mr. Lance Schutte said the Bill was not an imposition on freedom of speech or assembly. He said the area around the Union Buildings was the president's residence.

Deputy Minister of Justice Mr. Danie Steyn said the Bill did not apply to the legislators of the land (parliament) who should apply to Parliament.

Public protest was not affected by the Bill. - Sapa.

Body reports on land use

THE Advisory Committee on Land Allocation has identified undeveloped state-owned land for agriculture and residential use on which it will make recommendations, according to its report tabled in Parliament yesterday.

The seven-member commission, chaired by Mr. Justice T. H. van Renen, was appointed in terms of the Abolition of Racially-Biased 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 Lady Smith community in respect of Rooibos farm and an application from the Doornkop, Botshabelo and Matlapane Committee for restitution of the farm Doornkop 246 JS in Middelburg, Transvaal.

Farm labour debated

LABOUR relations provided a breakthrough to negotiations in South Africa, Minister of Manpower Mr. Leon Wessels said yesterday.

Replying to a question on 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 employer and employee in agriculture were healthy. The farmer had always taken good care of his workers without being obliged to do so by law.

Mr. Robins Carlisle (DP, Wynberg) said: "The Bill is largely fair to farming employers. They have little cause for complaint." - Sapa.

New measure for A-Gs

MINISTER of Justice Mr. Rob Montagu said yesterday, introducing the second reading debate on the Attorney-General Bill, that general 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 the Bill provided that this could be discharged only by a decision of Parliament. - Sapa.
Cruel life of Cape babes

CP Correspondent

FOR most the call of nature brings pleasant relief, but for two hundred little people on the Cape Flats the act is brutal and terrifying.

Come wind or hail – the Cape is currently being lashed by vicious polar storms – the toddlers must venture outside into the thick, desolate bush to do their thing.

The Albertina Sisulu "creche" – two cold and cavernous metal containers at Brown's Farm in Philippi, Cape Town – has no toilet facilities.

Five childminders and two cooks – all volunteers – must look after 200 kiddies.

So how do they do it? They rely on the amazing generosity of hundreds of surrounding shack dwellers, mostly poor and struggling themselves, who are not prepared to shrug off the fate of others worse off than themselves.

The creche that the community funds in an effort to provide a measure of pre-school education, has been going for a year.

And, despite its desperate circumstances, numbers are growing.

Monica Papiyana is the driving force behind the project. She is fiercely determined that the children should have that little extra in their start to life.

"Of course things are tough, especially when you do not know whether you will have a meal for the children the next day or how to keep 200 children warm with six blankets during the Cape's winter months."

"But with a wonderful band of workers and amazing help from families – who themselves are battling to feed their own, we have managed to provide these children with two meals a day," said Papiyana.

The children also get music lessons, Bible studies, medical inspection by qualified nurses three times a month and tuition in basic reading, writing and picture-cutting.

"The wonderful response we get from the children – their appreciation for what we are doing for them – is there to see on their little faces."

"So, irrespective of our financial shortcomings, nothing is going to stop us from giving these little innocents some kind of start in life."

Fighting talk yes, but Monica went on to describe the hard days when there's not enough food, when the kiddies must learn to share when it really hurts – even if it means one precious spoonful each...

Yet, she claims no one tells them to share.

"They are totally unselfish in their habits which I believe is a wonderful start in life."

Although Monica and her team are faced with many problems, the most disturbing is having to send a child to the bush toilet.
Du Toit was also convicted of assaulting a labourer, and the youth was convicted of pointing a firearm.

Evidence in mitigation of sentence will be led on August 7. — Sapa

'Poor hit by drought'

Political Staff

THE people worst affected by the drought were poor people in the rural areas whose position was already precarious, the ANC MP for Simon's Town, Mr Jannie Momberg, said yesterday.

"They now face destitution and starvation," he said during the second reading debate on the budget.

"Meanwhile food is sitting in warehouses or being distributed by feeding schemes without any attempt to ensure that supplies reach those in most need."

Mr Momberg said the ANC would participate in the drought conference to be convened by the Independent Development Trust and the Kagiso Trust on June 13 and 14.

One taxi rank for
Milkmen sour at huge waste

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — The dumping of millions of litres of surplus milk in the past five years has been blamed on the Dairy Board by milk distributors.

This followed a Supreme Court judgment that found the Dairy Board had been imposing prohibitive levies.

Distributors said surplus milk had been dumped because they could not afford to send it to dairy by-product factories.

The Dairy Board has been considering changing the system in view of the refusal by dairies to pay the levies.

But while the board is seeking other sources for its stabilisation fund, milk distributors, encouraged by the court judgment, are calling for the board to be abolished and the industry thrown open to the free market.

They have accused the board of undermining the milk industry in order to subsidise favoured dairy by-product monopolies.

The Dairy Board has not yet defended last week's Cape Supreme Court judgment, which might mean the board will have to repay hundreds of millions of rand to milk distributors, as well as the legal costs of the action brought by Homestead Independent Dairies.

Said Homestead Independent Dairies managing director Mr Johan Jacobs: “The whole purpose of levies was so the dairy board could deal with milk surpluses. But it had no facilities to transport milk to the factories, and at times the factories would not extend their facilities to us.”

One distributor alone told the Supreme Court he had dumped 80,000 litres of milk, enough to fill a large domestic swimming pool.

Mr Jacobs said that while distributors were paying levies, four huge dairy processing factories “with representation on the Dairy Board” were being heavily subsidised.
Sow the seed of co-operation

While the drought and the resultant high cost of im-
ported foods have created increasing hardships for consumers, there are clear indications that more
agricultural products much bet-
ter and cheaper than control
products. Each of these co-ops
could then decide, on its own, the
prices at which to sell to
wholesalers and retailers.
These prices must be pub-
litied for the information of
consumers, so that true free
market competition at retail
levels will come into existence.
In such a system it would pay
no one, except perhaps the
trade to charge exorbitant
prices, as supply and demand
would determine levels for
both.

Without such central market-
ing co-ops, neither the strug-
gling farmers nor the enlightened
consumers are likely to reap
any benefit from privatization.
Its dominant objective of mark-
eting the agricultural products
flexible would be totally defail-
d, and the much-maligned pro-
ic and the real task would
be to help producers and
consumers to co-operate.

The Star Wednesday June 10 1992 17
For oral reply:

Own Affairs:

1. Mr P J BERGMAN—Education and Culture. [Question standing over.]

2. Mr P J BERGMAN—Education and Culture. [Question standing over.]

QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version.

INTERPELLATION

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

General Affairs:

Development of Tugela Basin

1. Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

   (1) Whether his Department has given consideration to the development of the Tugela Basin with a view to stimulating the economy and creating jobs; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

   (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

D202E-INF

The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr Chairman, I want to say right at the outset that I honestly welcome this interpellation, because it relates to the very important principle of regional development for every single region in South Africa.

The hon member for Springfield selected probably one of the most important and interesting regions in Natal, namely the Tugela Basin. If one had to define the Tugela Basin geographically, one could say that it is the total catchment area of the Tugela River, South Africa’s second largest river. The basin extends over 29 000 square kilometres, of which 21 000 square kilometres fall within Natal and the other 8 000 square kilometres in KwaZulu. It covers approximately 31% of the total Natal-KwaZulu region, which is known as Region E.

I can refer to a number of past and present actions undertaken with a view to stimulating the economy and with the object of creating jobs, specifically with regard to regional industrial development. The identification of so-called industrial development points in terms of the old 1982 regional industrial programme included, inter alia, towns such as Newcastle, Mbabane, Osizweni, Ladysmith and Ezakheni. Other so-called development points included towns like Dundee, Colenso and Estcourt. Over the years concessions have also been granted on an ad hoc basis to towns such as Daminhauser, Glencoe, Bergville and Moli River.

In terms of the previous scheme, known as “Schedule 3”, a total of no fewer than 664 projects in the Tugela Basin were granted financial assistance, resulting in the creation of 52 703 job opportunities and a capital investment of R1 154 million. If time permits I shall relate further details.

As hon members are probably aware, we revised the entire regional industrial development programme and this revised programme is obviously one of the most important mechanisms applied by this Government to stimulate development and to enhance job creation, also in this particular area. Since the implementation of the new scheme, which is now called “Schedule 4”, in August 1991 the area in which the Tugela Basin lies as a whole qualifies for 100% of the formula of incentives provided by the new scheme.

I am happy to announce that a total of 31 projects have so far been approved for assistance in this subregion since August 1991, resulting in the potential creation of 3 655 job opportunities and an envisaged capital investment of R194 million. If one applies the multiplier effect of the jobs created previously, which I have mentioned, and the last list, this affects quite a number of people in the Tugela Basin.

Mr M RAJAB: Mr Chairman, I thank the hon the Deputy Minister for his very positive reception of this interpellation. I am grateful to him for giving us those statistics during the limited time at his disposal.

As all hon members know, since the early 1950s various people have mooted the idea that the Government should develop this particular region into a region comparable to the Ruhr industrial area in Germany. The reason for this is that this region—as has been indicated by the hon the Deputy Minister—has both natural and human resources in such abundance that it constitutes a natural industrial growth point in South Africa.

At present this region houses one of South Africa’s densest rural populations. It has been calculated that with suitable dam storage the Tugela Basin could provide enough water to support six cities the size of Johannesburg, six
The hon the Deputy Minister, of course, is dealing with the effects of urbanisation. The rate of unemployment around the Durban metropolitan region and the other coastal towns of Natal is a result of the Government's failure to honour its undertaking to develop the Tugela Basin as requested by the KwaZulu Government, as well as the Natal/KwaZulu Joint Executive Council. I recall that, as a result of a meeting between the former State President and the late Bishop Alpheus Zulu, chairman of the KwaZulu Development Corporation, the former State President personally took charge and gave an undertaking that there would be better Government involvement where the Tugela Basin was concerned. In addition, if one takes the situation of the eastern coast of South Africa into consideration—in other words, the coastal area stretching from Richard's Bay to Cape Town—one will find that it contains 60% of the voter population of the new South Africa. The people around this particular region make up 90% of the voter population of South Africa.

Of course, the statistics as far as the water availability is concerned indicate that there was a feeling at one stage that most of the water from this particular basin was used to aid the survival of the Transvaal. There is a belief that the Transvaal-controlled Government deliberately neglected this area so as to ensure that there was an even flow of water. In the light of all that has been said, one is inclined to say, as one hon member did in an interjection, that this is water under the bridge.

We need to look at unemployment, and we have to ensure that we stop urban migration by people from the rural areas. [Time expired]

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I sincerely welcome the input from both the hon member for Springfield and the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition. Obviously they know the area. They referred to the water resources, the natural resources and also the population of that particular area.

We must make use of the local area as far as we possibly can. If it is necessary to use that water basin which the hon member for Springfield described as being at a peak, then that will be an area six times the size of any of the big cities of South Africa. I really think one must also consider what one does with that water. That is why, in the past, the Government has decided to pump the water over the Drakensburg mountains as the hon the Chairman of the Ministers Council said.

I would sincerely welcome pressure on the Government as we did in our department from hon members from that particular area. However, I think one thing we must say to each other is that the Government is responsible primarily for creating a climate conducive to development, and for setting the stage for all role-players within the development fraternity to play their part in the development process. In addition we must say to each other that the identification of local opportunities and the optimal development of those opportunities remains with that particular community. Of course this must be multidisciplinary and multisectoral as hon members suggested. All Government departments with an interest in development should get involved in regard to human, economic and physical development.

Since it is the objective of the Government to address the real needs and aspirations of all the communities, and to compete with the private sector when it comes to development, communities in particular, but also the private sector, should be involved in the process of policy formulation through the various channels of regional development association and the Regional Development Advisory Committees.

I would like to propose honestly, and make a request in this regard, that not only the hon member for Springfield and the hon the Leader of the Opposition, but all hon members of this House, to play a more active role in the interests of those three other very important committees. In other words, we would like to urge them to get involved and to make sure that their communities are represented on these advisory bodies so that the communities can advise the Government as to what they think should happen.

Mr M F CASSIM: Mr Chairman, the call for development in this area was made by Chris Saunders who started off with sugar-cane farming on a small family basis. However, as a result of his enterprising efforts, this family business has now become a conglomerate in Natal. He recognises that the area is in need of optimal growth. When one considers that the annual flow from our rivers in South Africa is 53.5 billion cubic metres of which 10% comes from the Tugela River, one realises that this area holds enormous potential.

The Tugela River has the potential for enormous growth and development, but regrettably only 7% of the water from the Tugela is used economically. Even if one looks at the irrigation projects, one recognises that only 8 600 hectares of land are irrigated with water from the Tugela River. There have been innumerable studies—one by Thornton Smith—showing the potential for growth in this area.

It is the common belief in Natal—this has come about in many forums over many years—that as a result of KwaZulu's not taking independence, the new Government acted positively towards this area, so that an area that could have become the Ruhr of South Africa has remained undeveloped. The common explanation for this is that it has been dealt with purely with an area that has so much water and so much manpower—the hon the Leader of the Official Opposition spoke about 25% of South Africa's population living in Natal—25% of the surface area of the Tugela Basin is in what is called the native reserves, an area that can actually grow.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! I regret that the hon member's time cannot grow. His time has expired.

Mr M RAJAB: Mr Chairman, I should like to remind the hon member Mr M F Cassim that it was not the chairman of the Tongaat-Hulett Group who made the call to develop this area. This, in fact, started long before he came onto the scene. He was the most recent proponent of this situation.

He made a very valid point, however, when he said that a very large percentage of this area was occupied by what we call the Bantustans. This is where we really need all the development we can get. That is a very valuable point. That, taken with what has been done by the hon the Deputy Minister earlier on, that is a co-ordinated approach to the development of this entire region, is something which I believe would really satisfy all of the people who live in that region.

I am very pleased that the hon the Deputy Minister has also made the appeal that all interested parties from this part of the world...
should play a responsible role in the Development Advisory Committee. That is the forum where everything in this regard needs to be articulated, and the forum from which a coordinated approach could develop. [Time expired.]

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I am sorry that we are limited to such a short debate on this. I want to stress that this is one of the most important debates one can possibly have about developing that particular area.

I think the hon member Mr M F Cassim proved my point. Mr Saunders of Tongaat-Hulett has millions of rand of capital that could be invested in order to create jobs. We in the Government can only create a climate conducive to development. The private sector, of which the Tongaat-Hulett Group forms part, should put their money where their mouth is, by putting money into South Africa to create the necessary jobs. I want to commend the hon member on making that point.

As far as the water resource is concerned, I do not want to ingratiate anything here, but I think some hon member should submit an interpel-lation to the hon the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry in regard to the amount of water running to the sea. If one talks to anybody in Natal, one is asked why a dam has not been built in the Tugela Basin. As far as the Department of Regional Development is concerned, I will act as a facilitator if it is possible for us to assist in doing something in this regard.

I cannot pass up the opportunity to make one last remark. I think the hon member Mr M F Cassim was a bit naively trying that we were penalising KwaZulu. My job is to do regional development on the one hand, and urbanisation on the other. If we do not do regional development, as in KwaZulu, we pick up the tab when people urbanise. There is no reason, therefore, for us to penalise anybody. In fact, the figures I have given—these are available. I shall send hon members each a copy—are evidence of what has been achieved in that particular area.

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS

For oral reply:

General Affairs:

Emergency food supplies: Lebowa

1. Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of National Health:

(a) Whether any emergency food supplies have been distributed in Lebowa in terms of the Government's food relief programme; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(b) whether she will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

(1) Yes, an amount of R5,3 million, in terms of the Government's Nutrition Development Programme was made available to the Department of Health and Welfare of Lebowa in the first quarter of 1992 for the 1991/1992 financial year. This amount was allocated with the proviso that the Lebowa Government assumes full financial accountability for the allocation and judicious spending of funds, as well as full responsibility for implementing, co-ordinating and monitoring programmes. Quarterly reports of how the programmes are progressing, as well as financial statements must be submitted to the Head Office of the Department of National Health and Population Development (NHPD), furnishing information on the progress of programmes and how funds have been spent. As a result of certain allegations made in the media, the matter was discussed on departmental level. The situation is now being monitored continuously;

(2) no.

Mr M RAJAB: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, given the fact that Lebowa at the present time is experiencing its worst drought in seven years, would she like to comment on the news report that tons of food relief have been lying unattended in four storerooms at that hospital in Lebowa and the fact that something needs to be done about that urgently?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I cannot attest to the truth of that story, because the Lebowa Government is fully responsible for the allocation and distribution of funds and food. As I have said, the programme is continuously being monitored by the Department of National Health and Population Development. We find that unacceptable and we do not approve of food being left in a storeroom.

Mr M RAJAB: Mr Chairman, further arising out the hon the Minister's reply, I thank her for that answer, but I would like to ask her whether in fact the correctness of those reports was investigated?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, as I said the Department has had discussions with the relevant departments. I have not received a report on those discussions as yet, but the situation is being monitored. We will not allow food to be stored in a storeroom.

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Chairman, the report will be made public.

INTERPELLATION

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

Own Affairs:

Shallcross link road: repayment

1. The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPO-sition asked the Minister of Housing and Agriculture:

(a) Whether, subsequent to the reply by the Minister of Housing on 4 February 1992 to an interpel-lation on the Shallcross link road, he or his Department has made any arrangements for the Development and Services Board and the Durban Munici-pality to repay the total amount that is being spent on this link road; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(b) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:

(1) The former Minister of Trade and Industry and Tourism Dr G Marais and Dr A van Niekerk, Minister of Agriculture requested the Board of Trade and Industry (now the Board on Tariffs and Trade) to investigate food prices. A press release in this regard was issued on 5 July 1991.

(2) The Board has decided to issue a preli-niminary statement to stimulate further discussion on the subject. This report should be available before 17 June 1992. I have given permission to the Board for the establishment of a committee, in terms of the Board on Tariffs and Trade Act (Act 60 of 1992), on which representatives of the Co-ordinating Committee on VAT and other consumer bodies will serve. This committee will take the matter further.

(3) I will await a final report from the Board and do not intend issuing a statement at this stage.

Mr M RAJAB: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, I thank him for his reply, but I would like to ask him whether that report will in fact be made public and made available to hon members of this House?

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Chairman, the report will be made public.
brought to the notice of the Government of KwaZulu.

Cultivation of cannabis: Okhahlamba magisterial district

6. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) Whether it has been reported to the South African Police that cannabis is being cultivated in the Amangwane Tribal Ward area in the Okhahlamba magisterial district of the Upper Tugela Location; if not, why not; if so,

(2) whether any action has been taken against those responsible; if not, why not; if so,

(a) what action and (b) by whom?

B717E

†The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) No. The South African Police is aware of the situation.

(2) Yes

(a) Mopping up operations and the investigation of cannabis offences gave rise to 65 arrests and 46 cases registered pertaining to the possession of cannabis between 15 November 1991 and 15 June 1992. During the above period a total of 25867 kg of cannabis was confiscated.

(b) Members attached to SANAB assisted by other units of the South African Police took part in these operations.

Mr R J LORIMER: Mr Chairman, arising from the hon the Minister’s reply, can be told us whether there is any possibility of stopping the growing of dagga there through police action, in view of the fact that such enormous environmental degradation is taking place which is damaging an area which supplies something like 10% of the Witwatersrand’s water and 30% of that of Natal?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I think we would like to stop the growing of dagga wherever we can. To take out or stop the growing of dagga by hand is a very costly exercise, as the hon member will understand. At the moment we are looking into the use of, and we are already using, chemicals to kill young dagga plants. [Interjections.] We are doing this according to the strict rules prescribed by the United Nations about which chemicals can be used.

In answer to the hon member’s question I say yes, we will try to stop this to the best of our ability. We are doing so, but it is a costly operation, and where smaller patches are being grown, it is extremely difficult to use chemicals against such plants. [Interjections.]

Mr R J LORIMER: Mr Chairman, further arising from the hon the Minister’s reply, I should like to ask him whether he would not take a trip up there to see for himself that these are not small areas. It is evident that there a huge field of dagga which are planted up and down the mountains, so that tremendous erosion is taking place. These are not just little areas, but enormous areas.

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I bow to the hon member’s superior knowledge about dagga and will see to this when I can. [Interjections.]

‡Adv C H PIENAAR: Mr Chairman, further arising from the hon the Minister’s reply, I want to ask him whether the use of “Folldol” has been considered. [Interjections.]

Ladybrand post office: post office boxes

7. Mr C E HERTZOG asked the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications:

†(1) Whether he or his Department recently received representations in connection with post office boxes that had not been installed at the Ladybrand post office; if so, (a) when were the representations received, (b) by whom were they made and (c) how long has installation been awaited?

(2) whether any steps are envisaged in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what steps;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B722E

‡The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL HOUSING AND OF MANPOWER (for the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications):

(1) Yes.

(a) 17 June 1991.

(2) Yes. The provision of additional private boxes is to be undertaken simultaneously with other additions and internal alterations to the post office building. The architectural working drawings in this regard have been completed. If nothing unforeseen occurs tenders for the execution of the work should be invited during August/September 1992.

(3) Yes. As the existing post office building no longer meets the requirements of a functional post office it is regarded essential not only to provide additional private boxes, but to also effect certain alterations to the building with a view to improving the working conditions of the staff as well as the level of service to the public. In this regard several options had to be considered in terms of practicability as well as economy. Although a decision as to the best way of reaching the objective was reached some time ago the planning of the project had to be fitted in with that of numerous other projects countrywide.

SARCC: loss of revenue owing to boycott

8. Mr J CHIOLÉ asked the Minister of Transport:

†(1) What was the total loss of revenue for the South African Rail Commuter Corporation as a result of the boycotting of the said corporation’s services during April/May 1992 because violence is allegedly not being combated;

(2) what is the additional cost per year of security in respect of rail commuting services planned by Inter City the South African Police and announced after 19 February 1992 and (b) what is the nature of the above-mentioned planned security;

(3) whether it is envisaged to make provision for part of or for the total cost of security in the said corporation’s budget; if so, (a) what is envisaged in this regard and (b) for what reasons?

B729E

‡The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL HOUSING AND OF MANPOWER (for the Minister of Transport):

Mr Chairman, the reply to this question is approximately one page long and with the leave of the House I would like to table it on behalf of the hon the Minister of Transport, otherwise I shall read it.

Mr J CHIOLÉ: Mr Chairman, I think it is important that cognizance is taken of that. Therefore request that the answer be read.

‡The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I read it as follows:

(1) The estimated loss in income for the SA Rail Commuter Corporation due to the boycott action is R2.0 million. For the sake of completion it has to be pointed out that the boycott action was started on 2 May 1992, but that it really gained momentum from 4 to 8 May 1992. The boycott was terminated on Sunday, 10 May 1992.

(2) The SA Police indicated that—

(a) an amount of R41 800 800 has been budgeted for the cost of commuter services for the 1992/93 financial year. No cost additional to the budgeted amount is envisaged as all services in this regard will be rendered by means of existing manpower, logistics and funds, and

(b) the planned security action comprises of two components, namely:

(i) 1 234 members of the SA Police in the Vaal Triangle area are being incorporated in a special unit for securing commuter services, under control of a senior officer of the SA Police; and

(ii) the SA Police will have overall responsibility with the support of the Management of the SA Rail Commuter Corporation, the SA Rail Commuter Corporation Security Services, and community organizations.

(3) Yes. Provision for an amount of R38 million for security has been made in the
MINING, FARM LAND SET TO BE TAXED

CAPE TOWN — A Bill which provides for the taxation of mining and agricultural land inside municipal boundaries has been tabled in Parliament by Local Government Minister Leon Wessels.

The Local Authorities Rating Ordinance Amendment Bill provides for all mining land exempt from property tax to be subject to full rates.

It is proposed that such rates be phased in over three years.

Agricultural land falling inside municipal boundaries would also become subject to tax, but at a reduced rate and in accordance with a formula based on valuation of the land's site value.

It is proposed that all rates exemptions be dropped but that local authorities may give a grant-in-aid.

The phasing in of rates is envisaged as follows: 25 percent from July 1, 1993; 50 percent from July 1, 1994; 75 percent from July 1, 1995; 100 percent from July 1, 1996.

The valuation of rateable property of both the land and improvements should be made according to the market-value system.

Several inquiries have been conducted over the past 10 years into various rating and valuation systems applied in the four provinces.

The findings of these inquiries and final recommendations — as approved by the Cabinet — were referred to the provincial administrations and Department of Local Government. — Sapa.
Land seizure 'is morally wrong'

SUN CITY — Confiscation of property from rightful owners to give it to someone else was morally wrong and economically disastrous, DP leader Zach de Beer said yesterday at the SA Property Owners’ Association (Sapoa) Silver Jubilee convention.

"However, unless the majority of our people can see their economic lot improving and the wealth gap narrowing over the next few years, our fledgling democracy is likely to be hijacked by some populist dictator with a mouthful of deceitful promises and a gun in his hand," De Beer said.

Toongaat-Hulett group chairman Chris Saunders told the convention transferring resources from the "have" to the "have-nots" was not a solution. He said there were too many have-nots for wealth taxes and other similar measures to be effective.

The prime object of SA’s political and economic policy had to be the enabling of the masses to share in the creation of new wealth, he said.

PAC secretary-general Benny Alexander said nationalisation was not an effective means of redistribution in itself, as it transferred wealth from only one elite group to another. "Redistribution has to take place at the points of production," Alexander said nationalisation was not the PAC’s primary approach.

He pointed out that redistribution could not be paternalistic, as people needed to become self-sufficient. "Black workers, managers and entrepreneurs have been targeted to benefit from this. A system must be created that allows the worker to feel part of the country and of the economy, thereby adopting a more responsible attitude and satisfying their expectations."

Private business would be asked to facilitate this by creating black equity programmes and issuing new shares or reducing present shareholders’ interests. This would include representation and voting rights.

"Redistribution must also not take place from one elite to another and must take place primarily at the point of production and involve those at this level of operation," he said.

Arthur Andersen senior tax partner Pierre du Toit said it was almost inevitable that SA would get a land tax of some sort.

It would be a political move as no future regime would be able to resist the political pressure to tax land.

"A land tax should not be instituted as a tool of restitution or redistribution," he said.
Property rights ‘should be inviolable’

TO CONFISCATE property in the new South Africa would not only be morally wrong but economically disastrous, Democratic Party Leader Zach de Beer told the Sapea conference yesterday.

In his opening address he said respect for property rights was at the epicentre of the capitalist system and that whatever changes or reforms that took place should leave property rights untouched.

“At the same time unless the mass of our people can feel within a few years time that their economic lot is improving and that the wealth gap is narrowing, the fledgling democracy is likely to be hijacked by some populist dictator with a mouthful of deceitful promises and a gun in his hand,” he said.

“We have to help disadvantaged people but it will serve them as well as the rest of us ill if we help them in such a way that we destroy the economy in the process.”

Chris Saunders, chairman of the Tongaat-Huleits group said the creation of new wealth was the only cure for poverty and the only solution in the new South Africa for the “excessive expectations” created by the present political structures.

“The idea that something significantly useful can be achieved by transferring resources from the haves to the have-nots has to be refuted.

“Robbing rich Peter to pay poor Paul is not a feasible solution in South Africa because there are too few Peters and too many Pauls.”
Farm Bill is attacked by all

Sowetan Correspondents

The Government has been attacked from all quarters following the tabling of the Basic Conditions of Employment Bill last Friday. Sowetan 11/6/92.

While the ANC is seeking to have the Bill implemented as soon as possible to expedite employment rights for farmworkers, the SAAU and National Maize Producers Organisation are angered with what they claim is a Government breach of promise.

Nampo claims negotiations between itself, the SAAU and Cosatu over the content of the Basic Conditions of Employment Bill, the Labour Relations Bill and the Wage Bill are incomplete.

Organised agriculture sources believe there is a veiled threat to Manpower Minister Mr Leon Wessels that without the full support of the farmers, the Bill, when promulgated, will not be successful.

"All we are saying is that if the Government does not consult us, its chances of implementing the laws are slim," said a source.

Conversely, the ANC has accused the Government of pandering to the SAAU by delaying the passage of the Bill, claiming that no negotiations had been planned with the SAAU.

The ANC said the Bill had been the subject of high-level negotiations in the National Manpower Commission for more than two years, and the final draft version which resulted represented the interests of the groups involved. There was, therefore, no reason to re-open talks.
Farmers welcome new drought aid

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. — Details of a wide-ranging multi-billion rand aid package to counter “the most devastating drought this century” and to get the agricultural industry back on its feet was announced by the Minister of Agriculture, Dr Kraai van Niekerk, yesterday.

He said assistance would be given on a wide scale and to as many farmers as possible.

The SA Agricultural Union welcomed Dr Van Niekerk’s announcement, saying it was “very satisfied” with the way the aid measures would be implemented.

Of the R3.8bn set aside, R1bn would be allocated this financial year and the balance over the next three years.

Dr Van Niekerk said it was sad that farmers unable to survive even with significant aid would have to leave the industry. These farmers would be assisted with limited financial means to retire from agriculture.

He emphasised the assistance would mean employment on farms would be safeguarded and stabilised.

Commercial banks had agreed not to charge interest in excess of prime plus two percent on overdrafts for farmers benefiting from drought aid.

The upper limit for interest subsidies on production credit was raised to R750 000. Subsidies would be 7.5% for amounts of up to R150 000 and decrease to 4.5% for an amount of R750 000.

Dr Van Niekerk emphasised that all would benefit and R130m would go to the self-governing territories.

He said it was incorrect to imply that the aid was for the sole benefit of white farmers.

Although a significant part of the R1bn aid would go towards reducing grain farmers’ debts, stock and other farmers would benefit directly and indirectly.

Stock farmers should remember that apart from the R428m allocated to grain farmers — many of whom were also stock farmers — and the R130m allocated to the self-governing territories, they benefit from most of the remaining eight schemes.

Many farmers who had been excluded from past aid, such as part-time, fresh produce, can and fruit farmers, would also benefit.
Drought aid details released

PRETORIA — Details of multibillion-rand aid to counter “the most devastating drought this century” and revive agriculture were announced by Agriculture Minister Kysaai van Niekerk yesterday.

He said wide-ranging assistance would be given to as many farmers as possible.

The SA Agricultural Union welcomed Van Niekerk's announcement, saying it was "very satisfied" with the way the aid measures would be implemented.

Of the R2.8bn set aside, R1bn would be allocated this financial year and the balance over the next three years.

Van Niekerk said it was sad that farmers unable to survive even with significant aid would have to leave the industry. They would be assisted with limited finan-

cial means to retire from agriculture.

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Drought aid

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Stock farmers should remember that apart from the R46m allocated to grain farmers, and the R130m allocated to the self-governing territories, they benefited from most of the remaining eight schemes.

He stressed that although the measures were not a solution for all farmer's problems, it would bring much needed relief.

Many farmers who had been excluded from past aid — such as part-time, fresh produce, cane and fruit farmers — would benefit from the package.

Meanwhile, Ambassador to Britain Kent Durr said yesterday that Transnet had distributed nearly 570 000 tons of imported grain to drought-stricken Frontline states over the past two months.

*See Page 3
Underground water falling

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Repeated droughts in the past decade have taken a heavy toll on scarce underground water resources which continue to fall to levels, causing serious concern.

Water Affairs deputy director geohydrology Eberhard Braune said two or three summers of above average rainfall were urgently needed to restore the heavy drain on ground water in the drought years.

Irrigation farmers had been particularly hard hit, but many were over-exploiting diminishing supplies, which would have serious consequences if last summer’s drought was followed by another this year.

Braune said farmers in some parts were being advised by the department on how best to manage ground water extraction to avoid over-exploitation.

A survey carried out 12 months ago showed boreholes were drying up and the quality of water deteriorating.

Conditions since then could only have worsened.

A survey found that in four of the country’s seven agriculture regions, water yields were declining fast. Sapa reports the drought along SA’s northern and north-western borders was creating tension between governments as game and livestock streamed across from Botswana and Zimbabwe in search of food.
FOR THE HOMELESS:
lay the foundations

investment in housing

not increase the debt

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affordable to the people, has been includ-

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The report recommends a single
housing department and financing
authority as well as increased sub-
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dards and zoning regulations,
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populations in urban areas and
increased employee activity.

The report says schemes such as
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and the Home Loans Guarantee
Scheme (HLGS) initiated by the
Urban Foundation and the IDT are
potentially viable ways of overcom-
ing the standards in housing devel-
lopment in poor communities
because of township violence, rent
and land agreements being broken.

The report also recommends an
investigation into the possibility of
using the assets of the SA Special

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risks such as the boycotts. Sara was
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upheavals.

But housing of any kind is expen-
sive, and where will the money
come from to wipe out the backlog?

The ANC recognizes that any
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But it believes there can be a
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other and in these areas that have
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This will mean some kind of sub-
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and rate structures that favour the
poor and not the rich.

When it comes to the distribu-
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is understandable, given the record
of basic property speculation.

It plans to curb speculation by
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overdeveloped land, a capital gains
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Land: the hunger that
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"The present pattern of land
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Land: the hunger that may be costly to still

In most newly independent countries in Africa, land hunger has been one of the most difficult issues to resolve — and it won't be any different in a democratic South Africa.

ANC policy guidelines acknowledge that it will take much more than the repeal of apartheid land laws to redress South Africa's unequal distribution of land and landlessness.

"The present pattern of land ownership, which is the direct result of apartheid laws, must be fundamentally changed to address landlessness and land hunger," say the guidelines.

"The programme of redistribution of agricultural land must be accompanied by measures which will ensure that land will be productively used. These include the provision of adequate infrastructure as well as training and appropriate extension work."

The last points have to be fleshed out a lot more. It's very well to redistribute land, and make sure some is used, but one also has to ensure that agricultural land-use policies and support services are in place to make the best use of the land so that the country can grow the food it needs and export crops at a reasonable cost.

That also means the country's mix of economic policies have to support agriculture and ensure that the other sectors of the economy — industry, mining and commerce — can function in the best possible way. Often an attempt is made to frame one of these sectors in a way that these sectors can have disastrous consequences.

For example, how will the ANC government deal with the myriad of marketing boards that "protect" farmers and maximize state revenues but also help to increase food prices?

And how will the redistribution of land be financed? The guidelines say there will be compensation for land taken for redistribution. The criteria for calculating compensation should be "of a manifestly just and equitable nature; they should be laid down in advance in legislation, and in the case of any dispute, the courts should have the last word."

The ANC suggests it would be "unwise to place the whole burden of the costs of transformation on the shoulders either of the present generation of black farmers or on any new generation of owners."

A special land fund should therefore be established to handle this. The source of the money for the fund will be "part of a wider question of funding resources to finance urgently needed social development and advancement."

"The ANC suggests the idea of developing a national consensus around the principle of sharing the burden of a national land reform, taking into account the role of purchasing and running social services and education and training by means of a special fund. The concept of a national fund has been introduced by the introduction of special taxation measures, has been applied successfully and has possibilities for South Africa."

The other option is to borrow money abroad or to solicit aid and funds. But, as the experience of Zimbabwe shows, this is neither easy nor desirable.

South Africa already has a huge debt burden and it will have to be careful about increasing that without affecting the economy.

To get direct aid for land redistribution, more scientific research into how this will be done is necessary in order to make the idea easier to sell to foreign investors.

The Zimbabwean experience has shown that black peasants farmers cannot, given the necessary technical and financial support and access to reasonably good land, make an economic contribution to agricultural production — but getting the right mix of support measures in place is tricky.

EXPOSED TO THE ELEMENTS: Squatter shacks destroyed in a flood

This will have to cover not only access to good land, but technical support, training, credit facilities, pricing incentives to grow usable crops and the right technologies.

The spring of 1981 was a good agricultural season and it will be a challenge to ensure that South Africa will, if a poor harvest makes it more difficult as drought relief schemes take precedence over almost everything else.

The drought has also taken its toll on the quality of land, where conventional agriculture is no longer feasible and hundreds of farmers face bankruptcy.

Redistribution and resettlement under these conditions will need special attention.
Adjusting tariffs

- The report also calls for a greater role to be played in the price equation by food brought in from abroad.
- This meant adjusting customs-tariffs to ensure that healthy competition between local producers and importers was encouraged.
- The country's health and hygiene regulations were also too high for a developing country the report said.
- For instance, if consumers were prepared to buy fifth grade vegetables or non-pasteurised milk they should be able to.
- The last step was the review of the control boards.

Political comment and newsbits by R. Shibya, headline and sub-editor by S. James, both of 6 Herb St, New Doornfontein, Jhb.
Ruin for farmland bought out by govt?

THE government should take urgent action to ensure productivity on the 4,000 hectares of prime farming land bought at the beginning of the year for R14 million for consolidation into Lebowa, the Democratic Party said yesterday.

The purchase of the land by the fertile Bushbuckridge Valley and Beeketraakspruit area in the Eastern Transvaal was one of the last acts by the now defunct Department of Development Aid.

"They should never have done this," the DP spokesman on land affairs, Mr Peter Soal, said.

"Now that they have done it, they must not allow the land to deteriorate, as has occurred at Rus De Winter where the weeds are now higher than the milieus."

"They must keep the land productive and lease it back to the former owners."

Mr Soal said the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs, Mr Jacob de Villiers, farmed in the Eastern Transvaal in the Nelspruit area and ought to know what was going on.

"He must take urgent action and he must act immediately."

Whatever happened to the land, it should definitely not be transferred to any of the homelands, Mr Soal added.

The farmers in the area — who had earned up to R600 000 a year for their export-quality avocados, litchi and macadamia nut crops — were paid out by the government last month for land expropriated at the beginning of the year for incorporation into Lebowa.

At Rus De Winter productive farms bought by the Department of Development Aid five years ago are now ruined.
Body to look into abolishing control boards

CAPE TOWN — Government has decided to appoint an independent committee of inquiry to investigate whether agricultural control boards should be abolished.

The committee will be headed by Stellenbosch University agricultural economist Eckart Kasster. The four members, including agricultural economists from Pretoria, Port Elizabeth and Natal universities are to receive their letters of appointment from Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk this week.

While there have been other inquiries into control boards in the past, this new committee is believed to be the first independent probe with members having no vested interests in the agricultural sector.

The appointment of the committee follows the findings of a Board on Tariffs and Trade investigation into food prices. The board's report recommends that agricultural control boards be stripped of their powers to set prices and to force farmers to use boards to market their produce.

The board found that control boards added about 1.5% to food prices.

Agriculture director-general Harry Hattingh said the committee's brief still had to be worked out, but would include investigating whether agricultural control boards should be abolished. "If control boards are contributing to higher food prices, then we must look for alternatives," Hattingh said.

He said farmers and other interest groups believed control boards were necessary. If abolition was necessary, the farmers would have to be convinced.

He said farmers favoured control boards as they gave them collective strength to bargain prices with a few purchasers.

The committee's brief would be narrow and it would be required to report within three months.

Hattingh said it was important to appoint independent committee members.

Control boards

Kasster, who has been head of Stellenbosch University's agricultural economics department since 1965, is a specialist in agricultural policy and management. He has sat on a number of government-appointed committees, including the Rorich committee on the sugar industry and several CSIR committees.

He said the new committee would look at the whole issue of control boards.

"It is an exceedingly important committee, especially coming after the Board on Tariff and Trade's report," Kasster said.

He said the investigation probably would be the first probe into control boards where committee members did not have a vested interest in the outcome.

Our Cape Town correspondent reports that Homestead Dairies GM John Jacobs said last week the Board on Tariffs and Trade's recommendations to lessen the control of the boards would lower prices and remove "botted bureaucracy" which operated at the expense of smaller businesses. "The more competition, the lower and keener the prices," he said.

But the Red Meat Producers' Organisation chairman Basie Malherbe said: "There must be some control to ensure reasonably priced meat reaches the consumer."

Wheat Board GM Ivan Hemingway said the boards' abolition would mean huge foreign conglomerates would be able to dump their surplus wheat in Africa, effectively "killing off" local farmers.

Comment: Page 6
Drought relief body mooted

JOHANNESBURG. — The possibility of establishing a national multi-party drought-relief structure is to be investigated, according to Independent Development Trust trustee Professor Wiseman Nkuhlu.

This was decided at a drought conference held here this weekend attended by, among others, 138 delegates from 66 organisations, including key South African government departments, the ANC, the IFP, PAC, the TBVC states and church groups.

‘Willingness’

A report tabled at the conference suggested a flexible national structure be established to ensure rapid response to the drought crisis.

“Although many delegates present could not finally commit their organisations or governments, their very presence at the conference indicated a willingness to co-operate,” Professor Nkuhlu said.

He said a steering committee, reporting to a consultative forum, and five working groups were established.

Another report said the current agricultural sector was largely inefficient and should not be propped up by drought relief. — Sapa
Probe into farming boards

The Government is appointing a four-man committee, headed by Stellenbosch University agricultural economist Professor Eckart Kassler, to investigate whether agricultural control boards should be abolished.

The four members of the committee, who include agricultural economists from universities in Pretoria, Port Elizabeth and Natal, are to receive their official letters of appointment from the Minister of Agriculture this week.

While there have been other inquiries into control boards in the past, the new committee is believed to be the first independent probe with members having no vested interest in the agricultural sector.

The appointment of the committee follows the findings of the Board on Tariffs and Trade investigation into food prices.

The board's report recommended that agricultural control boards be stripped of their powers to set prices and force farmers to use them to market their produce.

The board found that control boards added about 1.5 percent to food prices. — Own Correspondent.
Drought beaters

By George Nicholas
Agricultural Correspondent

The current drought and its disastrous impact on maize production has speeded up the efforts of South African agricultural scientists to breed drought-resistant plants.

Under the leadership of Brian O'Regan, principal researcher at the Institute for Plant Biotechnology, steady progress is being made with a project, the aim of which is to isolate genes resistant to water stress.

He says once isolated such genes could then be used in programmes for breeding new varieties for drought resistance.
Questions:

Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

Own Affairs:

Loans to certain person for farming purposes
8. Rev A D GOOSEN asked the Minister of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture:

(1) Whether a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, obtained loans from his Department in order to buy a farm and start a farming operation; if not, what are the relevant details; if so, (a) what amounts were lent to this person, (b) (i) at what rate of interest and (ii) on what dates were the loans granted, (c) what is the current market value of the farm concerned and

(d) what is the expected annual turnover of this person's farming operation;

(2) whether his Department has taken any steps to establish whether (a) this person is a bona fide farmer and (b) the loans granted were used entirely for farming activities; if not, why not; if so, what are the details in this regard;

(3) whether the loans were paid to the person concerned by cheque; if not, in what manner was payment made;

(4) whether this person has to date repaid any instalments on the loans to his Department; if not, why not; if so, (a) what amounts and (b) when;

(5) whether he will disclose the identity of the person concerned to the House; if not, why not; if so, who is this person?

The Minister of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture

It is not policy of the Administration: House of Representatives to disclose the private financial affairs of individuals. The rest falls away.

C22E

Questions:

Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Children of prison inmates in prisons
36. Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of Correctional Services:

(1) (a) How many children of inmates of prisons are there in prisons under the control of his Department, (b) how many such children have been there for more than (i) one year, (ii) two years and (iii) three years and (c) in respect of what date is this information furnished;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The Minister of Correctional Services

(1) (a) In the interest of the children and parents concerned and in the absence of suitable alternatives, 235 young children are being accommodated with their mothers in South African prisons in terms of special arrangements.

(b) (i), (ii) and (iii)

The statistics are unfortunately not centrally available in the format as requested and can only be obtained by means of an expensive and manpower intensive countrywide return.

The following information with regard to the ages of the children who were in prison with their mothers on 30 April 1992 may, however, be of value to the hon member:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (years old)</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0--1 years old</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1--2 years old</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2--3 years old</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3--4 years old</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(c) 30 April 1992.

In line with international practice, regulation number 94 of the regulations promulgated in terms of section 94 of the Correctional Services Act, 1959 (Act 8 of 1959), a female prisoner may be permitted, subject to such conditions as are prescribed, to have her child with her in prison during the period of lactation and for such further period as may be necessary. The necessary clothing, food and medical treatment may be provided by the State for such period as a child remains in prison.

Standing departmental orders also determine that a child may remain in prison with the mother for as long as is deemed necessary for medical and nutritional purposes. Thereafter it should be endeavoured to remove the child from prison, subject to a certificate by the medical officer to the effect that the child would not be harmed psychologically or physically if separated from the mother. In a case where removal from prison is appropriate, it is a condition that suitable abode should be obtained beforehand.

All children are examined by the medical officer as soon as possible after admission to a prison or after birth in order to determine which medical treatment and nutrition is to be prescribed. The child's mass is taken monthly and the necessary injections and vaccinations as applicable are administered by a qualified nursing sister, or otherwise arrangements are made for the administration thereof at the local clinic.

At every prison where children are with their mothers a member of the nursing profession is responsible for the necessary supervision. This member sees to it that all prescribed directives regarding the care of the children are strictly adhered to and that the children's general health and well-being is promoted.

In general it can be mentioned that the Department of Correctional Services places a high premium on the medical treatment of all persons entrusted to its care. In this regard the nursing staff of the Department of Correctional Services are
The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

(1) Yes, in my budget speech I addressed the possible deregulation of private hospitals. I stated that on condition that private hospitals be allowed to be in State hospitals. Where provincial administrations can already afford it, there are no limits placed on them to render services to private patients at recognizable costs.

(2) No:

(3) Yes, at certain public hospitals some patients will be restricted in cases of certain diseases where treatment is extremely expensive and physical resources are limited, such as in haemodialysis or transplants for kidney failure, access to the programme is restricted and if the patient does not satisfy the clinical protocols required for admission.

Total cost of Codesa

*24. Mr F J LE ROUX asked the Minister of Constitutional Development:

(a) (i) What is the total cost of Codesa to date and (ii) in respect of what date is this information furnished.

(b) of what items is the above-mentioned cost made up and (c) who or what body is responsible for the payment of this cost?

B805E

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

(a) (i) According to a provisional calculation the total cost of Codesa amounts to R16 042 320.82.

(ii) June 11, 1992

(b) This cost is made up of the following items:

(i) Accommodation expenses of participants in meetings, foreign observers and support and administrative staff R3 981 478.80

(ii) Travel expenses (road and air) R2 708 683.37

(iii) Telecommunication R2 179 798.03

(iv) Meals and refreshments R1 458 829.00

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

(v) Hire of venues, furniture, offices, electricity, sound and lighting for all the preparatory and plenary meetings R7 051 502.19

(vi) Printing, stationery and other supplies R1 555 225.41

(vii) Hire of electronic data-processing and other equipment R462 953.07

(viii) Expert and professional services R1 299 129.88

(c) Constitutional Development Service.

INTERPELLATION

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

Own Affairs:

Rural communal functions/voting power

*1. Mr A A B BRUWER asked the Minister of Local Government:

(1) What does the Government envisage for rural councils in respect of their (a) functions and (b) voting power on regional agencies councils?

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B826E.INT

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

Mr Speaker, on 29 May 1991 the Cabinet passed the following resolution: That the possible broadening of the functions of rural councils be investigated in order to ensure that basic norms and standards be maintained in rural areas.

Following on the resolution, Minister Henru Kriel, the former Minister of Local Government in the House of Assembly, appointed a committee consisting of Dr Wynand Malan as chairman and Mr Kobus Hugo as member, with the following terms of reference: Firstly, extension of the powers of rural councils in order to take decisions themselves on certain matters; secondly, the incorporation of a rural council's area into the area of jurisdiction of the nearest local authority to form part of the local authority's area and the concomitant expansion of the powers of the new local authority; and thirdly, to report on and to make recommendations on the future of rural councils.

The committee conducted a comprehensive investigation in the Cape Province, the Orange Free State and the Transvaal, in which all rural councils, municipal associations, provincial administrations, provincial agricultural unions and the SA Agricultural Union were consulted. As the report of the Malan Committee has not yet been made available to me, I shall only be in a position to make a statement on the matter once the report has been cleared with all interested parties and accepted.

Mr A A B BRUWER: Mr Speaker, here we have a typical example of the Government's constitutional plans. They establish a so-called level of government for rural areas, but that level of government does not know what it has to do.

The hon the Minister cannot seek to establish a level of government and have people elected, when those people do not know what to do. A former Minister, one of this hon Minister's predecessors, said that they should establish at church gatherings what was bothering the people and then act accordingly. How can one run a country in that manner?

Initially it was said that third-tier government should be established for rural areas. There is nothing wrong with that. This third-tier government was then established because farmers had to pay regional services councils without having a say in their deliberations. Suddenly these rural councils were established and the CP controlled most of them. Then all of a sudden they were not good enough and there was a reluctance to grant them the voting power they should have in terms of the norms established for local government. Had they done that, the CP would possibly have controlled the regional services councils.

This is a typical example of a government that sets up a whole lot of institutions. They do not know in which direction they want to go. They are establishing certain structures at certain levels without necessarily knowing what to do.

Surely it would be only fair at least to tell these people that they must fulfill the function of the roads boards or the hospital boards in conjunction with local authorities. Then these people would at least have something to do. However, a level of government has been established here and the people do not know what they are to do.

This is a pathetic example of a government that wants to govern a country.

Mr E W TRENTE: Mr Speaker, to an extent I have sympathy with the CP with regard to this issue. I myself was disfranchised in 1985 when the Regional Services Councils Act was promulgated. It took the Government three years to amend that Act in order to make provision for urban councils.

The problem I have with this interpretation is that this should not have been an own affairs issue. It has to do with general affairs—all rural people being neglected in this respect.

We also believe that any attempt to adapt RSCs on a piecemeal basis in an effort to make them a little more acceptable, is totally unacceptable to us. The hon the Minister gave us the assurance yesterday that no new measures affecting local government, even if it were only on a temporary basis, would be considered until the formation of a fully representative forum has been achieved. I hope that the hon the Minister will stick to that commitment.

Oscar Wilde once described the English sport of fox hunting as "the unholy chase of the unattainable". By the same token it is unthinkable that we should even contemplate an attempt to change RSCs to make them a little bit more palatable to certain people. In that respect I hope the hon the Minister will stick to his commitment.

What are the facts? The Government does not give us an indication that that is what they are really about. The hon the State President said at the congress of the Association of Regional Services Councils this year. I quote from a report:

"Mr De Klerk het aangele het om te ly in other words he is accepting that this is a sort of non-negotiable."

The hon the Minister referred to the Malan Commission. I have a letter here from the Cape Province Agricultural Union. The Union was informed by the administrator and the executive committee that they should make certain recommendations. What are their recommendations? They say—that are the White farmers—that the farm workers should not get a vote in terms of the building which he occupies, because he cannot
be compared to a normal occupant who rents a house in town. [Time expired.]

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I grant the hon member for Port Elizabeth Central all the pleasure which he derived from his regular weekly boasting of his Ministerial duties. The hon member is not consistent with his policy.

His particular, individual policy is that one must do nothing until such time as one has the approval of the civic associations and the extra-parliamentary groupings. Therefore he zooms in on my statements. I intend sticking to the statements I made yesterday. Did he listen to what I said?

Does it mean one must just simply sit back, idly, passively and do nothing if one does not have the participation and involvement of those people? We shall consult and try to set up the necessary structures. We shall participate in structures in order to make our decisions as legitimate and as legal as possible. Without the framework of the imperfect structure in which we are working, we shall aspire to make it legitimate as well as legal and to arrive at that complete, ultimate, perfect constitution.

"I listened to the hon member for Lydenburg. When he laid the ground for the interpretation, he decided that he wanted to pick a quarrel with the Government, irrespective of the facts. [Interjections.] Those hon members are not interested in facts, because then one confines them. According to the standpoint which I stated here, I am surely in no way able to deal with that report if he does not have it to hand. Why would I adopt a standpoint now, when I know that there is a report pending? That hon member's standpoint that rural councils were established in a haphazard manner. [Time expired.]

"Adv C H PIENAAR: Mr Speaker, the Government has a way of keeping the ball in the court, thus keeping it out of play, as with the Pickard Report. Precisely the same thing is now happening here. [Interjections.]

The hon the Minister now tells us that he cannot say anything because a committee has been appointed. I sat listening to him yesterday afternoon as he spoke with great pride about the new plan in relation to local government. What it would look like in the new South Africa. In the same breadth, however, he now tells us that he cannot tell us anything about this aspect because a committee has been appointed. [Interjections]

I venture to predict that this committee will either keep the ball in the scrum until long after the new South Africa has dawed with all its catastrophes or issue a report and that the hon Minister will keep the ball in the scrum until goodness knows when.

This morning we have already heard that we shall possibly have to come back to implement Codesa's decisions. I now want to ask the hon the Minister whether this specific aspect of local government at this level was discussed at Codesa, and if so, how he is going to do it with? Is he kicking that ball into the scrum too?

I want to ask the Government rather to make someone like the hon member for Brentwood, who was punished for spending a weekend in the CP and who has never been promoted, Minister of these councils. Then he will at least have some kind of job until next year. [Interjections.] Everything has passed this poor hon member by. Here is a perfect opportunity to create a nice little retirement post for my old friend, the hon member for Brentwood.

"Mr A A B BRUWER: Mr Speaker, I have a great deal of sympathy for the hon the Minister. It is very clear that he does not know the history of these rural councils. He certainly does not know what is going on in his department. He should go into the history.

The problem is that his predecessors were from the Cape. They abolished the system of these divisional councils, which for many years had fulfilled a good function in the Cape, and replaced them with something without knowing what its function was. They started doing the same thing in Natal, the Free State and the Transvaal, still without knowing what they should do. He is a Transvaaleer; how should he know how third-tier government functions in rural areas?

I want to suggest that he can come and speak to the CP. We will tell him exactly how rural government should be handled in rural areas. We will be able to teach him a lot about that and about the relationships between people in the country districts, between communities of different races in the rural areas. We can easily give him very sound and good advice and we offer it to him because he is very clearly in the dark and does not know what is going on.

 Whether, after their announcement that all ordinary public schools and Model C schools would be changed over to Model C schools on 1 April 1992, such schools asked for a vote on Model C before 1 April 1992, if so, (a) how many schools asked for such a vote and (b) at how many such schools a simple majority of parents voted against the change-over to Model C?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

Yes.

(a) 351

(b) 98 schools obtained a vote of more than 50% against change-over.

Bonus paid to certain teachers

2. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

(1) Whether his Department recently paid a bonus to certain teachers; if so, (a) in what categories were teachers paid the bonus, (b) what criteria were applied to determine the teachers who qualified for these bonuses and (ii) who made the recommendations on who qualified for them, (b) what total amount was paid out and (c) how many teachers received such bonuses;

(2) Whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

(1) Yes, the department particular awards which are part of an action which was piloted by the Commission for Administration for the whole of the public sector and for which funds were provided by the Commission.

(a) (i) the usual criteria used in the evaluation instrument for all educators were applied. These include the educator's work performance and his/her attitude toward his/her work and also positive personality factors;

(ii) the Executive Directors of the Department.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
Farmers' rescue package ‘could go down the drain’

PRETORIA — Government's multibillion-rand rescue package for agriculture would be money down the drain unless there were comprehensive follow-up programmes to remove the industry's basic chronic problems, Nampo GM Giel van Zyl said yesterday.

The immediate effect of the aid would be to save more than 2,000 summer grain farmers, mostly maize farmers, from bankruptcy.

However, Van Zyl said the aid should be seen as a first step only in rescuing an industry which had been deteriorating for a decade and more because of high interest rates, input costs and inflation.

Unless these constraints were brought under control, the aid would merely be a short-term stop-gap palliative with no lasting benefits.

Van Zyl said the uncertainty in the commercial farming community was growing.

"They want to know whether their land will be secure in a new dispensation. They still do not have that assurance."

Few farmers were making new investments in their farms because of this and, without investment, the downhill slide in the industry would continue.

Commercial farmers, he said, were a vital part of the national economy. They employed more than a million workers and spent several billion rands in other sectors of the economy.

Unless interest rates and inflation were reined in, government's R1.8bn aid package would "disappear without trace in a few years."

Under current circumstances the dice were heavily loaded against most commercial farmers.

Commenting on the Board on Tariffs and Trade report on food price inflation, Van Zyl said the comments on control boards and their functions added up to "absolute nonsense". The boards had an important role in helping maintain a stable farming industry.

The report recommended that the boards should be stripped of their statutory powers.
Hout Bay is entitled to keep and retain what it has. This Government does nothing. It sits back and allows things to slide, also in Hout Bay. For that reason the CP will get up every time and fight for the people of Hout Bay, because except for the CP, they do not have people who fight for them.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL HOUSING: Mr Speaker, the hon member for Overvaal's credibility seems to remain immeasurably here. The CP sent in their HNP advance guard here and we had to deal with a CP-HNP mentality that has no answers to the problems of South Africa. Interjections.

When one talks to them about squatting their policy is not intellectually justifiable, and it does not even stimulate one intellectually. Interjections.

That hon member says one should keep what one has. I paid a few visits in that area yesterday and I discovered exactly what is happening there. In brief our policy in respect of urbanization is the following. Unlike in the past, we will not locate Black people as far as possible from their place of work. I spoke to everyone in the Hout Bay squatter camp that I could get hold of yesterday. Interjections. They had work there. Interjections. They were working at various places. Those people need places to work and live. Therefore we try to ensure people's stability in smaller packages near their places of work. Interjections.

Secondly, local communities must make provision for the informal housing needs in their country as well. Thirdly, I should like to give hon members the assurance that it is unreasonable and not the standpoint of this House to locate people as far as possible from their places of work. Interjections.

There is no way that we can wish these people away and we shall continue to hold talks with the people with established rights as well as those that work in the area but simply do not have accommodation there, as I suggested when I originally put my standpoint.

Debate concluded.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Before I put the next interpolation, I should like to appeal to hon members not all to take part so boisterously in these short debates. Only the hon members whose names are on my list of speakers should participate, and the other hon members should give them a proper opportunity to state their case in the short time at their disposal.

Escalation in food prices: steps

2. Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister of Trade and Industry: (3)

(1) Whether he intends taking any steps to halt the alarming escalation in food prices; if not, why not; if so, what steps;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Mr Speaker, the Government is very aware of the seriousness and sensitivity of rising food prices. For this reason continuous consultations take place with the hon the Minister of Agriculture. Proof of this is the request by the Department of Trade to the Board on Tariffs and Trade to investigate this escalation. The preliminary report on this investigation was made public on 11 June. As soon as the board completes this assignment and submits its final report and recommendations to the Government, the Government will be in a position to make decisions.

Other steps taken by the Government are the following: The systematic removal of import control on agricultural products and food and the institution of tariff measures instead, a complex process that has international complications through GATT; the financing of the Consumer Council by the Department of Trade and Industry, which investigates complaints of consumers; the establishment of the Competition Board, which acts on either complaints received, or investigates cases of restriction of competition such as collusion or monopolistic situations on its own initiative; the establishment of Vatwatch, financed by the Department of Finance, which serves as a watchdog to prevent consumer exploitation due to the commencement of VAT; the support of research and development at the CSIR on problems in the food industry; and investigation into ways and means of increasing the competition in, and the competitiveness of industry in general. The reform of tariff policy is, for example, an example of that.

The Government wants to give the assurance that it regards the question of food prices as serious and very sensitive and that it will be treated with vigour and responsibility.

With regard to the second question, after studying the final report of the Board on Tariffs and Trade when it comes to hand, together with other reports which may have a bearing on the subject, the hon the Minister will make a statement on the whole matter. The recently released report is a provisional one made available for comment and as a discussion document.

We are aware of the tremendous difference in escalation of prices between the farm gate and the shop shelf. It is the divergence between the rates of increase of these two different prices—in other words, the divergence between PPI and CPI—which was the subject of this investigation. [Time expired.]

Mr D H M GIBSON: Mr Speaker, the hon the Deputy Minister's boss has made himself notorious in the eyes of South African taxpayers by telling them that they are not particularly highly taxed. I expect the Minister to come today and perhaps tell consumers that they are wrong and that food prices are not too high. Instead of that, the hon the Minister has chosen to sit quiet and send the hon the Deputy Minister into the firing line. Instead of savaging the hon the Minister, I have to be a little kinder to the man who is only half responsible for the situation.

I did not hear anything from the hon the Deputy Minister which makes me believe that food prices will come down soon. One day after I gave notice of this interpertation, the long-awaited report of the Board on Tariffs and Trade was suddenly released. There is now a flurry of activity and announcements because the Government has at last realised that the consumers have had enough.

The long-suffering consumers want to know when they can expect action. They are tired of the endless hours of inquiries, reports, ministerial musings and complications. They are more and more tired of the never-ending inflation and the inexcusable rise in food prices. Consumers believe that they are being ripped off when they hear that food prices may increase by as much as 45% this year. Most of them believe that it is not the farmers and the primary producers who are the culprits. The real exploiters are further up the food chain, and these include the control boards, the packaging companies and the supermarkets, which always claim to be the consumer's friend.

While they are making that claim, they manage to mark up meet by 105% at Woolworths, 106.5% at Pick 'n Pay and 168.5% at OK Hyperama, I am indebted to the Sunday Star of 16 February for those figures. Right now one can go and buy potatoes at the market for R21 to R24 a packet, and go to the supermarket and pay between R35 and R37 for those same potatoes.

Those are not the friends of the consumers. The excuse is always that the increase in the prices is caused by the people, instead of the other way around. This Government has dedicated itself to stopping inflation, and this must be one of the longest running shows in town, because nothing ever happens.

The economic restructuring that South Africa needs to place it on a satisfactory growth path cannot happen while double-digit inflation flourishes. It requires that the Government and business working together to take decisive action to ensure that inflation is slowed or stopped. When this happens, the food price escalation will also stop.

Mr D G H NOLTE: Mr Speaker, the CP is especially concerned about the increasing gap between the price of the farmers' product and the price of food to the consumer. Therefore, at the end of March 1992 confirmed the fact that at 28.9% food prices increased far more rapidly than the general inflation rate of 15.7% and the farmers' product price of 11.9%.

Furthermore, it is also known that the farmer's share in the final consumer price of food is low, approximately 39.4% and that it is continuously, decreasing. The question is therefore, if the farmers do not receive the money, where does it go?

Hence the investigation by the Board of Trade and Industry, the first draft report and recommendations of which were made public last Friday. The report's basic recommendation that the statutory powers of agricultural marketing boards should be taken away to promote competition, still does not answer the basic question of
where does the money of the increasing gap is going and what the solutions are.

According to the report only approximately 29% of the increasing gap can be attributed to the fact that some boards restrict competition. What about the other factors to which approximately 71% of the blame can be attributed but in respect of which no recommendations were made?

The following are examples from the report itself. Firstly, one of the most important causes is general inflation pressure which comprises approximately 40% of the cause which, according to the report, can *inter alia* be attributed to over-tightening the State. Secondly, wages and trade union action are not in line with productivity. Thirdly, industries are being overprotected in the name of self-sufficiency. In the fourth instance six large food companies provide more than 60% of the processed food products. They are part of big conglomerates in the country and their share prices increased more rapidly than those of the other industries. In the fifth instance the gap increased especially after the introduction of VAT in 1991, especially also as a result of the taxability of food which can therefore be linked directly to State policy. [Time expired.]

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Mr Chairman, the hon member for Yeoville said he would let me off lightly with his savage attack. Of course, the classic comment on being attacked savagely is that it feels like being savaged by a sheep. [Interjections.] I thank him for his gentleness. [Interjections.]

The hon member for Delmas referred to the report of the Board of Trade and Tariffs in which there is an attempt to make an analysis of the divergence between the producer-price index and the consumer-price index. It is interesting to note that the media have run away with this report and interpreted this divergence as being solely the result of control boards.

They correctly pointed out, however, that food inflation is a part of inflation in general. I do not intend to become involved in an argument on macro-economic policy at this stage. It also points out that 27% of that divergence was due to an increase in wages, and also due to an increase in so-called shrinkage in the retail chain. Shrinkage means theft, mainly on the part of the employees of those retail chains.

It goes further and says that 0.7% is due to the fact that price subsidies on food have been removed. It says that 0.3% is due to the fact that certain controls have been removed. It goes further and says that 1% is unidentified.

The popular notion, however, is that control boards are the great evil. I have to state that it was in the . . . [Time expired.]

Mr E K MOORCROFT: Mr Speaker, five years ago, here in Cape Town, I was shocked to see, for the first time in my life, a person scavenging for food in a garbage can. That sort of thing, I thought, only took place in Ethiopia or Bangladesh. However, the sight of hungry people scavenging in garbage cans has become commonplace. One can see it during any lunchtime on a walk up Government Avenue.

It is but one of the many symptoms which indicate the cruel poverty in which increasing numbers of underprivileged people in this country are beginning to live. As my colleague the hon member for Yeoville has pointed out, we do not have to look very far for at least one of the causes of poverty, and that is the ever-increasing spiral in the cost of basic foodstuffs.

The hon Deputy Minister has a knowledge of France and will be aware of the political consequences of shortages of affordable food. He will know what happened to Marie Antoinette when, on being informed that there was a shortage of bread, advised her subjects to eat cake instead.

The first thing the hon the Minister should do, as my hon colleague has suggested, is to study carefully the recently tabled report of the Department of Trade and Industry. He should seek ways of decreasing the ever-increasing gap between producer and consumer prices highlighted in that report. One of the best ways of doing that is to improve the climate for free choice. Both producer and consumer must have free access to markets of their choice. The State should make it possible for this choice to be exercised. [Time expired.]

Mr D H M GIBSON: Mr Speaker, the hon the Deputy Minister's reference to sheep was enough to make the consumer's mouth water because there are many of them who have not been close to that expensive meat for a long time.

I was talking about the hon the Minister himself, and I believe he has enormous clout in Government, as well as in business. Because of his background, I also believe that he should be using the influence he has with the business community to start turning South Africa around. I believe that the hon the Minister is uniquely placed to persuade both the Government and big business to co-operate. One suggestion is that they refuse to grant wage increases larger than 10% for this year. Then they must start limiting price increases, whether administered by the Government or decided upon by business, to no more than 10%.

This would be a contribution to breaking the back of inflation, and would give the consumer hope of a fair deal in the future.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Mr Speaker, I think the hon member for Yeoville came very close to proposing a wages-and-prices policy. [Interjections.] I believe that this is an experiment that has been tried elsewhere, especially in the United Kingdom, and it has failed miserably. [Interjections.] I believe that the one option that is not open to us in solving this problem is price control. This is something which only serves to distort the economy, to create a situation in which people are producing products for which there is no demand.

However, we are looking at ways and means of breaking this inflation spiral in food prices. We believe that there must be increased competition. We believe we must go further down the road of deregulation, especially with regard to health and hygiene standards. I believe we must look at all measures that inhibit trading.

I believe that the new Businesses Act goes a long way towards enabling the industrial sector also to play its part in the distribution of food.

We are looking very carefully at the renewal and reform of the whole issue of customs tariffs and import control. The hon the Minister of Agriculture and our Department will also be looking very carefully at the possibility of increasing imports on basic foodstuffs in order to prevent this spiral, but under the very strict proviso that it does not serve to disrupt the agricultural community and the rural economy of South Africa.

As hon members may have seen in the newspapers, the hon the Minister has appointed a special committee under the chairmanship of prof Kassier to investigate the role of marketing control boards in South Africa. [Time expired.]

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS

[Indicates translated version.]

For oral reply:

General Affairs:

State President:

Total cost of overseas visits

*1. Mr D P DU PLESSIS asked the State President:

What was the total cost of the overseas visits undertaken by him and his entourage (a) in 1991 and (b) during the period 1 January 1992 up to the latest specified date for which information is available?*

The STATE PRESIDENT:

(a) R2 790 357

(b) R2 614 724

These amounts are based on the latest available information and reflect the expenditure for all components which were involved in the overseas visits, namely:

(1) The State President's Office

(2) The Department of Foreign Affairs

(3) The security component, as provided by the National Intelligence Service.

Second Interim Report: Goldstone Commission

*2. Mr L FUCHS asked the State President:

(1) When was the Second Interim Report of the Commission of Inquiry Regarding the Prevention of Crimes of Violence and Intimidation (the Goldstone Commission) received by him? *

(2) whether this report was released immediately after being so received; if not, (a) why not and (b) on what date was it released?*
Don't blame farm boards

— Minister

By Peter Fabrius
Political Correspondent

Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk has come to the defence of agricultural control boards and criticised the report of the Board of Trade and Tariffs which blamed control boards for much of the rapid rise in food prices.

In a surprise move yesterday, Dr van Niekerk sent the Board of Trade and Tariffs to re-investigate high food prices and announced two more investigations into the problem.

Democratic Party MP for Yeoville Douglas Gibson attacked Dr van Niekerk for "protecting his paws" on control boards and said this would not bring food prices down.

Dr van Niekerk had resorted to "classic Government thinking — when in doubt, appoint a committee".

"This is an excuse for inaction. I will only believe that the National Party cares about consumers when they do something about food-price escalation," he said.

Earlier, in a debate on food prices, Mr Gibson had called on the Government to influence business to hold down wage increases and food prices to 10 percent in order to break inflation.

But Deputy Trade and Industry Minister David Graaff said this was tantamount to wage and price control, which had failed dismally elsewhere.

In a statement last night Dr van Niekerk said he was surprised that the Board of Trade and Tariffs report had not been given to him before it was published. It was a preliminary report that left many questions unanswered.

It had not fully taken into account the effect of the drought and VAT on food prices, and did not give proper credit to deregulation in the marketing of agricultural products.

Commentary on the report had singled out control boards for criticism, but it would be an oversimplification to say prices would come down if the boards were abolished.

Dr van Niekerk said the producer's share in food prices was only 48 percent and the boards could not be held responsible for the 55 percent added by the private sector.

The facts pointed to a softening influence by marketing boards on consumer prices.

He told the Board of Trade and Tariffs to investigate price increases in the food chain and to look at measures to counter concentration in the processing and distribution sectors.

He also announced that a committee under Professor W E Kassier would probe the effect of the Marketing Act on food prices, and that a policy committee falling under himself would seek a long-term strategy for the marketing of agricultural products and probe the future role of control boards.
FOOD INDUSTRY REPORT

Between the cup and the lip

The control boards have finally been targeted for some official censure.

About time, too. The Board of Tariffs & Trade (BTT)'s long-awaited report on food pricing has prompted powerful calls for the abolition of the 22 control boards which administer various schemes in terms of the Marketing Act. The boards are responsible for a huge quantum of food price inflation — despite having been created to smooth out wrinkles in the market (Leaders June 12).

Questions have also been raised about the need for a Marketing Act at all. Freer imports of food products are mooted — and unnecessarily high health and hygiene standards have been pinpointed as another factor that pushes up costs.

Reform won't happen easily.

Firstly, this is a "preliminary" report, which the BTT calls a "discussion document." It will not be implemented immediately. Food committee co-ordinator (and board deputy chairman) Helgaard Muller says the final report should surface only by September "at the earliest."

Meanwhile, deputy director-general of Agriculture Chris Blignaut is appointing a committee of academics (mostly agricultural economists) to investigate the Act. "We want them to start work by August 1 at the latest and to report within three months," he says. So prices will go up for a while yet.

The committee's brief will be to look at the "practical" side of changes to marketing schemes and regulations. It will talk to the various boards and investigate the huge differences in the various marketing schemes administered under the Act. These vary from:

- Surplus removal floor-price schemes backed by producer levies, such as the heavily over-regulated meat scheme
- Fairly "liberal" operations such as the surplus removal sorghum scheme and the market-driven, highly successful export schemes administered by semi-privatised bodies like Unifruco (deciduous fruit) and the Citrus Exchange marketing co-operative.

If this latter "practical" report is completed by November 1 and if it recommends amendments to the Marketing Act, earliest implementation would be during the 1993 parliamentary session. Until then, another, yet-to-be-appointed board committee, heavy...

THIS WEEK'S FM

This week's issue of the FM has been delayed because of political events coinciding with our printing deadline.

P.T.O.
The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

(1)* (a) 33.3% 3 687 000
(b) 65.4%
(ii) 17.9%
(iii) 14.0%
(iv) 2.7%

(2)**
(a) (b) (c) (d)
(i) 152 000
(ii) 2 300 000
(iii) 316 1 211
(iv) 31
(v) 2 709
(vi) 28 000
(vii) 256 26 432
(viii) 1 244 25 672
(ix) 80 000 21 321
(x) 38 085 35 223
(xi) 132 2 439
(xii) 48 253 344 104
(xiii) 39 081 55 487

(3)** (a) (i) 6.7%
(b) 29 March 1990.

Charges against persons withdrawn: Bruntville

338. Mr W U NEL asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) Whether charges against persons who were arrested and disarmed at scenes of violence and multiple murders in Bruntville on or about 4 December 1991 were withdrawn owing to lack of evidence; if so.

(2) Whether sufficient new evidence has since been found to enable the South African Police to bring fresh charges against those concerned; if not, what steps are being taken to collect such evidence; if so, when will charges be pressed;

(3) Whether he will make a statement on the matter? 

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) Yes.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(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, on behalf of persons, who were detained, baned 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 section 5 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?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) (a) 1 April 1992.
(b) 31 May 1992.

Social Relief Scheme for Farmers and Farmworkers

344. Mr J H MOMBERG asked the Minister of National Health:

(1) (a) On what date did the Social Relief Scheme for Farmers and Farmworkers come into operation, (b) as at the latest specified date for which information is available, how much money (i) was available for disbursement, (ii) was disbursed to persons in need of aid and (iii) 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, retreated 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 farmers 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 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?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

(1) (a) R20 million
(b) R2.5 million and
(c) specified information is not available;

(2) no, not as far as known;

(3) no.

(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) yes, the prominent church societiesoperating in each area,
(ii) yes, farmers' associations, Women's Agricultural Union, South African Agricultural Union,
(iii) banks, co-operatives, agricultural credit banks and welfare organizations,

(b) to promote community participation.

Amounts granted in aid in terms of certain schemes: 

345. Mr J H MOMBERG asked the Minister of National Health:

(1) (a) What are the (i) minimum and (ii) maximum amounts granted in aid by her Department to recipients in terms of the (aa) Social Relief Scheme for Farmers and Farmworkers and (bb) Nutrition Development Programme and (b) what factors are taken into account in calculating these amounts;

HANSARD
The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

(1) (a) 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 person is evaluated to qualify for assistance of (aa) and (bb). It is a supplementary scheme that provides for one third of a person's energy and protein need.

(2) (a) 31 May 1992: R2.5 million
(ii) 6 June 1992: R88 million awarded/spent.

(b) (i) R30 million
(ii) R440 million.

Banquet facilities at home of Administrator of Natal.

346. 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 whose vote or votes was the cost of establishing these facilities drawn?

The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS:

No. (a), (b) and (c) fall away.

House of Assembly

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

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?

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 comments;

(4) no, not at this stage, because all comments have 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 TRENTH 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 it is anticipated that all units will have been issued with bullet-proof vests?

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) country-wide and (ii) in (aa) Phuthaditjhaba and (bb) Indusi in the 1991-92 financial year?

The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS:

(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 practice; if so, what (a) qualifications and (b) conditions?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

B845E

B849E

B853E

B852E
Final report on food prices will be delayed.

THE final Board on Tariffs and Trade (BTT) report on its probe into food price rises is unlikely to be issued before late September, board chairman Helgard Muller said yesterday.

Reuter reports that he said the final document would be published as soon as possible but there were likely to be discussions with interest groups following last week's release of the preliminary report.

Muller declined to comment on Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk's statement that the BTT report was inadequate.

The report put much of the blame for high food prices on state marketing boards, recommending the broad deregulation of agriculture to stimulate competition and combat rising food prices.

Van Niekerk said the report had not fully taken into account the effect of drought and VAT on food prices. Proper credit had not been given to deregulation in the marketing of agricultural products.

He also announced two more probes into food prices, one investigating the Marketing Act's effect on prices. The other, headed by himself, would seek a long-term strategy for marketing agricultural products and probe the role of control boards.

LINDA ENSOR and GERALD REILLY report that the Deciduous Fruit Board and the SA Agricultural Union yesterday welcomed the steps announced by Van Niekerk to address food price inflation.

Deciduous Fruit Board chairman Stephanus Roussouw said some of the BTT's recommendations were "dubious".

He and SAAU director Piet Swart welcomed Van Niekerk's decision to refer the report back to the board for further investigation as well as the appointment of a committee of experts to evaluate the various marketing schemes on the basis of "realistic criteria".

Roussouw said there was no control over the marketing of deciduous fruit in SA and producer prices were determined solely by market forces.

"Prices are fairly high due to an exceptional demand for our products by all sectors. On the other hand, the price of apricots and peaches earlier this year was lower than in the same period last year due to record crops."

Swart said emasculating the marketing boards by stripping them of their statutory powers would lead to chaos in the collection and distribution of basic foods.

Swart supported Van Niekerk's view that the marketing boards played a vital role. To claim that the boards were responsible for soaring food prices was inaccurate and unsupported by facts.

The SAAU welcomed the investigation into the Marketing Act.
Tribe wins land battle

THE indomitable people of Mogopa, forcibly and unlawfully removed from their farms near Venterdorp in 1984, have become the first community uprooted under apartheid to have their land officially restored to them.

The decision to allow them to stay on the farm Zwartrand, which they reoccupied without consent about four years ago, and to grant them full title to this land was announced on Wednesday by the director of land affairs in the Department of Regional and Land Affairs, Mr Piie Pienaar.

"The Deputy Minister of Law and Order and Land Affairs, Mr Johan Scheepers, has decided recently that the Mogopa community be allowed to remain on the farm Zwartrand," said Pienaar.

"The farm Hartebeeslaagte will, however, remain the property of the State. Furthermore, the question regarding the registration of Zwartrand and the name of the tribe or the community or individuals concerned will be negotiated with the community's legal advisers and the community leaders."

Pienaar clarified that this meant "they will have full title, as in the past, at Zwartrand" and said that the Department of Agriculture would provide agricultural extension services to the community.

Mogopa remained in State hands after the removal. Since the Appeal Court had found the removal itself unlawful, there was always the prospect of court action for the return of the land to Mogopa.

This week's announcement is the outcome of eight years of resistance by the community.
Minister ‘naïve’ about food prices

By Shirley Woodgate

The private sector has labelled as “naïve and misleading” claims by the Minister of Agriculture that concentration in the food processing and distribution sectors are partly to blame for soaring food prices.

Defending the marketing boards, Dr Kraai van Niekerk said on Wednesday that the private sector had to take some of the blame for spiralling food costs.

According to Housewives League president Jean Tatham, government figures showed an increase of nearly 30 percent in food prices between April 1991 and April this year.

Econometrix spokesman Tony Teine said all players in the entire supply chain carried the blame for increasing costs and, logically, all were trying to secure the greatest margin possible.

“If the food sector were completely decontrolled, this situation would continue with each one trying to optimise his position.

“My worry about the piece-meal deregulation of certain areas of the economy is that the areas not deregulated would begin to enjoy huge leverage in negotiating prices because of the protection that regulation implies,” Mr Teine said.

“While everyone tries to get the maximum out of the economic system, the presence of additional middlemen such as control boards means there are more players than necessary trying to optimise their positions. This must add to the cost chain.

“The ultimate answer is to deregulate on a broad front,” he said.

Pick’n Pay food director Sean Summers regretted that the minister had resorted to "finger-pointing without getting to the root of the problem".

Calling for the removal of current restrictive tariffs, he said in-house monitoring had proved that the highest levels of price increases occurred in the cost of agricultural-type products.

“As a broad principle, it is essential to keep the farmers on the land. But with the present drought, there is no logic in protecting non-existent crops by selling imported foodstuffs like maize and wheat at artificially high prices set by the control boards.

“The major task facing the nation is to feed the people. Therefore the need is to import these foodstuffs at the lowest possible levels, without protecting structures and status quo as currently happens,” he said.

Pick ‘n Pay had initiated talks which would include leaders of the various sectors of the industry, the Government and the control boards.

OK Bazaars food marketing director Mervyn Kraliczick said the minister should distinguish between manufacturing and production, and retailing.

There was no question that monopolies and oligopolies which dictated prices existed in the manufacturing and production sector.
SA in danger of 'drying up'

ALIDE DASNOIS
Weekend Argus Reporter

SOUTHERN Africa will run out of water long before it runs out of food, says Pick 'n Pay chairman Mr Raymond Ackerman.

In a document prepared for the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro last week, Mr Ackerman paints a gloomy picture of what Southern Africa will look like in the near future.

No more flushing toilets, no more private swimming pools, water quotas for houses with automatic cut-off systems and big irrigation problems for farming.

Southern Africa is mostly dry country and likely to get even dryer with global warming.

Even if all rainfall could be collected, and industrial and sewerage water recycled, at present rates of population growth southern African countries will run out of water in less than 100 years, says Mr Ackerman.

Water engineers estimate 2060 as the crunch year. He says: “Flood and overhead irrigation farming will be outlawed, and even micro-jet irrigation may not be acceptable.”

Dry-season watering of gardens and sports fields will be banned, baths are likely to go out of fashion, and in the kitchen people will have to resort to steam cooking.

By the year 2000, coastal cities like Cape Town and Durban will be planning water desalination plants “on a scale never attempted anywhere else in the world”, he says.
Mogopa land return victory

THE Mogopa community, who were forcibly removed from two farms near Venterdorp in 1984, will have one of the farms, Zwartland, restored to them.

Since 1984 they have battled with the government to regain the farms. In 1988 about 200 families re-occupied Zwartrand "illegally" as squatters. The State has retained ownership of the other farm, Hartebeeslaagte.
SA is in line for massive drought funds from IMF

By KEVIN DAVIE

THE International Monetary Fund has initiated a massive drought relief programme which could give South Africa access to billions of rand in loan credits.

IMF MD Michel Camdessus has identified SA as one of 13 countries blighted by the drought, which he describes as "probably the worst in 100 years".

Southern Africa, Camdessus says in a statement to the IMF's policy making interim committee, needs grain imports of $1.4-billion to $2-billion because of the drought. South Africa accounted for "somewhat less than half this amount". His statement quantifies South Africa's expected maize imports at four to five million tons, or $280-million to $700-million. This is 45% to 57% of SA's total funding quota which it can draw from the IMF.

South Africa has a balance of payments surplus and so is not eligible for normal IMF finance. But sources close to both government and the IMF say SA could access a special fund, which finances temporary problems caused by loss of revenue on grain exports or additional costs incurred through increased grain imports.

Member countries can apply for up to 83% of their quota in terms of this special facility. In SA's case, this is $3.45 billion (60% of its total SDRs) about R2.8-billion.

The sources say the effects of the drought will be assessed by an IMF mission in August during their annual review of the economy.

Mr Camdessus identified SA's key role in the drought relief programme. "Importation would depend upon access to SA's infrastructure such as ports, storage and transport systems."

South Africa has been denied access to IMF finance since the early 80s as a US law, the Gramm Amendment, has required its representation at the IMF to block loans to the apartheid regime.

Criteria

But US President George Bush issued a statement in February saying the US wanted to be as helpful as possible in promoting a healthy economy in SA. "We would therefore be prepared to consider an IMF facility subject to the Gramm Amendment."

During the same month, US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Hank Cohen, said he did not believe that the criteria demanded by the Gramm Amendment would be "any problem at all."

Reserve Bank Governor Dr Chris Staats says that, since IMF programmes typically run for three to five years, the IMF preferred to do deals with governments which it believed would be around for that duration.

He says an application from an interim authority in SA would make it "easier for us and for the IMF."

A source close to the IMF says the interim committee had responded to Mr Camdessus' April statement by agreeing to provide policy advice and financial assistance on highly concessional terms. The source says an application by SA would be "a matter of judgment for the SA government."

Surplus

A senior economist says SA should be able to import maize needs this year and still maintain a surplus on the balance of payments, but added that access to IMF finance could mean that a final arrangement could be reached with foreign banks on the debt standstill.

"Access to IMF finance would be a signal to the banking community that international banking relations have been normalised."

"If the debt standstill could be finalised, the outlook for 1993 brightens considerably," he says.
Reinsurers anxiously await
end of drought conditions

FAR from being worried by the drought, SA's R763m reinsurance industry's main concern is what happens when the dry conditions break.

Industry spokesmen said resultant hail and floods were likely to result in heavy claims.

SA Reinsurance Officers Association (Saroa) chairman Len Keel said:

"The industry has not suffered directly because of the drought, although it has, of course, suffered from the overall drought-related recessionary conditions."

Of more concern to reinsurers was when the drought ended, with floods likely because rainfall would be less easily absorbed into the ground.

Research had shown also that the hail which fell immediately after a period of drought was more damaging and more frequent, he said.

Keel, who is also Swiss-SA reinsurance MD, said reinsurers insured against "catastrophes", the main ones being hail, fire and floods.

Keel said: "Reinsurance is by its nature a cyclical industry — premium rates are currently low because there have not been any major fire or weather-related claims for some years."

However, extensive flood or hail damage claims would probably cause rates to harden.

The seven non-life reinsurance companies which operated in SA showed a total profit of R51.7m in 1991, despite making a R27.5m underwriting loss.

Cologne Reinsurance GM Herbert Ingenhlem said: "The drought has been good for us, as it has meant no flooding and little hail damage."

Costly

"The worst months for hail damage to cars on the Reef are normally November and February, but this year comparatively little hail damage occurred."

No major "catastrophe" claims were made last year, reflecting well on Cologne's bottom line.

However, if rain were to follow the current drought, the consequences would be costly for reinsurers, Ingenhlem said.

Hollandia Reinsurance MD Steve Murphy, too, was concerned as to the implications of possible flooding after the country's drought ended.
Farm losses cut GDP by R3bn

PRETORIA — Agricultural production losses caused by drought would slash the gross domestic product (GDP) by an estimated R3bn in 1992-93, Agriculture Minister Kraal van Niekerk said in Somerset West at the weekend.

Van Niekerk said the entire national economy would be adversely affected by the loss.

The impact on the farming industry would be particularly severe against a background of two previous years of financial stress and setbacks, the Minister said.

Last year the gross agricultural income stood at R21.5bn — an increase of 5.4% on the previous year. But the net income declined by 9.1% to about R18.5bn.

Spending on inputs had soared by R1.6bn.

The losses also had an impact on income in those sectors which were dependent on farming activities.

Van Niekerk said this showed that where government gave government financial support "stretched far beyond the farm gate".

Referring specifically to the wool industry, Van Niekerk said production had decreased dramatically because of drought.

It fell by 23.5% to 77.7-million kilograms — the lowest since 1924.

Over the past three years the clip averaged between 90-million and 100-million kilograms.

The drought, Van Niekerk said, would adversely influence production for another two seasons. For the coming season the Wool Board estimated an even smaller clip of 73.5-million kilograms.

The dramatic decrease in the current clip had far-reaching implications for the entire wool industry.

Rural community problems in turn exacerbated the urban squatter problem, industries and the general infrastructure of the country.

On wool's prospects in the coming season, Van Niekerk said the International Wool Secretariat claimed short-term advantage would come from the re-entry of China to the market and the opening of new markets in Korea, Taiwan and South China. Australia’s large stocks would influence prices for at least another two years.

GAVIN DU VENAGE reports the Maize Board is to give a series of countrywide talks explaining how it plans to deal with the drought.

Board GM P J Cowie will outline strategy up to the year 2001.
Whites’ paradise is parched, barren

SOUTH Africa’s remote north-western Cape Province is hot, parched and barren, but Afrikaner separatists see it as a potential paradise for whites.

Probably unique in Africa, it is an area where blacks are a minority. The only problem for the Afrikaners is that whites are, too.

The majority here are the coloureds, children of inter-marriage between white settlers, indigenous San tribesmen, Madayan slaves and various other groups.

“We will have to negotiate resettlement of the coloureds,” said Professor Carel Boshoff, a leading would-be white secessionist.

Boshoff has already created a whites-only settlement at the abandoned construction town of Orania, far away on the banks of the Orange River near Kimberly.

But he dreams of a state extending 800km west along the river to the Atlantic coast.

“The exact boundaries are still to be negotiated, but we take the river as our starting point and potential economic backbone,” Boshoff said.

A visitor to the main towns of the region - Upington, Pofadder and Springbok - sees plenty of coloureds, a few whites, and no blacks.

“You know, blacks are not interested in this area,” said estate agent Mr Boet van Rooyen in the town of Redelinghuys.

“On the black television channel, they don’t even include it in their weather maps.”

Van Rooyen said whites in the Transvaal were showing increasing interest in property in the area because it had escaped the crime and violence engulfing their towns and cities.

Not all whites in the sparsely-populated region of vast livestock ranches want to turn it into a Boer-only homeland.

“A couple of people here want that, but we tell them to go and live in Orainia,” said Mr Koos Louw, a white sheep farmer from Pofadder, a town named after a snake.

“We get on well with our coloureds. We respect each other as human beings. Our coloureds are clean people and they keep their houses neat.”

Some farmers in the district refused to acknowledge that apartheid was dying, Louw said.

“They did not want to have a public hiking trail across their properties because they were afraid blacks would use it.”

Coloured petrol station attendant Mr Johannes Basson said he had travelled the whole country but would always come back to Pofadder.

“We have no trouble here, everyone lives together peacefully. The only problem is the doctor.”

The town doctor has established a branch of the white-supremacist Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging which also wants a whites-only state.

Asked recently where he would draw his borders, AWB leader Mr Eugene TerreBlanche said: “We draw no boundaries. Our state will be the battleground where we fight for our land.”

The Conservative Party, which most mainstream right-wing whites support, scaled down the projected size of its proposed white-rule state after a resounding defeat in the reform referendum last March.

“It used to say it would begin negotiating from the boundaries of the present white South Africa, excluding the black homelands which occupy 13 percent of the land. Now it wants only the constituencies it holds in parliament.”

The CP still balks at joining Codesa where the Government and black opposition are hammering out a transition to non-racial rule.

Boshoff is one of the few advocates of secession to have taken his proposals to Codesa.

“We only want limited participation to present our plan for a white state, we don’t want to get involved in negotiating a constitution for the new South Africa,” he said.

He believes a separate white state in the north-west Cape could be economically viable.

Apart from the river’s largely untapped irrigation potential, the region has copper and mineral deposits, alluvial diamonds and some tourist potential based on the desert’s spectacular wildflower display in spring. - Sapa-Reuter.
FINANCE Minister Derek Keys has called a top-level meeting in Pretoria this morning with leading food retailers and manufacturers to investigate soaring food prices.

Private sector delegates attending the meeting include Pick n Pay food director Sean Summers, Premier CB Peter Wrighton, Tiger Oats executive director Hashim McAin and Shoprite/Checkers MD Whitey Basson. Department of Trade and Industry director-general Stef Nande and Board on Tariffs and Trade (BTT) CEO Ruel Heyns will represent the public sector. Central Statistical Service head Treenicht du Toit is also expected to attend.

The Finance Department and private sector representatives would not comment yesterday on the aim of the meeting. Sources said the meeting reflected Keys's serious attitude to inflation.

The meeting would probably be used to discuss and decide on an agenda to combat spiralling food prices. Summers said the minister had called the meeting in reaction to the calls by Pick n Pay and Premier for a food price summit in August.

That meeting is scheduled to take place before the release of the full BTT food price investigation, expected in September.

Meanwhile, Sapa reports that the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) yesterday informed the BTT chairman in writing of its objection to the board's recently released discussion document on food prices.

GERALD REILLY reports that SAAU president Boet Fourie said the report would be discussed urgently with the SAAU's affiliates at a commodity conference in Pretoria on Saturday.

The SAAU has told the BTT that the discussion document's findings and recommendations either contradicted the information available or used it selectively. Many important findings were ignored in the recommendations, it claims.

The document was also strongly biased against statutory marketing arrangements and marketing boards.
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Committee to control land sales

By Jo-Anne Collinge

In the light of claims for land restoration by victims of racial property laws, State departments wanting to sell their land will soon be obliged to obtain the approval of an inter-departmental committee constituted by Minister of Regional and Land Affairs Johan Schepers.

"State-owned land can no longer, as was the case in the past, simply be alienated for whatever purpose," Mr Schepers said in an interview in the July issue of the Government publication, RSA Policy Review.

In many cases the State had retained ownership of land from which blacks were removed in the 1950s, 1970s and early 80s.

Already, other State departments had been "expressly" informed that the Department of Regional and Land Affairs and the State President's Advisory Commission on Land Allocation should be "consulted to consider possibilities for the use of State-owned land for development purposes before vacant and surplus land is disposed of".

Mr Schepers said that although the Government did not intend a "comprehensive programme" to restore land to victims of forced removals, it believed that restitution of tenure rights which had been violated in "the enforcement of apartheid legislation of the past, could be considered in cases where the land is still in possession of the State."
Another dry year ‘will spell ruin’

Pretoria — This summer’s crop would be absolutely the last throw of the dice for about 3,500 drought-battered maize farmers, Nampo said yesterday.

Government disaster aid had enabled them to raise funds to plant the new crop, but if there was another drought year ahead “those hanging by a financial thread will be out of the industry for good”.

Nampo estimated that to plant and grow the crop over an area of 3-million hectares would cost up to R2,5bn, including fertiliser, pesticide, labour, tractor spares and repairs.

Nampo economist Kit le Clus said government aid would benefit farmers to the extent of R270/ha. However, it cost about R550 to plant a hectare. A complication for many was the abolition of carryover debt interest subsidy.

To service the massive debt and get some return, favourable growing conditions and an average or above-average crop were essential.

A Wits University meteorological division spokesman said weather patterns followed 18-year cycles, with nine dry years and nine wet. The 1970s were wet, the 1980s dry and the 1990s should be wet.

But with El Nino last year there was a hiccup in the pattern.

“If the Pacific curorts warm up there is trouble ahead and a continuation of last year’s drought becomes a real threat,” the spokesman said.

Assessment of an El Nino threat could not be made until November.

Meanwhile, Sapa-AFP reports from Nairobi that the US is to donate an additional 500,000 tons of maize to southern Africa. US agriculture department official John Miranda told the 10th meeting of the UN World Food Council that the US had so far pledged more than 60% of all assistance to southern African nations affected by the drought.

The latest donation brought the total US food aid commitment to the region to about 1,5-million tons, worth $500m. The UN estimated that 18-million people in the region were threatened with starvation.

“Dealing with the emergency in southern Africa needs to be a top priority,” Miranda said. He urged parties in Africa’s civil wars to give safe passage to food aid and said governments and relief agencies had to work together to target vulnerable groups and unblock logistical bottlenecks in food distribution.

Southern Africa needed to import about 4-million tons of cereals. the UN launched an appeal on June 1 for more than $800m of aid.

Food council delegates were to discuss global food stocks, the need for a “green revolution” in Africa, domestic food security policies and global trade, officials said.
Free the markets, urges BTT

Agricultural control boards are
not the only villains of the food
price spiral. Deregulation
and breaking down of
concentrations are needed.
the recent government report
found. By REG RUMNEY

as being at the root of the concentration. “It is
at the intermediate levels of crop purchase and
storage, primary processing and wholesale
distribution that concentration tends to be
greatest.

“Significantly, it is also at this level that
intervention is most common. In the BTT’s
opinion this intervention increases concentra-
tion more often that it disperses it.”

The BTT goes on to say that concentration
stemming from control boards contributed to
further upstream concentration.
In the course of its investigation the board
has taken a close look at profit margins and
returns in various parts of the food chain. But
it urges circumspection about this statistical
evidence, arguing that conclusions on effi-
ciency, exploitation, or fairness cannot be
arrived at by studying statistics alone.

This could be aimed at among others argu-
ments put forward by the big retailers that their
low margins showed they were not exploiting
the consumer.

The board notes elsewhere the declining
productivity of workers in food retailing, com-
pared to wage rises. It also notes: “The co-
operatives do virtually all the wheat storage.
Only two companies distribute refined sugar.
Seventy percent of maize milling is done by
six major companies. About 85 percent of all
dairy processing is done by seven major play-
ers. Approximately 63 percent of all fresh ve-
getables are sold on the 15 national markets.”

The report does not single out the retail
chains or the processors. It merely advocates
removing barriers to competition, and identi-
fies a wide variety of such barriers for consid-
eration.

The board believes import tariffs should
replace quotas to allow competition from food
imports, and that eventually tariffs should only
be used against dumping.

It recommends replacing minimum stan-
dards with a clear marking of quality and
grade.

It urges that the scope of the Competition
Board be broadened to that of an "ombuds-
man" to which anyone could appeal to remove
competition-inhibiting laws, including health
regulations.

Several issues are not fully dealt with, such
as the effect of VAT and whether the official
food price inflation figure correctly reflects
what is happening to food prices, but the board
promises to look at these as well.

See PAGE 18
GDP to take a knock from drought

The drought could knock 1.8 percentage points off SA's gross domestic product this year, predicts the Reserve Bank in its latest quarterly bulletin.

In a special report on the macro-economic effects of the drought, the Bank assumes there will be a 14% decline in the value added by the agricultural sector during 1992.

The Bank points out that although the agricultural sector's contribution to GDP has declined continually from an average of 7.3% during the 1960s to 5.9% during the 1980s, the sector nevertheless still plays a very important role in the economy because of its interdependence in the economy.

Other industries which will be hit by the drought will be those processing agricultural products and manufacturers of livestock feed, fertilisers, insecticides, machinery and implements.

The direct impact of the drought on GDP is predicted to be one per centage point and the indirect effect to be 0.8 percentage points, the Bank estimates.

The Bank also calculates that as a result of the drought, both private consumption expenditure and gross domestic fixed investment will be 0.5 percentage points lower this year.

The current account surplus on the balance of payments will be pulled down by about R1.2bn, as a result of the combined effect of higher value of imports.

"The direct negative effect of R2.1bn on the current account balance as a result of the lower maize crop could be partly neutralised by a decline in imports because of the lower level of economic activity," it adds.

The average inflation rate will also be pushed up by about 0.5 percentage points as a result of the lower agricultural production and as many as 60 000 job opportunities may become redundant.

Available statistics indicate that the agricultural sector generated employment for approximately 1.2 million people in 1988 or 12% of the economically active population.

The current drought can cause an approximate loss of 49 000 job opportunities in the agricultural sector this year, it says. If farm labourers' dependents are also taken into account, the 245 000 people in the agricultural sector will also be forced to find another livelihood.

"These results are applicable only to the formal sector of the economy and it can be assumed that the informal sector will have to absorb a sizeable number of the unemployed," the Bank says.

It concludes: "The drought is obviously far more severe than originally estimated and will be especially harmful to the producers of summer crops."
Undisputed capital of agricultural industry

ALTHOUGH a bustling business and administrative city, Pretoria is SA's undisputed agricultural capital. It is home to almost 20 agricultural control boards, the head offices of government's agricultural bureaucracy and the SA Agricultural and Transvaal Agricultural Unions. Only a handful of boards are located in other centres.

On the outskirts of the city are several agricultural research institutes, as well as academic departments at the University of Pretoria (UP) and the Pretoria Technikon.

Between them these various organisations employ thousands of people and make an important contribution to the city's economy.

Investigated

Professor in the UP's department of animal science, Gerrie Smith, recently headed a committee which investigated problems encountered by the agricultural industry.

A major problem for the industry had been access to and facilities at Pretoria's Wonderboom airport, but he added that these would be largely addressed by the council's R8m upgrading programme.

The committee investigated why the industry was so well located in Pretoria. Reasons given included proximity to government and other decision-makers and the proximity to markets and transport.

Despite the negative comments about the control boards' alleged role in price inflation contained in the Board on Tariffs and Trade report, Smith believes these organisations will continue to have an important role to play in their fields and in city's economy.
Drought batters 70,000 jobs

By Sven Lünsche

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 R4.56 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 260,000 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 an adverse effect on the balance of payments as South Africa will be forced to import agricultural goods which it previously exported.

The Bank estimates that food valued at up to R500 million would have to be imported while the direct and indirect losses in export revenue could amount to R700 million — a net negative effect of R1.2 billion on the current account.

Mozambique is going through its worst drought in a century, the deputy head of the International Committee of the Red Cross relief division, Markus Dolder, said in Geneva yesterday.

Mr Dolder, returning from Maputo, said: "We were shocked by some parts of the country where the population is subsisting on berries and roots because the entire food crop was lost."

The Star Africa News Service reports that the drought is forcing peasant families to abandon their homes in the Massinga district. The exodus could swell the numbers of refugees in cities.
Drought grips the dry land

By MOSES MAMAILA

VILLAGERS at Maungani, one of the Northern Transvaal villages wake up as early as 4 am to queue for the most potent and simple of all life-giving mutis — water.

Taps in the drought-devastated village outside Thohoyandou are only opened between 7 am and 10 am following “very strict” water cuts introduced in Venda.

Villagers reserve space in the long queue carrying their 25-litre containers.

The situation in areas such as Muswodi villages has dramatically worsened and residents there depend entirely on the supply provided by the government tankers.

Venda government spokesman Lt-Col Brian Du Toit could not say how much this was costing.

“We have bought many water tankers and we are improving 94 boreholes. Fifty more will be drilled soon,” he said.

A resident of Muswodi village recently told radio Thohoyandou that in his area they no longer wash themselves as the available water was used for cooking and drinking.
No water for the people to drink

Malegale have to walk many kilometers to dig the ground to find water. Mphanama villagers are forced to pay R2.50 for 25 litres.

A spokesman for Mphanama Civic Association, Mr. Segala, blamed the Lebowa government for being ignorant.

"We strongly urge the Lebowa government to feel sympathy for the Sekhukhuneland people. Without water we cannot eat, walk or perform our daily work. Without water we cannot survive. Water is life," he said.

In a letter to the Department of Agriculture, the MCA asked the minister to act quickly.

In response, the minister informed the civic that their letter had been referred to the deputy general director of the Department of Water Supply and Forestry.

In a meeting at Schoenot, it was suggested that the Lebowa government pressure the Groblersdal municipality to supply residents with water from Loskop Dam.

It was suggested that the Arabi, Olifant and Nkadimeng Dams should supply Sekhukhuneland with water.
Now tourists flock to farms

By Monica Oosterbroek

Drought-hit farmers are converting their land into tourist attractions in a desperate bid to earn income and hold on to their properties.

As agricultural conditions in the country worsen, more and more local farmers are turning their homes into guest farms offering home-cooked meals, hospitality and fresh air.

SA Tourism Board statistics show that about 300 farmers, mainly in the drought-ravaged Transvaal, eastern Cape and Free State, have made their farms available and many more plan to follow suit.

And there may be cash in the farms as holidaymakers seek out affordable travel destinations closer to home. Farm holidays can earn the farmer up to R10,000 a year.

The regional director of the SA Tourism Board in Bloemfontein, Pissie Zietsman, said about 20 farmers in the eastern Free State had already opened their homes, which overlook the Maletsunyane mountains, to tourists. More farmers were inquiring about the concept.

He pointed out that farmers needed a licence if they provided holiday accommodation. Health inspectors needed to look over the premises. He also said the Hotel Standards Act was soon to be revised to include farm holidays, which meant that high standards would be maintained.

Farmers did not have to make large financial outlays as most of the infrastructure was already available. Some farmers had renovated old farmhouses to rent out as self-catering accommodation. Others brought people into their homes and provided all meals and other comforts.

City-slickers could take refuge in a rural and peaceful environment and enjoy anything from hunting and fishing to hiking, horseriding, tennis and birdwatching. Mr Zietsman said. Some farmers’ wives, living on farms on main routes, offered home-cooked lunches, which had proved very popular.
FARMERS CAUGHT IN CROSS-FIRE

DURBAN — A small white farming community in the Natal Midlands is on a tense war-footing — caught in the cross-fire of a power struggle for political control of the black people of the area.

A number of the farmers in the isolated valley about 25 km from Richmond, including former Natal rugby player Mort Mortassagne, have received death threats. Mr Mortassagne received another yesterday — and his death is said to be a matter of days away.

Virtually under siege, the farmers live in an area where gunfire across the valleys is an everyday sound and they and their families go about fully armed; the men go about their business armed with rifles over their shoulders and bazookas bolted to their hips; their wives never leave their homes unarmed.

Not far away, a Durban man and his wife were shot at while driving their bakke on the Inzopo-Richmond road — an incident typical of what the people in the district have come to expect. Revenge attacks on blacks appear to be common, as are armed robberies and intimidation aimed at the white farmers.

Farm labourers have been threatened with death if they go on working for one of the farmers.

A major target of the political struggle in the area is the black Gengeszcze location. The people living there — most of whom are sympathetic to Inkatha — are living under virtual siege. In one of the latest incidents, an attack by an armed group of armed residents was carried out against Inkatha on Saturday, killing two of the inhabitants and wounding 14.

In a follow-up to that attack, one of the well-known black nuns in the area employed by Mr Mortassagne as a driver, Ingwenza Mathula, was shot dead in the car park of Edendale Hospital on Sunday when she went there to fetch the wounded.

And one of the wounded, who had been too afraid to return to the farm, was travelling to another area to recuperate through Richmond yesterday when he was spotted and killed by a group of armed men who were acting in the hospital.

Mr Mortassagne said he had come under fire three times since October, and now had heard through the grapevine that propaganda was being put out that he was the main cause of the unrest in the area because of his support for Inkatha.

He had been told previously that he would not live to see Christmas — now the word was that his death was only a matter of days away, he said.

He said he was not a supporter of Inkatha, but helped the people of Gengeszcze only because they were his neighbours and some of them worked for him.

His wife, Maureen, said: “I am not happy any more. I love this place but every day when I go to work, I do not know whether I will come back to find my family alive.”

For safety’s sake, the Mortassagne family, including small sons Pierre and Richard, travel in a Ribbok armoured vehicle which Mr Mortassagne bought at an auction. He never leaves his family at home alone.

Another person who has received a death threat is local storekeeper Jacque de Bruin, who trucks food into beleaguered Gengeszcze because the Inkatha people there are no longer able to go into Richmond to do their shopping. If they do, their lives are in danger. Even the pensioners have to have their pensions brought to them on the farm.

The small white farming community, banded together as the Toiwai Fire Cell — formed initially to fight fires — protect themselves with two-way radio links, safe rooms in their homes and panic buttons which set off sirens. Everyone is armed.

The farmers make regular night patrols, keeping a record of vehicles coming into the area and checking people out at night on foot.

“We are determined to stand firm. Their aim is to break up our community, to fragment it. If they succeed, our farms will become worthless and we’ll have to leave with nothing but the shirts on our backs. That is what they want,” said one.
1992, this will be offset by a R1.2bn decrease in nonagricultural imports "as a result of lower domestic demand." Exports will decline by R700m — R365m lost in maize exports and R335m through "linkages with other sectors."

The study notes, however, that maize accounts for only 1% of total exports compared with 4% in the early Seventies. So "the impact of the current drought on the total value of merchandise exports may be smaller than in previous periods."

The study estimates that the CPI will be 0.8 of a percentage point higher as a result of declines in the volume of agricultural output. Employment will be hard hit by the drought. In contrast with previous droughts, when "attempts were made to keep permanent employees on the farms and ... farmers usually received aid from government to support them during these periods," the current drought will see many permanent as well as contractual and seasonal employees lose their jobs.

Assuming there is no aid, about 49,000 jobs are expected to be lost in farming and, with dependants taken into account, 245,000 people in the sector will lose their source of livelihood. In addition, 20,000 jobs will be shed in related sectors.

The fiscus, which will have to provide assistance to farmers over the next three years, will face lower revenues from these sectors.

The study says this will result in increases in the deficit before borrowing. It notes that "if the 1992/1993 Budget did not have to provide for R1bn aid to the agricultural community ... the budgeted deficit before borrowing of almost R16bn, or 4.5% of GDP, would have been R15bn or 4.3% of GDP."

The alternative simulation in 1992 is:

- Real disposable income will fall 1.8%.
- Real private consumption expenditure will decline 0.5%.
- Personal savings will drop by R2.9bn.
- Gross domestic saving will be reduced by 5% and
- Gross domestic fixed investment will fall R230m or 0.5%.

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**THE DROUGHT**

**Shrinking GDP**

**The drought** could reduce agricultural GDP by 14% in real terms this year to trigger losses in other sectors of the economy and affect the taxpayer for years as government grants aid to the drought-stricken. Reserve Bank economists Coen Pretorius and Daleen Smal reveal this in a *Quarterly Bulletin* study of macro-economic effects of the drought.

It presents two options. A baseline simulation assumes value added by the agricultural sector will continue on its long-term trend — a growth rate of 2.5%. The alternative, which takes the drought into consideration, assumes the 14% decline.

This simulation produces GDP for 1992 which, in real terms, is 1.8% lower than in the first option. In nominal terms this would amount to R4.6bn.

Of the 1.8%, one percentage point will be the direct result of lower farm output and the rest is the result of linkages with other sectors: a fall in deliveries of agricultural products to the manufacturing sector and the agricultural sector’s reduced buying power for goods and services.

The drought will have a negative impact of R1.2bn on the current account of the balance of payments for 1992. Though SA will have to import an estimated R1.7bn of maize in
Namaqualand farmers are finally learning how best to use their land again after a court ruling overturned its subdivision and renting out by the government.

Kate de Selincourt reports:

COMMUNAL farming for some means a system doomed to chaos where nobody has control over land and resources.

Yet in Namaqualand, communities are returning to this system after four years of reluctant private ownership — and are now deriving more from the land than ever before.

In the early eighties, the government announced the communal farming system in the "coloured" reserves of Namaqualand had to go, as it was "outdated" and "backward". The land was divided, fenced and rented out to these few people who had capital or stock. Most of the land went to those with other sources of income, like teachers, shopkeepers and evil servants.

In the Kamiesberg region, just south of Springbok, 30 of the 47 units were rented out to 74 private farmers — the other 20 poorer farmers had to squeeze their herds on to the remaining units, which meant less land to grow crops. The animals quickly overgrazed the restricted pasture, and most died of hunger. Others were impounded when they strayed on to private pasture, and their owners fined.

The reasoning was that in private hands the land would be used better and farming would be more "profitable" and "efficient". Displaced farmers were expected to be employed as labourers by the new owners, or to find jobs elsewhere.

What eventually happened was that people lost control of the resources that fed them since time immemorial. Not only did families lose their animals' meat and milk — they also lost access to medicinal herbs, wild fruits, leaves, roots and firewood.

With poverty came TB — six families were affected. Previously there was only one recorded case. Operation Hunger and the Red Cross were asked to help.

As money became more important, differing financial status divided the community for the first time. Men left the village to work in the mines, while mothers were left to cope alone for months on end.

The community did not take this lying down. According to local legend, three shepherds walked the 600km to Cape Town to seek legal advice. Their effort paid off. In a Supreme Court ruling in 1988, the privatisation of the land was overturned on a technicality, and the land returned to the community.

Since the ruling, other Namaqualand communities also had landdivision decisions overturned and communal farming restored.

"The acute poverty began to be reversed, but it was not easy. Now that the land has been returned, the community is having to rethink how best to use it. They had to find ways for a growing population to improve their standard of living and to restore the damage done by the imposition of four years of "economic units". Fortunately, doors to new ideas and working methods opened for the community.

Initiatives are co-ordinated by the democratically-run Kamiesberg Development Association (KDA). KDA members facilitate discussions among the farmers.

At one meeting, for example, they discussed some ewes bought with money lent to the KDA. Ten farmers are farming with these animals on a trial basis — they are a new breed to the area and will hopefully produce more valuable lambs while putting less pressure on the veld. One of the risks is the loss of these animals before they have paid for themselves. This happened to a farmer and ways were discussed of how best to carry the loss.

At other meetings a communal garden was planned, spinning and weaving sessions organised and plans to set up a tannery discussed.

KDA is considering buying a losery to take animals and produce to market without having to hire one. If equipment is owned by the community, fees paid for its hire may be used to acquire more equipment.

A priority is to restore land damaged by overgrazing. Here it is normal for stock to be moved from place to place to make the best use of sparse vegetation.

Even before privatisation, the land was overgrazed. When privatisation occurred, the division of the land and stock overcrowding had disastrous environmental consequences. With the edible plants destroyed, the area was overrun by renosterbos.

The KDA is investigating ways of clearing the renosterbos — finding an unlikely ally in the Department of Agriculture's Directorate of Resource Conservation.

The Kamiesberg development philosophy is simple, said Mr Louis van Wyk of the KDA. "Only the people can develop themselves. Nobody else can do it for them."
Breakdown in Cosatu's talks with farmers' union

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-
THE drought has prompted the Agriculture Department to advise game farmers in the northern and eastern Transvaal to cull up to 60% of their game.

Specialist extension officer Hym Ebedes of the department's Transvaal region said animals could be expected to die from mid-July. Animals in search of food were trampling topsoil, putting it in danger of being washed away when the spring rains came. It would take years for perennial grasses to reappear.

Sabi Sabi game reserve GM Michel Girardin said the reserve planned a major culling operation.

Twenty of Sabi's 40 white rhino had been sold. The rest might be relocated to Kwa...

Game farmers told to cull 60% of stock

Ngwane Parks until conditions improved.

Kwara executive director Spencer Thomas maintained a positive outlook.

"There have been severe droughts in the past and places like Kruger have never closed down for business.

However, if the drought were to persist, SA would be faced with a situation that could have an adverse affect on tourism.

Kruger Park executive director Salmon Joubert said Kruger had no plans for additional culling. "Periods of both drought and excessive rainfall are natural phenomena where fluctuations in the numbers of animals occur."
Disaster looms as water levels fall

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Disaster conditions were looming in several regions as dam levels sank below the critical 20% capacity level.

Life-threatening situations were expected to develop soon in some areas, a spokesman for the Department of Water Affairs said yesterday.

Areas worst hit by the drought were the far Northern Transvaal, the Western Transvaal, the Eastern Cape and the Little Karoo.

Venda, Lebowa and Gazankulu were also "very critical".

Emergency measures included the use of water tankers and temporary pipelines.

"The situation is particularly critical in the Eastern Cape's Gamtoos River Valley (10% of capacity), the Komati River and in the Njelele area (near Messina) where disaster conditions are threatening," the statement said.

This meant lives would be at risk.

The Water Affairs statement said most of the major metropolitan areas had satisfactory water supplies.
Drought may be worst in history

By Monica Oosterbroek

Human lives are being threatened and thousands of animals will have to be culled as rural areas in South Africa face critical water shortages and possibly the worst drought in this country’s history.

According to statistics released by the Department of Water Affairs, the situation is critical in the Nxelele and Albasini areas in the far northern Transvaal and the Gazankulu and eastern Cape.

Major rivers such as the Limpopo, Komati, Crocodile, Sabie, Vaal, Orange, Modder and Caledon have already stopped flowing.

Disastrous conditions threaten rural communities living beside dried-up rivers.

Apart from the danger of starvation and dehydration, the lack of flowing water could cause fatal diseases like cholera and dysentery, a spokesman for the Department of Water Affairs said.

The situation, caused by very low rainfalls and a particularly long and hot summer, had also critically affected Venda, Lebowa and Gazankulu and emergency measures were being implemented.

Emergency steps, including the use of water tankers and temporary pipelines, were being taken in some areas.

Culling

Technically, it would be possible to supply water by means of transfer schemes but, apart from the socio-political problems that would arise, the cost was prohibitively high, the spokesman said.

Game farmers in the northern Transvaal have been advised by the Department of Agricultural Development to cull up to 80 percent of their animals to prevent starvation and erosion.

A spokesman for the department, Dr Hym Ebedes, said there was no grazing left and artificial feed supplies were dwindling fast. Fodder and lucerne were being snapped up by cattle and sheep farmers and there was little left for game.

If not culled now, the animals could die in the critical months of August and September before the first rains, Dr Ebedes said.

Animals in search of food were already trampling topsoil, raising the possibility of severe erosion when the rainy season begins late in the year, he warned.

The exclusive Sabi Sabi game reserve in the parched north-east plans a major culling operation and has sold 20 of its 40 white rhino because of the drought.

The PWV area is not expected to suffer any water restrictions in the foreseeable future. The dam levels of the Vaal River system are lower than usual but still 61 percent full.
Development in rural areas is a priority

The relationship between population growth and living standards has been clearly demonstrated worldwide where the total fertility rate (TFR) of women in impoverished and undeveloped areas is generally higher than that of women in developed areas.

In urban areas, where the standard of living is on the whole higher, the average birth rate is three per woman. In rural areas this climbs to an average of nearly six per woman.

Clearly part of the solution to the population crisis is to work at improving the living standard of all the people, but particular emphasis must be placed on rural development for it is here that the greatest poverty and lowest living standards are experienced.

Lack of development in rural areas in most African countries has led to increased movement of people to the cities, which creates its own problems — lack of housing and unemployment.

Those left behind on the land are caught up in a web of poverty exacerbated by malnutrition, low productivity, and a decrease in agricultural production, of which high birth and death rates are a feature.

It is imperative that living standards in urban areas are urgently improved, and that support is given to the programme for rural development.

There are nearly 6 million people living on farms in South Africa in a largely Third World environment. These people, mostly farm labourers and their families, are in most cases totally dependent on the farmers. An estimated 80 percent of farm workers cannot read or write and there is limited access to schools, clinics and training centres. Compounding the problem is the high birth rate of an average of 5.2 children per woman.

With its aim being to improve the standard of living of farm labourers and their dependants, the SA Agricultural Union established the Rural Foundation, which concentrates on practical programmes to improve the quality of life of the workers and aid them in becoming more self-sufficient.

With the co-operation of farmers and their wives, a wide variety of courses can be initiated on farms. These include literacy courses, health counselling and family planning education.

Advice on family planning

The Association for Voluntary Sterilisation of South Africa offers an advice service to the public. It stresses that "small families have big plans for the future" fittingly supports the advantages of small families.

However, the organisation stresses its belief that the decision for sterilisation must be completely voluntary.

The association offers free advice on both male and female sterilisation and will happily answer any questions people might ask.

For more information contact them at (011) 889-0543 or at Box 41656 Craighall 2224.

Women hold key to world development

The status of women is a determining factor in any population-development programme, and the influence a woman can exert on the family is largely determined by her level of education.

In Africa and in many developing countries around the world, the status of women and recognition for the role they play in the community, is so low that they form part of the syndrome labelled the "feminisation of poverty".

It is a sad fact that instead of becoming part of the solution, women still remain part of the problem, often through no fault of their own.

This will continue until attitudes towards women, particularly in rural areas, change.

The international conference on "Population Development in the 21st Century", held in Amsterdarn in Holland in 1989, issued a declaration which called for the recognition of women as central to the development process.

It stated that the improvement of "their status and the extent to which they are free to make decisions affecting their lives and that of their families will be crucial in determining the future population-growth rates".

According to The State of the World Population 1992, a report issued by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) in April, economic growth and improvement in the quality of life have been faster in those areas of the world where women enjoy a higher status.

Women's health and nutritional state during pregnancy and breastfeeding affect the health of the child; and their education and degree of control over family resources affects the child's mental and physical development.

Discrimination against women is still common in many societies, but more particularly in traditional communities.

Women are still often regarded as "poor investments" when it comes to education and this is highlighted by statistics.

In Africa the figures show that at primary school level there are 80 girls for every 100 boys. At secondary school level this drops to only 47 girls to 160 boys.

Female literacy in Africa is put at about 38 percent and out of the world's 949 million illiterates in 1986, nearly two thirds, or 592 million, are women.

In South Africa there are about 3 million women who cannot read or write.

In its booklet "Population Growth — a Critical Decade", the Department of Population Development suggests that certain factors are necessary to improve the status of women.

Their prime needs, it says, are:

- The opportunity to attend school
- The opportunity to receive non-formal education though which they can acquire skills in areas such as nutrition, child care, domestic budget control and home industry
- Job opportunities
- Health care facilities such as child day-care facilities, access to clinics and family planning services.
Cape farmers buck the trend

By MAGGIE ROWLEY
Deputy Business Editor

WHILE total debt of SA’s agricultural sector was expected to soar to about R20bn this year, Western Cape farmers were bucking the trend, says Boland Bank economist Louis Fourie.

“Not only have they escaped the ravages of the drought, but increased export demand for their produce, which has resulted in little or no increase in the debt problem in this region,” he said.

In Boland Bank’s latest economic review of the agricultural sector Fourie says real agricultural production shrank by 7.4% and 1.3% during 1990 and 1991 respectively and preliminary indications were that production would shrink by a further 14% this year mainly as a result of the drought.

He said that pressure on the financial position of the farmer during the past two decades had directly affected the industry’s debt repayment ability.

“In 1975 farmers were able to pay off their debts with about 1.4 years’ farming income but the 1983/4 drought caused the ratio to weaken to 7.1 years in 1992.

“Following a considerable improvement in this indicator of repayment ability since 1985, a renewed weakening in this ratio is becoming apparent and indications are that it could rise to as high as five years within the next year due to relatively high interest rate levels, inflation and most importantly unfavourable weather conditions.”

Fourie said of concern was the increase in the total short-term component of agricultural debt from 34.7% in 1976 to 55% in 1991.

“A major cause of the increase in this debt ratio was to be found in the short-term credit granted against agricultural land as security.

“This situation is indeed one of the primary causes of the liquidity problem experienced by farmers since the late 80s as farming income had to be employed to redeem short-term interest.”

While the contribution of the SA agricultural sector had declined materially over the past 20 years, its relative importance dared not be underestimated as it still provided a livelihood to between five to six million people, he said.

“Furthermore this sector is a major potential employer as an additional 67 people are employed for each extra output of R1m yielded by agriculture against 23 people per R1m extra output in the construction industry.”

He said the multiplier effect of agriculture was also borne out by the fact that for each additional agricultural production yield of R1m, additional production of R600 000 occurred in the remainder of the economy. This multiplier effect was likely to be even higher in rural areas.

“In terms of short-term effects, the prevailing drought had caused a critical impact on the production capacity of the industry and its consequent ability to function as a national provider of food and employment, socio-economic stabiliser and foreign currency earner.

“However for the medium term there remain grounds for optimism particularly in the Western Cape. Export opportunities should broaden considerably within the next five years given the lifting of sanctions and renewed international growth and the movement towards more open agricultural markets. In addition more favourable producer price trends normally flourish in such an environment.

“Moreover, the sustained anti-inflation monetary policy is bound to bear fruit in the near future. This is sure to contribute substantially to getting agricultural input costs under control and creating a more sound basis for the financial position of the agricultural sector.

“However good rains during the rest of 1992 and 1993 are crucial,” he said.
Heavy stock losses as snow continues to fall

EAST LONDON. — Over 1 000 angora goats died in the bitterly cold weather which accompanied the rain and snow in the Eastern Cape.

More losses are expected as mountains in the region are still covered in snow. The mountains were draped in their heaviest mantle of snow in years — up to 1.5m deep in places.

East Cape Agricultural Union manager Mr Rory O'Moore said he had received several reports of stock losses.

The situation had been aggravated by the fact that many angora goat farmers had shorn their animals last month while many others were at the start of their lambing season, he said.

Mr Louis de Jager of Koringdal in the Aberdeen district lost an estimated 1 000 angora goats. He had only finished shearing the animals last week.

Pearston farmer Mr Johan Greeff lost 80 new-born lambs and 20 adult goats, while Mr Jaq Troskie of Bas-sonsberg near Somerset East also reported large numbers of animals freezing to death.

Natal was also freezing with more snow, fog and rain forecast.

Heavy snowfalls were reported by residents in the southern Drakensberg yesterday as temperatures plummeted to below freezing.

Farmers in eastern Swaziland also reported stock losses. The cattle had been weakened by the drought.

As water continued to flow into Port Elizabeth's main supply dams yesterday there was hope that the strict water restrictions may soon be changed.

By yesterday the total water capacity stood at 36.9% compared with 21.1% three weeks ago.

Gale-force winds are expected to lash the Peninsula today though the south-easter should have run out of steam by this evening. — Own Correspondent, Sapa
Home sweet hell!

There's a farm in Belville which produces only human misery — hundreds of tenants are living there in unhygienic, overcrowded conditions and paying exorbitant rents.

REHANA ROSSOUW

A cloud of black flies hovers over the ablation 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.

A stench is nauseating. The squatter and human misery is palpable.

Morgan's Farm in Stikland, Belville, 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 a handful of labourers. All the labourers' cottages were 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 "D6 Trench" by the residents — were originally workers on the farm who grew too old to be productive.

Mrs Katie Olifant and her husband, Mr Pieter Jacobs, pay R15 a week to sleep in the dreary overcup 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 bed," Olifant said.

"But where else can we go? We're home on the farm since we were young."

Mrs Anna Leonard, her husband and her two-year-old daughter have been living in a single cell two metres wide and about three metres high for three months. Their rent is R12 a week.

The only furniture they can fit into the cramped space is a single bed, a shelf and a tiny table for their meals.

"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 being in hell," Leonard said.

Leonard buys water from one of the vendors in a labourer's cottage, at R3 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 R15 a week. Their plastic sheet 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 R30 a month.

"We couldn't keep her with us in the house. When it rains, the water seeps into 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.

"In future, I keep getting arrested. We pay our rent to Mr Morgan's grandson, who is a police officer," he said.

"He knows no laws for us to live like this but he comes in his police uniform to receive our R50."

Last month about 10 families living in the labourers' cottages were served with eviction notices as some of the farm land is being developed as an industrial site.

Their attempts to stop the evictions and find alternative housing brought them to the attention of the Belville 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 these circumstances," said Mr Anthony Frater, spokesman for the ANC branch.

"We will definitely be pressuring the municipality to do something about this situation."

Mr Coen Rous, a lawyer acting for the farm's owners, refused to comment on the conditions at the premises and threatened to take legal action if SOUTH published this story.
ANC to dole out unjustly gained farms

By CHARLES LEONARD

AN ANC government would redistribute farmland acquired through nepotism and corruption or which was "hopelessly indebted".

This is outlined in the organisation's land and agricultural policy, which forms part of a comprehensive policy document drawn up with little fanfare at the end of May.

The policy also provides for a limit on the number of farms owned by individuals and for redistribution of "vacant, unused and under-utilised state land suitable for residential and agricultural purposes".

Access

It adds: "Persons who have benefited from corrupt and illegal transfers of land, or interests in land, or from corrupt and illegal investment in or development of land, shall be required to account for such benefits and make appropriate restitution."

The policy stops short of nationalisation of farms, but does make provision for family farms, small-scale farms and co-operative farming systems.

While priority would be given to victims of forced removal, "no one will be evicted from land or have his or her home destroyed, unless a tribunal or another court has considered the availability of alternative accommodation".
State rushes to sell disputed tribal land to white farmers

STATE officials have rushed through the sale of 6,000 hectares of public land to white farmers knowing that black former occupiers have lodged claims to be allowed to return to the land.

After months of delay, the officials quickly closed the deal and registered the transfers within a few days — before a government commission on land claims could hear arguments from the former inhabitants.

Mr Justice Van Reenen, chairman of the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation, this week ordered an immediate inquiry into the sale of the more than 6,000 ha at Majeng near Barkly West, in the northern Cape, to six white farmers two weeks ago.

"We are having a lot of difficulties in this regard," he said, but declined to comment further.

In March Judge Van Reenen publicly appealed to the government to freeze the sale of all land under review by his commission. The body was set up by the government recently to adjudicate conflicting land claims in the post-apartheid era.

The Majeng land was sold despite:

• A promise by Agriculture Minister Kraai Van Niekerk in May 1990 that agricultural land seized by the government in terms of apartheid's consolidation policies would not be sold, and

• A pledge by Dr Jacob de Villiers, Minister of Regional and Land Affairs, that black communities forced off their land by past policies would be given a chance to put their case to the Land Commission.

By BRIAN POTTINGER

This week lawyers representing the Majeng community, shocked by the sudden registration of sale, were preparing to take legal action to challenge the transaction.

The transfer of the land has taken even ministers by surprise.

Dr De Villiers conceded in a letter to the legal representatives of the community on June 18 that he was unaware the Majeng land had been advertised for sale. He promised to arrange an urgent meeting between the legal representatives, himself and Dr Kraai van Niekerk, under whose jurisdiction the matter ultimately falls, to discuss the issue.

The date for the meeting was to be set on Dr De Villiers's return next week from abroad. He will be too late officials have forged ahead with the registration of the deeds of sale.

The Majeng community only recently discovered that the land they were contesting was in the final stages of being parcelled up and sold off to white farmers.

The community lived in the area between the Haris and Vaal rivers near Barkly West since before the turn of the century.

Between 1969 and 1974 the families were compelled by the government to move to Vaalbosheek, about 50km away, which was later incorporated in Botshabelo. In 1984 many of the families were again moved — this time to Kgomoato, about 30km from Majeng.

The Majeng land, meanwhile, was registered in the name of the SA government. For years it lay fallow, and was then leased to neighbouring white farmers.

Since late 1990 members of the Majeng community have petitioned the government for permission to return to the land — either as tenants or owners.

The Majeng community's name has appeared on all the lists of dispossessed communities represented by the National Land Committee — an association of legal and development agencies — since March last year.

A delegation of former residents went to visit one of the white farmers presently occupying Majeng land early last month to request permission to visit and clean their ancestors' graves.

The occupier refused them entry and claimed that he and other white farmers had already bought the property. The astonished delegation also heard that a large section had been acquired by the Department of Correctional Services for the building of a prison.

Lawyers representing the community were then told by the government that the farm had been sold on January 31 to an unnamed number of farmers.

The Majeng land had been advertised in 1989 and was available to farmers with adjoining properties.

The purchasers of the newly acquired land would have to consolidate their land with the newly acquired land at their own expense within five years.

The sale took effect from January 31 this year — nearly 20 months after the promise by Mr Van Niekerk that no more land expropriated from blacks would be sold.

Signed

On Saturday, June 20, this year, impatient with refusal to allow them to visit their ancestors' graves, the Majeng community attempted to unilaterally visit the family graves on one of the white-occupied farms. Police turned them away.

The demonstration, however, had an apparently electrifying effect on the bureaucracy.

On the following Monday, June 22, the six farmers hastily signed their final assurances that they would consolidate the newly purchased land with their existing holdings.

The documents were delivered the next day by hand to the Deeds Office in Kimberley. The title deeds were lodged and registered the same day — remarkable given that the usual registration period is at least a week.

The Department of Agricultural Development officials dealing with the Majeng matter has since been arrested and was unavailable for comment.

The departmental officials at present responsible for Majeng did not respond to inquiries.

Expense

On March 17 this year lawyers advised the Land Commission that representations were to be made on behalf of the Majeng community for the return of their land.
Drought brings record harvest

By DON ROBERTSON

THE drought has been good for at least one sector of the farming community.

Grape farmers on the banks of the Orange River between the Reebokberg dam and Anghrabie Falls expect a record crop of sultanas and raisins.

Production is forecast at 41,000 tons compared with 32,000 last year. Most of the crop will be exported and could earn about R35-million in foreign currency.

Louis Roux, production manager of the SA Dried Fruit Co-operative near Upington which processes sultanas throughout the year, says this could make SA the world's second-largest sultana exporter.

He says ideal conditions are little rain in the growing season and none during the drying. The drought has made conditions perfect for the crop.

Grapes are dried on cement bases in the open.

About 800 farmers cultivate an area of about 260,000 acres along the Orange River. They grow golden, Thompsons and Orange River grapes, which are used for sultanas and raisins. Small quantities are also delivered from Namibia and the Douglas area near Kimberley.

The SA market takes between 8,000 and 10,000 tons, leaving about 22,000 for export, mainly to Japan and Europe.

Production costs are about R250 a hectare with an average yield of about 21 tons a ha. Farmers are paid a minimum of R500 a ton by the co-operative, rising to R750, depending on quality.

Mr Roux says international prices are lower than in 1991, but grades are better.
Mfengu move closer to home

THE Mfengu community, dispossessed of their land in the Tsitsikama in 1977, will resettle 50 families on land held in trust for them by the Moravian Church.

The move comes after a 15-year struggle by the community to return to ancestral land given to them by the British in appreciation for Mfengu assistance against the Boers.

They were forcibly moved to the Ciskei in 1977, and their land was sold to white farmers.

The Tsitsikama Exile Association's co-ordinator, Mashwababa Msizi, said this week the resettlement is to take place in August, and forms part of a community programme of action decided on in April last year.

Msizi said: "Fifty families will be resettled on the Moravian Mission land which is adjacent to the land which we were removed from. The resettlement to the Moravian land has been properly planned with the assistance of professionals, a town planner, civil engineer and a land surveyor."

According to Msizi, the community and the Moravian Church were shown the final draft of the resettlement area which was drawn up by "professionals".

"The community is now waiting for the Moravian Church to resume the process of resettling the community."

He said the government had agreed to the return of the land several months ago, but there had been many delays.

Msizi said the government asked "us to come up with a resettlement package."

The community demanded a substantial portion of the original Mfengu land for farming, some state-owned forest land, an appropriate site for resettlement with infrastructure and housing, and State assistance for the return and integration of the community back into the Tsitsikama.

However, the government asked for time to prepare its own package.

"We see the state's delaying tactics as a means to try and stall the resettlement process."

"The state has also conveyed to us that they do not have money to buy the land from the farmers who now own the Tsitsikama land."

"The association rejects this notion, especially after hearing that the Department of Development Aid squandered R3,2-billion."

Pen
THE agricultural machinery industry, serving a sector burdened by heavy debt, high interest rates and drought, faces a gloomier future.

Tractor sales — which accounted for about 50% of total agricultural machinery demand — look set to drop again, this year by a third over last year, and will probably barely peak at 2,600 units in 1992. This was a far cry from 1981 when 24,882 were sold. Boeressens MD Lukas Rautenbach said.

Farm implement sales had dropped steadily over the past decade because of recessionary conditions in the agricultural sector. The full effect of the most recent drought on tractor and farm implement sales would become apparent only towards the end of September. Combine harvester sales had already plummeted from 800 in 1991 because there was no crop to harvest. Rautenbach believed only 50 would be sold this year.

Jim Rankin, director of Agfacts, a close corporation providing regular agricultural statistics, forecast tractor sales to continue falling in the short term although a slow recovery could materialise the medium term.

Average sales of 15,000 a year which characterised the 1980's were gone forever. He said long-term sales in the future would probably peak at between 7,000 and 8,000 a year.

The local tractor industry was living hand-to-mouth, said Rankin. And it could be assumed that employment levels in the tractor assembly industry had dropped in line with sales. Many dealers were diversifying.

AIM Holdings MD Roy Wiggle, with three Massey Ferguson dealerships, said a trend had developed with agricultural co-operatives buying financially-strapped private dealerships.

Ford tractor sales manager Bunny Raphael believed an industry shakeout could be imminent even though two manufacturers, Landini and MB-Trac pulled out last year.

Four manufacturers, Ford, Massey Ferguson, John Deere and Fiat accounted for 99% of the 573 sales to May 1992 with Ford in the lead with 32.5% of the market.

In 1991, tractor sales fell 26.7% to 2,861 units compared with 3,402 the previous year, Agfacts statistics showed.

Tractors were imported in semi-knocked-down form. The import duties on tractor engines — designed to protect SA engine manufacturer Atlantic Diesel Engines — added 40% to the cost of an imported engine and 25% onto the cost of the tractor.
Drought toll far-reaching

CAPE TOWN — The drought would have a critical effect on the agricultural industry’s ability as national provider of food and employment, socio-economic stabiliser and foreign currency earner in the short term.

Preliminary indications were that farming production would shrink by a further 14% this year, Boland Bank said in its July economic review of agriculture in SA.

However, for the medium term, there was cause for optimism.

"Export opportunities should broaden considerably within the next five years, given the lifting of sanctions, renewed international growth and the movement towards more open agricultural markets", the bank said.

The sustained anti-inflation monetary policy was bound to bear fruit in the "near future" and was sure to contribute to getting agricultural input costs under control. — Sapa.
Drought aid committee

GOVERNMENT had established a ministerial drought committee as part of a co-ordinated drought assistance plan, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk announced yesterday.

The committee is to attend to the formulation and further refining of the countrywide drought assistance policy and will be responsible for its implementation.
Govt sets up new drought committee

PRETORIA. — The government has established a Ministerial Drought Committee as part of a co-ordinated drought assistance plan, Agriculture Minister Dr Krael van Niekerk announced yesterday.

The committee will formulate and be responsible for the implementation of the countrywide drought assistance policy. It will be supported by a management committee with the superintendent-general of the Department of Agricultural Development, Dr F J van der Merwe, as convenor.

More than 960,000 people are receiving drought relief food in Zimbabwe's Mashinjro province every month, the region's governor Mr Josiah Hungwe said yesterday.

In June 964,000 people were fed and this month 968,000 people in this parched province of 1.5 million would receive free rations, he said. — Sapa
Knowing more about women’s organisations

The Rural Women’s Movement (RWM) was started by rural women for rural women. "Rural women must have a voice — and that voice must be heard," says Lydia Kompo of the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (Transco).

And the RWM, which started two years ago, is now trying to make their voice even louder. It has joined the newly formed National Women’s Coalition, an umbrella body representing more than 50 women’s organisations from around the country.

This coalition plans to draw up a list of demands from all the women’s organisations and make sure that the rights of women become part of a new constitution.

Kompo, who is better known as Mama Lyndia, identified the problems that rural women face.

Rural women face oppression from four sides — because they are black, because they are women, because they are poor and because they live in the rural areas. But the rural women’s movement plans to change all this, Learn & Teach reports.

Rural women face oppression from four sides — because they are black, because they are women, because they are poor and because they live in the rural areas. But the rural women’s movement plans to change all this, Learn & Teach reports.

Another problem the woman faces is that traditional law allows a man to have two or more wives. "This causes problems," says RWM president Bonyo Makhize. "Men cannot support many wives financially and they cannot give all their wives the same amount of love and affection."

Given enough time, it seems the RWM will give women in the rural areas a stronger and more powerful voice.

For more information about the RWM, you can contact Lydia Kompo at TRAC, Box 1267, Johannesburg, 2000.
Tel: (011) 333-1791.

On the move... women in the South African rural areas have started to rise and fight for their correct place in the institutions of power in their communities. They no longer accept that their place is in the kitchen.
Stutterheim water rations

EAST LONDON. — Water restrictions have been implemented in Stutterheim because of the drought in the Eastern Cape.

The Stutterheim town council has banned the use of municipal water for gardens, sports fields and to wash cars.

The restrictions will be eased when a pump at the Kusile River is replaced in seven weeks at a cost of R368,000.

Most of the town’s water comes from the Gabu Dam, now only 52 percent full. — Ecns.
GOVERNMENT officials persuaded the registrar of deeds in Kimberley to rush through the sale of public land to six white farmers without informing him that the land was also being claimed by black former residents.

The Department of Agricultural Development in Pretoria dispatched a senior official to Kimberley to shepherd the registration of the land through within a day instead of the normal week.

Mr Willie Swanepoel, registrar of deeds in Kimberley, said this week he would never have speeded up the registration of sale of the 6 000ha of land near Barkly West if he had known the background.

He said the department had told him there was a danger of "squatters" moving on to the land.

"It was unaware that the land in question was the subject of an inquiry by the Land Commission," he said. "Had I known there was a challenge to the land I would not have expedited the registration."

He said the department had contacted him about a week before the registration to make an appointment to lodge the documents.

The registrar's statement adds to the growing row over the treatment of the Majeng community. The dispute is now set to culminate in a court action aimed at setting aside the sale of the land.

The community was removed from its land outside Barkly West in the Northern Cape between 1969 and 1974 in terms of apartheid policies.

Since late 1989 members of the community have petitioned the government to let them return to the land — either as tenants or owners. The community's claims are before the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation — a special government commission set up to make recommendations on the use of state-owned land.

Earlier, two cabinet ministers had given assurances that land seized under apartheid laws, or subject to claims before the Land Commission, would not be sold off.

Last week lawyers representing the Majeng community discovered that the 6 000ha of disputed land had, in fact, already been parcelled up and sold off to neighbouring white farmers. The transfers had been registered on June 23.

Officials from the Department of Agricultural Development speeded up the process of registration when they learnt that lawyers for the community had become aware of the agreements to sell the land. The lawyers had contacted the government in an attempt to prevent registration.

Irrevocable

The state officials, it now appears, waived the condition of sale that required the farmers to consolidate their existing land with their newly acquired land before registration could be effected.

Instead, the officials got the farmers to sign irrevocable undertakings that they would in future consolidate their land, thus bypassing the terms of the agreement of sale and enabling immediate registration.

A legal representative of the Majeng community confirmed that senior counsel had been briefed and papers were being drawn to contest the sale of the land in the Supreme Court.
Free State Boer signs up for ANC

By CHARLES LEONARD

In 1989, Mr. Human stood as the DP candidate in Harrismith.

"We didn't do too well - pulled in only 400 votes - but the spin-offs were important. I didn't really want to stand for office, but a man from the district told me I should, as it would let him use his vote for the first time in 65 years."

The DP incurred quite a few active black members in the eastern Free State, especially from Qwaqwa. At the beginning of 1990, when the homelands government called an election, the DP and the ANC were part of a broad alliance opposing the election.

"That was my first encounter with mass meetings and grassroots democracy, and it became clear that the ANC and I were talking the same language."

But it was not until five DP MPs joined the ANC this year that he switched his allegiance.

"Pierre Cronje is a good friend, and when he told me they had been kicked out of the DP for joining the ANC, I knew the right thing for me to do was join as well. I went to the local township office of the ANC. I was welcomed and signed up."

Mr. Human's political affiliation is sometimes in the knowledge among his friends and neighbors. "I've made no secret of it, but everything seems to have changed."

Picture: HERBERT MABUZA

Free State farmer Cas Human on his farm near Harrismith. He believes the ANC offers the only hope for those who believe in a non-racial South Africa.

Born in Pretoria and raised in a traditional Afrikaner home, Mr. Human - a devout member of the Nř Kerk - took a BSc degree in agriculture at Stellenbosch University.

"It was at university that I began to realise apartheid was wrong. It was 1976, and politics formed an important part of student discussions, sometimes right through the night."

"After 74, the Afrikaner lost his vision. The 'twant gowar' propaganda took hold, total onslaught became the watchword."

"Now the Afrikaner has had a new awakening. My generation is slowly but surely becoming part of the solution again. The difference is that my father's generation solved the poor white problem by looking after themselves - perhaps a little too well - whereas we are part of a broader South African solution," said Mr. Human.

The path that led him to the ANC was via the public service - as an agricultural administrator officer in the Bethlehem district - and postgraduate study at Pretoria University.

He started farming part-time near Harrismith in 1981.

"That's when I began to realise something was wrong with our economy, and with our politics. Almost daily, I was being confronted by people asking for a place to live, a bag of mealie-meal, anything just to stay alive."
White wealth "won't be seized"

AFFIRMATIVE action did not mean that white property and wealth would be "appropriated wholesale and given to blacks", ANC constitutional expert Prof Kader Asmal said in Durban this week.

Addressing the fifth annual Labour Law Conference at the University of Natal on Friday, Asmal said affirmative action implied: "national resources and revenues will be dedicated in large part to eliminating the advantages possessed by whites".
Baralong refuse to accept court ruling

By DAN DHLAMINI

FIFTY Baralong ba Modiboa, tribesmen, this week refused to accept the withdrawal of trespass charges against them.

Charges were laid following a second attempt by the men to re-occupy Machavestad in April this year.

A Baralong spokesman told the Potchefstroom magistrate that they would not accept the withdrawal of charges and that the case should proceed in order for them to return to their ancestral land.

The magistrate postponed the hearing to August 17 and the accused were released on R30 bail.

Angry Baralong said their return to Machavestad was not negotiable.
New drive to feed our drought-stricken nation

By Michael Chester

Nedcor Bank and The Star today link forces to launch a dynamic new rescue operation to throw emergency lifelines to tens of thousands of destitute families threatened with starvation in the drought crisis.

The project, named "Harvest for the Hungry", aims to trigger an action plan to rush food shipments into rural areas hit hardest of all. The meals to be distributed every month promise to run into millions.

It is planned to keep supplies moving at least until the end of October, when it is hoped the spring rains will have relieved the drought.

The disaster fund has been launched in urgent response to new warnings that no fewer than 2.5 million destitute South Africans are now suffering from malnutrition.

Nedcor Bank chief executive officer Richard Laubscher and The Star's editor-in-chief Richard Steyn have urged as many businessmen, concerned citizens and social organisations as possible to join the emergency exercise.

"Nedcor is engaging all of its banking divisions in the project — Nedbank, Nedfin and the Perm, with a nationwide network of branches.

One innovation is a plan to contribute an amount equal to the cost of feeding one child for one day each time a customer uses any of the 1,000 ATMs operated by the Perm and Nedbank — expected to total 3.5 million meals every month.

The Star plans to devote a new 087 line to a special service to enable telephone callers to pledge contributions.

From tomorrow, 10c from every call made to one of TelStar's 087 lines will be donated to the fund.

The Star will also mobilise its official fund-raising infrastructure to set up and manage the "Harvest" fund, in conjunction with the Nedcor Chairman's Fund.

Also being encouraged are special "Harvest Festivals" nationwide as collection points for food packages.

Food for all the bottom line — Page 15

Urges action ... Nedcor Bank's Richard Laubscher.
Food for all the bottom line

THE FULL DRASTICITY of the drought has started to sink in. The impact has been devastating for millions in southern Africa. Operation Hunger executive director Findlay Msimang estimates that at least 10 million people in southern Africa are facing severe food shortages, with a growing list of villages reporting cases of malnutrition.

A recent report by the World Food Programme (WFP) revealed that the number of people facing food shortages in southern Africa has risen to 15 million from 11.5 million last year. The report also highlighted that the drought was expected to last until at least November 2019.

Nedcor Bank and The Star have linked forces to launch a disaster fund named Harvest for the Hungry. It is the first emergency response to ongoing food shortages that has received significant support from both public and private sectors.

The fund will be used to source goods and services from local businesses, ensuring that the food and other essential items reach those in need. The initiative is a testament to the power of collaboration in addressing the challenges faced by communities affected by the drought.

Happiness is a full belly... schoolchildren at a Food and Nutrition for the Hungry emergency feeding scheme at Matsaka school in Venda.
‘Emergency’ in water crisis

PRETORIA. — Parts of Southern Africa are running out of water.

In Lesotho, the drought is hitting hard in mountain districts where even hospitals are running out of water. In one hospital, only one tap was being used for one hour a day for all hospital needs.

In Natal, 20 million litres of water are to be delivered to drought-stricken communities in the Natal sugar belt.

Operation Amanzi, instituted by the South African Sugar Association (Sasa) this month, aims to counter the effects of the water crisis which has reached emergency levels throughout most of Natal.

Severe water restrictions came into force in the Amanzimtoti/Kingsburgh area yesterday, while similar restrictions have been in force on the South and North Coasts since February this year.

South Africa and Botswana have joined forces to save about 150 hippos threatened by drought along the Limpopo river.

Conservation authorities of both countries have agreed to jointly feed the animals until the start of the rainy season, the TPA said yesterday.

In Swaziland, the electricity board has cut the power supply to hundreds of consumers, including businesses and some government departments, which have failed to pay their accounts. — Sapa
Weatherman sees good rain coming

PRETORIA — The great drought which devastated millions of hectares of SA’s farmlands last summer is almost certainly over and a season of good rains ahead is a “probability”, according to authorities.

Pretoria University’s meteorological department head Prof Johan van Heerden said although the weather was still influenced by El Nino, a high pressure system off South America’s western coastlines, the “event” appeared to be in a decaying phase.

This century there had been 16 El Nino episodes and only once had it happened that the phenomenon had occurred in consecutive years.

Van Heerden stressed, however, that El Nino was not the only cause of droughts. Records confirmed an El Nino event was usually followed by average or above-average rainfall.

“The probability is the coming summer will be a wet one,” Van Heerden said. However, it would be until end-September before it could positively be said that El Nino “has either left us or still lingering”.

The probability of normal rainfall in the coming summer is great news for the economy. Last summer’s drought, according to official estimates, cost the country R2.5bn in lost exports. To be added, economists say, is the enormous cost of importing grain to supplement crops destroyed by drought.

To rehabilitate distressed farmers, government has allocated R3.5bn in drought aid. The foreign exchange loss is not the only drought-associated loss to the economy, economists point out. The plunge in farmers’ incomes rippled through to adversely affect other sectors of the economy.

The sense of urgency brought about by the drought has led to the Public Works Department speeding up work to eliminate congestion of heavy vehicles at Beit Bridge border post.

A R12m upgrading of the post, which will allow it to cope with the traffic for the next 10 years, has already begun.

A Public Works spokesman said in Pretoria the drought in Zimbabwe — the worst in living memory — and improved commercial relations had resulted in a sudden and dramatic increase in traffic, reversing a decision to postpone the upgrading until 1994.

A new border post on the Zambian side is also nearing completion.

Sapa reports the emergency fund of the SA Agricultural Union grew to R5m yesterday with a donation of R1.5m by the Pretoria City Council.

Of the donated amount, R1m is to be paid into the fund. The rest is to be spent on a study into a report by the Human Sciences Research Council on the marketing of fresh produce.

SAAU president Boet Fourie said the donation would help the union provide assistance to drought-striken farmers and farm workers for another three months.

About 30 000 tons of dry beans, shipped to SA as part of the biggest consignment of the commodity imported to the country, has landed in Durban. About 90 000 tons of beans are to be imported because of drought-related shortfalls in the local crop.

Our Durban correspondent reports the millimonth ton of maize was unloaded in Durban Harbour yesterday since the start of the drought relief programme.
Foreigners put off by politics, violence

OFFSHORE interest in local residential properties has dropped off substantially due to political instability and violence.

Seeff International properties director Carmella Seeff says that after Nelson Mandela's release interest was brisk and had been expected to continue.

"We saw a lot of inquiries for farms and holiday accommodation along the Atlantic seaboard. We sold over R100m worth of properties after Mandela's release and believed that would continue as SA moved towards a political solution.

"However, foreign investors are now still looking at our properties but definitely adopting a wait-and-see attitude. They are concerned about the security and return on their investment and are not prepared to buy until the situation has improved," she says.

A more concrete ANC policy on foreign investment, the resumption of Codesa talks and a more positive mood would see renewed foreign interest.

Regular tours of prospective buyers are brought out from London, Germany, the Far East and the US.

The London office has received more than 300 inquiries from prospective immigrants, who are unable to sell their present homes due to the tough English market.

"We are looking to move into the investment field rather than the residential market in the UK and are talking to two of the largest London-based English real estate firms," she says.

Trade missions are being opened in Pretoria and Cape Town, but tend to rent residential properties rather than buy them. Speculation in residential property by foreign buyers has also dried up as it is now difficult to rent the property, resulting in the investor receiving no return on his investment.

Interest is still centred around Cape farms and several spectacular sales are concluded every year.
Last-ditch bid to halt drought exodus

RELIEF agencies have launched a last-ditch bid to halt the exodus of 3-million drought victims from rural areas to towns in the PWV area.

An Independent Development Trust (IDT) spokesman said yesterday five task forces had been formed as part of an urgent R100m drought relief programme.

The main aim was to prevent the movement of affected people by providing emergency aid to the hardest-hit areas of the northern and eastern Transvaal.

Administering assistance would become too difficult once people had relocated to urban areas, the spokesman said.

One of the task forces, the water provision force, was launched earlier this week and four field teams were mobilised in parts of Venda, Lebowa and Gazankulu.

Task force co-ordinator Lea Abrams said the only source of water in many areas was coming in by truck. "In the most critical places, tankers are providing a mere 25 litres of water every four days for each family."

Drought

He said many people were forced to buy additional water from vendors for as much as R6 a litre.

"In Venda, only one third of the country will get any crop at all, and that will amount to only 15% of a normal crop."

Abrams said 75% of the livestock in the homeland was expected to die.

There is an enormous amount of state resources that have not been going to the right places.

The IDT has earmarked an initial R40 000 for the water provision task force, while funds from government's R3.8bn aid package were also being made available.

From Page 1

Abrams said several private companies had expressed interest in donating money as well as transport and manpower to the task force.

An additional R22m has been pledged by an overseas organisation.

Water Affairs strategic planning deputy director Simon Foster said the water provision task force would combine with the state's resources to identify the worst-hit regions and provide immediate help.

Foster said Water Affairs had been eager to get involved with drought relief schemes but had not been allocated state funds to do so.
Helping hand for needy on farms

Organised agriculture is now dispersing an average R200 000 a month in emergency aid to the needy on farms in drought-stricken areas. More than two-thirds of the money is spent on helping black farmworkers and their families.

"We do not make relief contributions available for the purchase of food. There are other organisations, including The Star and the State, that provide such funds," said SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) director Piet Swart.

The SAAU emergency relief fund has now received about R3 million in contributions. — Agricultural Correspondent.
JOHANNESBURG. — Relief agencies have launched a last-ditch bid to halt the mass exodus of three million drought victims from rural areas to townships in the PWV area.

An Independent Development Trust (IDT) spokesman said yesterday five task forces had been formed as part of an urgent R100-million drought-relief programme.

The main aim was to prevent the movement of affected people by providing emergency aid to the hardest-hit areas in the Transvaal.

Administering assistance would become too difficult once people had moved to urban areas, the spokesman said.

One of the task forces, the water-provision force, was launched earlier this week and four field teams were mobilised in parts of Venda, Lebowa and Gazankulu.

Task-force co-ordinator Mr Len Abrams said the only source of water in many areas was coming in by truck.

"In the most critical places, tankers are providing a mere 250 of water every four days for each family."

Mr Abrams said many people had no choice but to buy additional water from vendors for as much as R5/.

Water Affairs strategic planning deputy director Mr Simon Foster said the water provision task force and the state's resources would combine to identify the worst-hit regions and provide immediate help.

In the Eastern Cape many drought-hit farmers are on the brink of financial collapse.

Some have tried planting crops as many as four times in a drought that has been described as the worst in 70 years.

Dairy farmers have to feed their animals — mostly with feed bought from other areas.

Some farmers are selling their holiday homes to save their farms.
Deregulation of industries ‘to continue’

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — A shift on direct state involvement in non-strategic industries was already in progress and would continue, Deputy Agriculture Minister Tobie Meyer said in Bloemfontein this week.

Speaking at the Orange Free State Milk Producers’ conference, he said there was justification for the criticism that SA was over-regulated.

Referring to the sharp increase in retail food prices, Meyer said during the past 11 years the CPI had risen by 352% against a 387% increase for food. This translated on an annual basis as 14.7% against 15.7% for food prices.

On the Board of Tariffs and Trade investigation into food price inflation, he said an unfair share of the blame for food price rises was attributed to the control boards.

The report claimed 29% of the difference between producer and consumer prices was caused by control board schemes.

Meyer said this was an oversimplification. The mere stripping of boards’ statutory powers would not result in less expensive food for consumers. The recent removal of statutory control over consumer prices on certain agricultural products had resulted in sharp price increases and not the other way around.

He said the food price problem was part of the entire economic process. The DTT investigation is continuing with a deeper probe into the reasons for price increases in the food chain after products leave the farm gate.

Referring to the Dairy Board, he said a new dairy industry stabilisation scheme was under consideration.

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24 July 1992

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Payment of debenture interest for the period 1 August 1992 to 31 August 1992 will be made to the holders of the debentures registered as such at the close of business on Friday, 7 August 1992. For the purpose of determining such registered holders, the debenture transfer register and the register of debentureholders will be closed from 8 August 1992 to 21 August 1992 both days inclusive.

Cheques in payment of interest will be posted on or about 28 August 1992.

Secretaries and Transfer Secretaries
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Johannesburg
24 July 1992
Removals victim goes to court

BY CARMEL RICKARD

Old age pensioner Andries Radebe, victim of the government’s “black spot” removals 15 years ago, wants the supreme court to declare the expropriation of his land unlawful, and give it back to him.

Radebe, who had title deeds to his farm in Cremin, Natal, has begun action in the Pietermaritzburg Supreme Court testing the legality of his 1977 forced removal. However, 99 other people removed from their land in Cremin during the same period are waiting in the wings to see whether Radebe is successful.

His is the first case this decade giving the courts an opportunity to test the legality of removals carried out under apartheid legislation. Radebe was moved under laws which allowed the state to expropriate land, force black title-holders off their properties (called “black spots”) and clear them from areas the government designated “white”.

By 1985, an estimated 3.5 million people had been removed under these laws, and another 1.9 million were under threat of removal. Many, like Radebe, have never given up hope that they will return to their land. Even before the court starts to hear his application, it could encourage “black spot” victims in other parts of the country to look for possible grounds for similar court action.

Lawyers from Durban’s Legal Resources Centre who are acting for Radebe argue that in non-political expropriation cases, the courts protect the rights of the landowner by insisting that every procedural technicality is observed in the letter.

However, in Radebe’s case a number of formalities required by the law were not carried out. For example, the Land Act and the Expropriation Act say the owner of a property must be properly notified of a planned expropriation. Radebe claims he never received any notification, nor was any notice put up on his house or the boundary fence.

The Expropriation Act also says if the owner cannot be traced the notice must be published in the Government Gazette and other media. This too was not done.

The law further states that expropriation must be carried out “for public purposes”. However the land lay fallow for 11 years after Radebe and his family were removed to Ezakheni township in northern Natal. Only then was it sold to cattle farmer Derek Dreyer who used it for pasture.

Radebe says that if his land had been needed for public purposes, it would have been put to that use immediately after it was expropriated, or very soon afterwards.

Therefore, he argues, “the minister did not come to his decision to expropriate fairly and honestly because the property was not in reality required for public purposes”.

A major hurdle for this and any other case brought to test “black spot” removals is that it happened so long ago. To explain the delay, Radebe outlines steps he took over the years to contest and query the expropriation as well as the R4 017 cash he was paid in compensation, which he offers to return.

Former Catholic priest and author of several books about the effects of the removal policy, Cosmas Desmond, supports Radebe’s application in an affidavit. Desmond explains how removals affected the communities — usually illiterate, frightened, rural people. He says the results were so devastating that “immediate and effective litigation to rectify wrongs” was almost impossible.

ANC-Costatu plan daily paper

By REG RUMNEY

The African National Congress-Congress of South African Trade Unions alliance is planning to launch its own daily newspaper. The publication will not, it is reliably learnt, rely solely on donor money but will mobilise private sector funds. Details are still sketchy but it is understood a company will be set up to run the paper. The company will be controlled by a trust, comprised of two ANC representatives, two Cosatu representatives, one South African Communist Party representative, one other and private investors. The trust and the private investors will appoint the board of directors of the new company.

The ANC and Cosatu have started to raise funds. Nigerian investors are said to be interested, and the ANC has commitments from Italian unions and the Italian government to set up a democratic media centre. Potential local investors such as the Federation of African Business and Consumer Organisations and National African Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry have also been approached.

Whether to buy an existing operation or start a new paper from scratch has not yet been decided. But it is unlikely the Anglo American controlled English media groups will sell any of their papers. Anglo is believed to be strongly opposed to selling any of its newspaper interests to political organisations.

Argus chief executive Doug Band says his company’s position is clear: it has no publications for sale to political organisations. However, it will be willing to help any “political” newspaper with distribution and printing and the like. "Should the ANC and Cosatu wish to buy or start a newspaper we would help them in any possible way."
Drinking water black market

Weekend Argus Correspondent

MARITZBURG. — A black market in drinking water has emerged as the drought tortures people and animals in thornveld areas between Greytown and Muden.

Desperate people in isolated areas are having to pay as much as R10 for 25 litres, although the "going" rate is R2 for 25 litres. Their streams, dams and boreholes have dried up and they do not have transport to cart water. The main water sellers are taxi drivers.
Oilseeds Board helps drought-hit farmers

The Oilseeds Board has allocated R28.3m from its reserve fund to curtail the effects of the drought on agricultural production. B. D. D. 27-7-77

Oilseeds Board acting GM Simon Streicher said the financial situation of producers was critical.

Poor agricultural conditions and high input costs threatened to force many farmers out of business.

Subsequently, the board had started to make discretionary payments of R6/ton in the case of groundnuts and R15/ton for sunflower seeds. The payments were based on delivery to agents during 1989, 1990 and 1991.

"Money for the reserve fund, raised by a special levy, has been kept for just such an emergency."

Streicher said the board would not be making payments to any insolvent estates.

Nละคร had funds been earmarked for soya bean producers as reserves were too small for any meaningful payments to be made.

The latest estimate for the sunflower crop was 174 000 tons, down from its average annual yield of 600 000 tons. Streicher said manufacturers of oilseed products would be importing seed and oil to compensate for the shortage.

"This is a disaster year and despite our efforts we could see a lot of producers forced out of business."

A minimum amount of money had been set aside within the reserve fund in the event of further drought.
Africa ‘unable to feed itself’

LONDON. — The number of starving people in the world has fallen over the past 20 years, but in Africa populations continue to rise beyond the continent’s ability to feed itself.

A report by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation released yesterday says 18 million people will need emergency food aid for the rest of this year in Southern Africa, where drought has led to a drop of about 60% in food production.

It also warns that there is a threat of widespread famine in the Horn of Africa unless a major relief effort is mounted, because rains have been poor in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda.

FAO director-general Mr Edouard Szoums said: “While many countries have made impressive ground in the fight against undernutrition, especially in the Far East, Africa still gives grave cause for concern.”

The report shows the number of chronically undernourished people in developing countries was 766 million in 1988-90 compared with 941 million in 1969-71.

The percentage of the population of developing countries who do not receive their energy needs has fallen from 38% to 20%.

But Africa’s number of starving rose by 67 million in 20 years, from 191 million in 1969-71 to 158 million in 1988-90.

By 1988-90 there was enough food in the world — if distributed according to individual requirements — to feed the world’s population more than adequately.

The FAO is launching a global campaign on nutrition, starting with a major conference in Rome in December. — Telegraph
Competing with the rats for food

BLOEMFONTEIN — The withering drought is driving black peasants from the dusty brown veld into rapidly growing shacklands around cities.

Here, people like Leah Mokguthu live, in every sense, on the fringes of society, virtual refugees in their own country, dependent on handouts.

Ms Mokguthu and many like her have been laid off by white farmers, themselves facing bankruptcy. They now scratch for a living in city rubbish dumps.

The Urban Foundation says by 1998 about 7 million South Africans were living in shacks; some 2 million of them around Johannesburg and Pretoria.

Ms Mokguthu, "retrenched" earlier this year after 25 years' labour on a Free State farm, spends her days competing with rats and dogs to scavenge food from Bloemfontein dumps. On a good day she earns R5 from selling plastic or glass to recycling firms.

Her family of eight depends heavily on Operation Hunger, which feeds some 2 million people.

"Some shack settlements outside Free State towns have doubled in size since December," said Operation Hunger deputy director Mpho Mashinini. "All because of the drought."

"It is anticipated that there will be major flows out of the homestead rural areas into the metropolitan areas," a recent study by the Urban Foundation said. The foundation estimated more than a million people would move from the homelands to the cities in this decade.

Its figures show Durban nearly doubled its population from 1970 to 1990, making it one of the fastest growing cities in the world.

"The extent of Durban's squatting problem is second only to Mexico City's," said Anthony Minnaar in a study of squatter settlements around the city. — Sapa-Reuter.
Farmers' market cuts out retailers

By Géorge Nicholas
Agriculture Writer

In an effort to get food cheaper to consumers and at the same time benefit producers, a large "Jacaranda market" is being planned for Pretoria by Transvaal farmers.

The object of the weekly Saturday market, which is expected to open on August 15, is to cut out what farmers describe as the "exorbitant profits made on farm produce by retailers".

By selling their produce direct to consumers at prices much cheaper than those charged by the retail trade, they are convinced both consumers and producers will benefit considerably and that the relationship between the two sectors will improve.

The scheme has been organised by the Transvaal Agricultural Union and only members of the union will be permitted to send their offerings to the market, to be held at the Pioneer Museum at Silverton.

Farmers who wish to take part should contact the market's administrative official, Lorraine Hgermann, at (012) 800-1598.
Food stored as poor starve

Sowetan Correspondent

Food is being stockpiled because consumers cannot afford to buy it. About 9 000 tons of red meat will be in storage by the end of July, according to the Meat Board.

The chicken industry has huge stock build-ups between January and June which a large producer attributes to the flagging economy.

Consumer demand usually exceeds supply in the fishing industry but this is not the case at the moment.

This was largely because of slower sales owing to the state of the economy, a spokesman for a major fish wholesaler said.

Dairy Board general manager Mr Edu Roux said that the poor economy had also affected the dairy industry.

"Although there is still a shortage, the trend is towards a surplus in about a year's time," Roux said.


According to the latest consumer price index, the price of meat has risen 27 percent over the past year. This figure includes 10 percent VAT.

A spokesman for a major retail chain disputed the CPI figure. He said his chain had reduced prices in accordance with the meat surplus. The average price in October was R16.38 compared with R14.98 this month.

Hard-pressed consumer

Stockpiles of chicken had largely disappeared because sales had picked up owing to the cost of chicken relative to red meat, said County Fair group marketing manager Mr Jeremy Oven.

Just where should hard-pressed consumers turn for essential protein?

Mrs Sally Molana, president of the Black Housewives League, feels the situation is a disgrace.

"Unemployment is very high which directly affects the eating habits of poor people. They try to run away from red meat to fish but the price of fish goes up."

"They look to dairy products and see them pouring milk down the drain because of surpluses."

The Meat Board pointed out that meat was 50 to 60 percent cheaper if bought in bulk.

Molana said bulk sales were directed at high income earners and were not affordable in poorer, black communities.

ANC publicity officer Mr...
Abakor privatisation on track

PRETORIA — The privatisation of Abakor must hold tangible benefits for the public and should not be used to favour or entrench vested interests, says the Competition Board.

This was one of several recommendations made to the government board chairman Pierre Brooks said yesterday.

Brooks said care should be taken to ensure a market-related price was obtained for the business.

Abakor held a dominant position in the market and adequate steps should be taken to ensure a dominant parastatal was not simply converted into a dominant private sector business.

The current overlap between management of the Meat Board and Abakor’s directorate should not be allowed to continue after privatisation.

A serious attempt should be made to sell Abakor on a fragmented basis, with interested parties being able to tender for abattoirs on a single or collective basis.

The board also told government that privatisation of the red meat industry should be preceded by deregulation of key areas of the industry.

The minimum deregulation before privatisation should ensure that meat should be able to move freely throughout the country irrespective of its grading.

Privatisation should follow a suitable “window” period after deregulation so that investors could make a meaningful assessment of the worth of the business.

Meanwhile, according to the Policy Unit for Public Enterprises and Privatisation, the privatisation process of Abakor was “a long way down the road” and should be completed by the end of October.

The auditor’s report on the organisation has almost been completed.
Game farmers battle to save animals as drought tightens grip

By Dirk Nel
Northern Transvaal Bureau

PIETERSBURG — Game farmers in the drought-ravaged northern Transvaal now face crucial decisions as they consider ways to save thousands of vulnerable animals, while conservation officials are hard-pressed to deal with drought-related environmental issues over a wide area.

Kudu and giraffe are among the most recent species to succumb to the drought, and even the hardy warthog is threatened in some areas, ranchers say.

"It is not simply a matter of letting nature run its course," said Letsitele game rancher Piet Vorster. "We have interfered with the wildlife cycle, and now have the task of managing the game under our control, because their movements are restricted by fences."

Mr Vorster, owner of a herd of sable antelope, said he would soon have to capture these animals and feed them in specially constructed enclosures in order to ensure their survival.

He is a member of the local sable study group, established to work for the conservation of this species in the Letsitele-Gravelotte area, regarded as one of their prime habitats.

The Star observed that antelope in the bush were being fed lucerne on a large scale by many ranchers, particularly in the Letaba and Southpansberg districts, because of the declining water supply and deteriorating grazing conditions.

More hunters are being brought in to facilitate culling operations, but the profits for game ranchers are meagre, as most of the hunting proceeds are going into the feeding of the remaining animals.

Meanwhile regional nature conservation chief Dr Feltus Brand has expressed optimism about the survival of hippos in the rapidly drying Limpopo River, where a systematic feeding scheme has been in progress for two months with the aid of the Northern Transvaal Hippo Survival Fund.

He said the success of the scheme had been largely due to excellent teamwork between the provincial directorate of nature conservation, the SA Defence Force and the public.

During a briefing at Sterkloophoof farm near Groblersbrug, Dr Brand thanked the media for their role in publicising the plight of the hippos.
Govt relief funds locked in system by bureaucrats

DROUGHT relief funds will gather dust in government bank accounts until as late as March next year because of slow bureaucratic processes, says Water Supply Task Force co-convenor Len Abrams.

Abrams said the R350m allocated to Lebowa — one of the worst hit areas — would only arrive in March next year, because of the slow transfer process.

Relief money to other areas, such as Gazankulu, KwaZulu, Qwa Qwa, Kwa Ndebele and KwaNzwanzi, had been allocated but not transferred, he said.

Abrams said the areas desperately needed the money now because water resources were dwindling at a fast pace.

The task force is a joint initiative of government and independent agencies to bring water to most affected areas.

It was "totally absurd" that the task force had to rely on foreign funding to bring water to areas where the water shortage had reached emergency proportions, while government funds remained dormant, he said.

"There is a need for this money to flow, but it is tied up with other issues in the political environment."

"Among these political issues is the bantustans policy," he said.

Of the three-year R350m aid package, R150m had been allocated to drought relief for this financial year and R100m of this was allocated to the homelands.

An Agriculture Department spokesman, who did not wish to be named, denied yesterday there was any delay in getting aid money to relief agencies.

Funds would be distributed by the end of the year "at the latest".

Agricultural Development Department spokesman Mario Jordaan said yesterday the emphasis was on getting the money out "as soon as possible".

Meanwhile, Sapa reports that subtropical fruit producers might have to ask government for survival aid for the first time in the sector's history.

Letaba District Agricultural Union chairman Edward Vorster said banana farmers had already experienced harvest losses of up to 50% in some areas.
THE DAGGA DEBATE...

Dagga, it's the green moon.

Dagga keeps hunger at bay in poverty-stricken rural areas like the Tugela Valley. But legalising it would ruin the small farmers who tend their crops by the light of the moon.

By EDDIE KOCH

Jabu explains how these fields work. A syndicate of men from a village get together and locate a spot that cannot easily be found by the police. They gather their wives and children and trek into the mountains where they make a clearing by slashing and burning the trees. Then they prepare furrows and irrigation channels before planting the seed saved from the previous harvest.

“We often work night shift. The labourers take their buckets down to the river and climb up into the field to give our plants water. When the moon is full they clean out the weeds that grow between the plants,” says Jabu. “We plant twice a year. Once in summer and once in winter. It takes about five months for a seed to grow into a dagga tree. That tree gives us three crops of dagga. We take the first leaves off when the tree is young. You can smoke these leaves or sell them for a little money. But it’s not good stuff and we do this mainly to make sure that the plant grows well. Then you take the second layer of leaves. They make a strong dagga that earns good money.”

The third layer of leaves, which grow near the top of the plant where concentrations of intoxicating terrohydrocannabinol are at their highest, provide the best grade, which Jabu describes as “poison that gives us our real cash.”

The harvest of an average field will produce 15 to 20 bags which can be sold to runners on the roadside or at any of the stores that intersperse the region. And it’s a growers’ market, says Jabu. “I’ve never seen a seller waiting with his bag. People want this stuff. The dealers don’t argue a lot. They come. They look in the bag and smell some of the dagga. Then they say ‘OK’ and pay up.”

At R800 a bag that’s R16 000 per year from an average plot. This means that a talented dagga farmer who plants two crops a year and manages to get two harvests from each crop can generate an income of R64 000 a year. Every family in the Tugela Valley knows of people who have accumulated enough to buy a shop or start a small taxi business.

Two years ago Alan van Zuydam Reynolds, researcher for Indicator SA, estimated that the value of South Africa’s dagga crop amounted to a staggering R12-billion a year. This is more than six times the value of the country’s sugar production and nearly half the turnover of the country’s largest industrial conglomerate, Barlow Rand.

He based his rough estimate on conservative assumptions that police seized one-tenth of the amount of dagga produced every year. This year police report they seized dagga with a street value of more than R4-billion, suggesting that the annual input from sales of the drug into the local economy could be as high as R40-billion.

Dagga is grown in the hills and valleys of a swath of territory that runs down the eastern side of South Africa from Swaziland in the north, where “Swazi Heads” originate, through Natal where the legendary “Durban Poison” is cultivated, and down south into Transkei where the best brand is known as “St Johns Number One”.

David Cooper, an agriculturist who works for the Group for Environmental Monitoring, explains that much dagga is grown undercover because of its illegal nature.

“A few plants mixed in with a field of maize, or planted in an old field between homesteads, where ownership is not clear, or on a commercial farm is common,” he says. “But dagga growing in some areas relies on highly sophisticated agricultural practices: terraced fields and micro-irrigation where a spring or stream is diverted to water the field.”

Dagga is by far the biggest rural industry in the country. It keeps hunger at bay in thousands of households and there are countless children who owe their education to proceeds from the industry. In a village on the Transkei coast there is a small building which testifies to this: a primary school built out of profits from a field that was planted and harvested by the community.

“Dagga growing is a highly successful system of private enterprise carried out by some of the poorest and most marginalised people in the country,” says Graeme Addison, chairman of the Natal branch of the South African Rivermen’s Association (Sara). He has the opportunity to study the industry during frequent visits to remote parts of the country.

“It is the most viable cash crop for rural people, especially in areas where people have been forced off white-owned farms and into congested and eroded homeland areas like the Tugela Valley... Dagga is not a crime problem. It is an economic and political problem that is, in many ways, a legacy of apartheid.”

Police action, which takes the form of annual forays by helicopter into the main growing areas, hardly makes a dent in the trade. But it hurts the growers.

Jabu says turnover from sales of bread and other foodstuff to local people from his shop drops by up to a third after police raids. The statistic is confirmed by Linda Calverlee, owner of a nearby trading store, who says her revenue plunges by between 20 and 40 percent after a major police operation.

One of the skills a dagga cultivator must learn, says Jabu, is not to show how despondent he is when the police slash and burn a field near his house. “If he looks sad, they know he is the owner and arrest him.”

But don’t suggest to Jabu that this harassment should stop. Legalisation is a concept that worries him badly. “No man. That would mean anybody could grow the stuff and the growers would make less money.”

A friend of Neil Alcock, a development worker from the Tugela Valley who was killed while trying to negotiate a peace treaty during a faction fight there, put it differently: “The police are my friends. The police work hard for me. I’d broke if dagga was legal. Every bloody fool would start growing his own.”
Farmers unhappy with drought aid measures

PRETORIA — Organised agriculture is to appeal to the Justice Minister to appoint former magistrates to help apply the drought aid measures recently announced by government.

Transvaal Agricultural Union president Dries Bruwer said magistrates, who also happened to be chairmen of the joint local committees that dealt with applications for drought aid, were in many cases unable to carry out the additional tasks.

Bruwer said the TAU would try to get financial institutions to join forces to assist farmers.

Meanwhile the severe drought is starting to kill big game. Hundreds of antelope and other grazing animals have begun to weaken and die in the parched plains of the north and east.

Hippo and crocodile face starvation.

Lion, leopard and hyena, while thriving as prey weakened by drought becomes easier to catch, have started killing one another in disputes over shrinking water-bearing territory.

But game experts and officials say that the survivors, and the tourist industry that depends on them, will emerge stronger from nature's onslaught.

"If you can divorce yourself from the impulse of sentiment, drought is really a very beautiful process," said Kruger National Park director Salomon Joubert.

"You get a purification of the gene pool. It's a rejuvenating process."

Tourism, officials say, will benefit as stronger, better looking animals will boost SA's reputation among game viewing enthusiasts overseas.

However, "game farms do not maintain predators like lion and also provide winter feed for their stock, so overpopulation and overgrazing is a problem," said Johan Pauw of the Pasture Research Institute in Pretoria. "Every blade of grass is chewed off so plants cannot reproduce."

The agricultural development department has advised game farmers to cull up to 60% of their stock to conserve topsoil and grasses. — Sapa-Reuters.
Angola poised to be friend, not foe to SA

STEFAAN BRÜMMER
Staff Reporter

UNTIL the Namibian settlement, South Africa and Angola traded little but death and destruction.

Now Angola — less than two months from elections that could finally bring down the curtain on years of instability — promises to become one of South Africa’s main economic partners in Africa.

Trade and project deals could mean millions for South African companies and the Western Cape — the closest industrial hub by sea — is well placed to clinch a major share.

In return, Angola could benefit from South African expertise to rebuild an infrastructure and economy ravaged by war.

Mr Andrew Maggs, manager of the South African Foreign Trade Organisation’s Africa trade intelligence programme, said there were no comprehensive figures on trade between the two countries, but he confirmed the trend.

He predicted that Angola’s rich potential could eventually make it South Africa’s main African trading partner, ahead even of Zimbabwe.

"Potentially it’s bigger than Zimbabwe. You can say it’s in an embryonic stage now, but 10, 15 years down the line it’s possible — even probable — that Angola will be the biggest," he said.

A survey by his organisation last year showed that South African companies regarded Angola as more promising for future opportunities than any other African country.

"We frequently take delegations into Luanda," said Mr Maggs. "Most of the guys are from the construction industry ... To state the obvious, there is an enormous amount of reconstruction to be done there as a consequence of the war."

World Bank funding for reconstruction projects provided an extra incentive to get involved. If all went well in the elections, the bank was expected to step up that funding.

But there was scope for development beyond reconstruction, said Mr Maggs.

"Most guys have it on their hit list because of the projects. But there is potential across all sectors."

Angola was rich in oil and minerals and had huge agricultural potential — not least in coffee, an important export before the war.

Renewed interest in Angola has meant more South African ships carrying cargo to Luanda and Lobito.

Last month, Unicorn Lines extended its traditional coastal container shipping service between Durban and Walvis Bay to Luanda.

Captain Dave de Wet, Unicorn executive director for SA liner services, said that after Angola "became open" last year a mixed breakbulk/container service was provided by ships on the West African route.

"There has been a rapid growth from occasionally calling to a regular call every two to three weeks."
Half of all farmers need drought aid

PRETORIA — About half of SA’s farmers are applying for drought aid from government, agricultural sources say.

All applications must be in by the end of next week.

However, farmers say bureaucratic delays in distributing the R3.8bn in drought aid may result in aid coming too late in the season to make the planting of summer crops possible.

It is understood the problem was discussed urgently yesterday by the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU).

The enormous task of processing the applications for aid by the agricultural co-ops has run into a bottleneck, and urgent short-cut procedures are required, farmers say.

An Agricultural Department spokesman said 50,000 aid application forms had been sent to 35 agricultural co-ops.

The eastern Transvaal co-op alone had asked for 10,000 forms.

The co-ops, aware of the approaching planting deadlines, are working hard to process the applications.

The livelihood and survival of many drought-battered grain and livestock farmers will depend on the extent and timing of assistance, agricultural economists stress.

Farmers who qualify will be entitled to R175 a hectare. Also available is R109/ha to compensate for last season’s losses.

The economists say that without the aid, the coming summer crops — especially maize — even in a favourable season, will not meet domestic needs.

Meanwhile, CSS figures released yesterday show an increase of 13% in farming debt at the end of 1988 — from R10,774m in 1987 to R12,176m.

Sapa reports that Zimbabwe has increased estimates of its maize imports by nearly 60% to 2.5 million tons.

Demand was increasing in peasant farming areas — the worst hit sector — while improved transport meant more food was being delivered.

Zimbabwe aid agency officials said the rate of consumption had risen from about 140,000 tons a month in June to more than 180,000 tons in July.
Countdown to food aid drive under way

By Michael Chester

Nedcor Group and The Star today began the countdown for the start of emergency food shipments under the new "Harvest for the Hungry" disaster programme to rush aid to hundreds of thousands of families suffering from malnutrition as a result of the drought crisis.

The countdown began as volunteer offers of assistance continued to surge higher in a dramatic response to the appeal for funds or contributions in kind — from food parcels, to help with transport to distribution centres.

The first allocation of funds to set shipments rolling will be made as early as August 31 — within less than six weeks of the launch of the campaign.

The urgency of the timetable from an initial planning phase to actual action with fund allocations promises to make the "Harvest" exercise one of the speediest of its kind on record.

Relief agencies anxious to share in the first allocation of funds should submit their proposals on how they plan to handle distribution of aid by August 15 to The Editor of The Star, 47 Sauer Street, Johannesburg.

The deadline for written proposals will be extended if necessary to make allowance for the shipments that will go out in a regular flow after the first allocation.

However, both Nedcor Group and The Star, along with the Nedcor Chairman's Fund, stress their insistance that proposals from agencies must meet a strict set of criteria aimed at ensuring the optimum impact.

The rules:

- The programme will concentrate on the poor — irrespective of gender, race, colour, creed or political affiliation.
- Relief support will be directed to the areas of priority need.
- Where possible, all affected parties must be involved from the outset on issues such as the identification of projects.
- Assistance will avoid re-inforcing any particular power group and will concentrate on actual beneficiaries alone.
- The aim should be equity — total openness with systems and budgets.
- Assistance will be implemented by agents at local level wherever possible.
- Efforts should aim at co-operation at community level and a prevention of duplication.
- Projects should complement rather than compete with support from other sources.
- Proposals must be sound in administrative, physical, financial and social terms.
- Financial control must be seen to be clean and open.
- Agencies must agree to accountability to the "Harvest" fund on meeting the criteria.

Drought still critical despite heavy rains

By Louise Marsland

Despite recent heavy rains in some parts of the country, the drought remains critical in the far northern Transvaal and eastern Cape, Department of Water Affairs officials said yesterday.

Disaster conditions are threatening in the far northern Transvaal where stringent water restrictions have already been implemented because most of the State dams are low, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry says in its latest review of the drought.

Severe restrictions are in force in Louis Trichardt and Potgietersrus and to a lesser extent in Pietersburg and Tzaneen to ensure that supplies last until the next rainy season.

The flow in the Komati River is very low.

No restrictions are envisaged in the foreseeable future for the FWP, nor for the supply area on the eastern Transvaal highveld or the lower Vaal River.

"We are still in dire straits in these areas," Water Affairs Director of Hydrology Stefan van Blijjen said.

"Despite the recent rains, there has been no appreciable difference. The levels of crucial dams have not risen significantly. We need rains to increase catchments and increase soil moisture.

"But we must be optimistic. There are indications that we may be returning to normal seasons with the wane of the El Nino weather phenomenon," Mr van Blijjen said.

Water Affairs planning manager engineer Dr Paul Roberts said another year of drought could mean moderate restrictions in metropolitan areas.

At present the Government's Drought Assistance Programme was implemented measures to relieve the current problem. "If the drought persists, these activities will have to be intensified," Dr Roberts said.

The drought is aggravated by the high degree of utilisation of water resources in many areas because more people are dependent on them now than in previous drought years, the department says in its review.

The present drought has affected the rural communities and wildlife more than the urban areas.
Khayelitsha:
New hope for the starving

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

DI CAELENS
Weekend Argus Reporter

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

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

The Khayelitsha oasis is one of two well-stocked people's garden centres — the other is in Nyanga — with the dual purpose of being both training centres and local fruit and vegetable suppliers, as well as to see them "greening" the environment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Non-profit permaculture design courses to be run at Camp Hill Village Alpha in Malmsbury from March 1 to 14 and March 29 to April 2. For further information call Julia Wilson or Lori Lake at (0225) 22345 before the end of January.

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

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

□ PLANT POWER: Ms Christina Kaba, with her "baby", the greenhouse of low-cost indoor plants for sale to township residents.
Countdown to lift-off for drought aid plan

THE Argus and Nedcor Group have started the countdown on emergency food shipments under the "Harvest for the Hungry" disaster programme to rush aid to hundreds of thousands of families affected by the drought.

The countdown began as offers of help—from food parcels to transport—poured in following the appeal for contributions.

The first allocation of funds to set shipments rolling will be made as early as August 31—less than six weeks after the launch of the campaign.

The adherence to the tight timetable from planning to action promises to make the "Harvest" exercise one of the speediest of its kind on record.

But proposals from agencies must meet a strict set of criteria aimed at ensuring the best result:

- Help will avoid reinforcing any particular power group and will concentrate on the beneficiaries alone.
- The aim should be equity—total openness with systems and budgets.
- Help will be implemented by agents at local level wherever possible.
- Efforts should aim at co-operation at community level and a prevention of duplication.
- Projects should complement rather than compete with support from other sources.
- Proposals must be sound in administrative, physical, financial and social terms.
- Financial control must be seen to be clean and open.
- Agencies must agree to accountability to the "Harvest" fund on meeting the criteria.

The final selection of relief agencies to be engaged in the scheme will also be carried out in consultation with a specialist advisory team drawn from the new Consultative Forum on Drought Relief that has created a series of expert task forces to tackle the crisis.
Rain and snow relieve drought

THE heavy rain and snow that has been falling over the past few days has started filling some dams in the drought-stricken Eastern Cape.

One of Port Elizabeth’s most important storage dams, the Churchill Dam, is overflowing for the first time in years.

Although the Paul Sauer Dam was 18% full earlier yesterday, this figure is expected to rise as soon as the snow on the Kouga Mountains starts melting.

Kareedouw has recorded the highest rainfall in the Eastern Cape following widespread rain along the coast and the interior since Friday.

Rainfall in Kareedouw measured 171mm since Friday, 151mm in Port Elizabeth, 146mm at Alexandria, 90mm at Bathurst, 77mm at Graaff-Reinet and the H F Verwoerd Airport near Port Elizabeth, and 74mm at Hankey and Cape St Francis.

In East London it was reported that vehicles were trapped, road and telephonic communications disrupted and sporting fixtures cancelled as bone-chilling temperatures accompanied by snow and heavy rain gripped the Border region at the weekend.

The Weather Bureau in Pretoria predicts the bitterly cold weather will persist over most of the country, with more snow expected in the south-eastern Cape last night.

Despite the presence of snow on the Hottentots Holland mountains and a chilly weekend, Capetonians can expect fine weather later this week, the Weather Bureau said. — Own Correspondent, Saps
The drought threatens to trigger the mass migration of thousands of black families in a desperate search for survival from food and water shortages, reports MICHAEL CHESTER.

In the northern Transvaal, most of them have over-taxed their land and are running out of water - and avert one of the biggest and most tragic mass migrations on record in southern Africa.

Director of operations Len Abrams, from the new Consultative Forum on Drought Relief, estimates the numbers in trek may swell to between 2.5 and 3 million unless new water supplies can be tapped from deep under dried-out river beds and lands parched by the longest and most severe drought in living memory.

"We're in a desperate battle against time," he says. "We only have all the water resources and unless spring rains come to the rescue, the start of a massive migration from hundreds of villages will be inevitable in the next three months."

The hunt for water has been spread out across hundreds of kilometres in the northern Transvaal and most of the Venda and Limpopo homelands, where hundreds of thousands of black families have found themselves trapped in the drought crisis.

New boreholes are being drilled, broken pumps repaired, every small leak in water pipes plugged, new dams laid out to secure even the tiniest trickle from the surrounding fields.

The extent and degree of the drought is seen in the obvious desperation that now takes form in rural villages where government or military trucks arrive on a regular basis carrying precious water supplies.

The water shortage is so widespread that rations often have to be limited to a meagre 25 litres per family - expected to last for four long days. Because of the size of many rural families, that in reality comes down to only 2 or 3 litres per person - or little more than half a litre per person a day.

"And that," Mr Abrams notes, "is not only for drinking water or tea and coffee. That also has to suffice somehow, for washing, scrubbing clothes and cooking. Very often there's nowhere near enough water to cook the little meals and food scraps on which many villagers are struggling to survive. The potential health as well as malnutrition hazards are enormous.

"The drought crisis in many rural areas is badly underminded in the big metropolitan centres, protected by sophisticated water supplies and with the cash to buy food in the supermarkets."

"But if solutions do not come in time, with rains or successful new boreholes, there will be no possible way to avert a mass rural exodus."

"More funds and more volunteers are vital to keep assistance and technical operations running at full speed."

For Len Abrams, the operation comes as a dramatic initiation as the first executive director of the Consultative Forum on Drought Relief, which has thrust the problem to the top of a growing list of priorities.

Fortunately, a background as a qualified civil engineer and director of the Rural Aid Centre has made him the ideal candidate for the practical knowledge and experience to head the hand-picked task force out on constant assignment from a special operations centre established in Pietersburg.

Mr Abrams has already succeeded in bringing in specialists from overseas to join local engineers recruited from various government departments and the private sector.

Engineers from Germany were among the first to arrive to be shocked by the extent and degree of the drought crisis. From Britain, engineers from the crack volunteer unit known as the "Red II" - the nickname of the Registered Engineers for Disaster Relief, with long experience of global emergencies - have joined the operation.

International Executive Services, another crack unit of volunteers, has sent in more than a score of professional engineers from posts around the world. And now the United States government has pledged to send a team.

The huge operation marks the real launch of the Consultative Forum on Drought Relief, which was created out of a special conference co-hosted by the Independent Development Trust and the Kagiso Trust a little over three months ago as the urgent need for emergency measures became a national concern.

It also marks a breakthrough in efforts to bring together all the main players and persuade them to leave their political differences on one side while they combine forces in the search for solutions.

Somehow, the forum succeeded in bringing together so many specialists at once that the conference table to agree on an action programme - covering a spectrum that spans the whole gamut from the ANC to various government departments, from the trade unions to the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

"By striking at least a temporary peace accord between all the players," says Mr Abrams, "we believe we can finally put ahead an action plan that cuts straight through the red tape and bureaucracy that has held government initiatives in slow motion."

The forum has laid plans to launch a series of five special task forces, each assigned to tackle one of the specific problems that have been pinpointed by the drought crisis.

The issue of water supplies has been the first item on the agenda, but expert teams will also concentrate on practical solutions to malnutrition, short and longer-term plans for the future of agriculture, answers to the unemployment caused by the drought as well as new approaches to job creation, and a concerted study of socio-economic development as a whole.

It's much more than merely another discussion forum adds Mr Abrams. "It's a thinking tank that intends to turn theories into practice - and at full speed."

The next priority will be to ensure full participation by down-to-earth community level, where voices have been ignored for far too long."

Hard labour... getting water from a spring in Limpopo. It is covered with thorns at night to prevent wild animals taking the precious liquid.
Call for halt to public land sale

CAPE TOWN — The SA National Civic Organisation (Sanco) has called for a moratorium on the sale of all public land until an interim government is installed and a housing and development policy formulated for metropolitan and regional development.

Sanco is to form a coalition with the ANC and other land and environment organisations to look at current policies relating to the future development of SA.

"We can no longer look at land issues as isolated problems. They must form part of a housing strategy aimed at investigating the land question and its implications in the greater metropolitan context," Western Cape regional vice-chairman John Nels said yesterday.

"A crucial part of this initiative would be the question of affirmative action and redistribution of land to communities historically deprived by apartheid."

Minister launches bid to help sacked hospital staff

HEALTH Minister Nita Venter said yesterday she had launched a major initiative aimed at resolving problems involving the 7,000 hospital workers dismissed by the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA).

She said the negotiations had been ongoing between the TPA and the National Education Health and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawa) after requests from the Wits/Vaal regional dispute resolution committee which met Venter last week.

The negotiations were continuing yesterday.

Venter also said she had set up two committees to investigate aspects of the hospitals crisis.

One was to "see what we can do to provide social assistance for dismissed workers". She said she was considering some sort of assistance in kind, such as food provision, but not financial assistance.

The committee would also look at how demands for the reinstatement of the 7,000 workers could be considered without firing workers since employed by the TPA.

The second committee would examine ways of minimising "the atmosphere" at the Medical University of SA (Medunsa) and its adjoining teaching hospital.

Representatives from Medunsa told Venter last week the situation at the hospital remained volatile, which was affecting training.

A committee similar to the one dealing with Medunsa had been set up in Johannesburg at the instigation of the Wits/Vaal regional dispute resolution committee, she said.

Venter reiterated her commitment to outlawing strikes in the public sector but said "we will institute a dispute resolution mechanism to ensure a similar strike never occurs again."

"Draft legislation is currently being negotiated between the Commission for Administration and the 11 public sector unions, except Nehawa, which boycotted the talks."
Rains bring limited relief to drought areas

RAINS that fell in the drought-stricken Transvaal recently would have limited agricultural value because the area was a summer rainfall region, Agriculture Department spokesman Franz Loots said yesterday.

Rain was recorded at more than 50 measuring stations in the Transvaal including Louis Trichardt and Tzaneen in the past two weeks.

The rain will boost the level of the water table and provide desperately needed surface water. There were sufficient rains in the eastern Cape to rescue some crops, he said.

"Rain in the northern Transvaal may bode well for the growth of vegetation in spring, but it would not be adequate for the planting of crops. However, this depends on the soil type."

CSIR water quality expert Peter Ashton said yesterday salt levels in water in the drought-ravaged northern Transvaal were rising and this could become a health risk in the future.
Drought threatening jobs

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 macroeconomic consequences included a decline in agricultural production which could raise the inflation rate by 0.3%. The current account on the balance of payments could also be weakened. The need to import 4.6-million tons of maize at about R500 a ton would shrink the current account balance by about R2.4bn.

The financial obligations of farmers, farmer-associated undertakings and government would also increase. "The entire economy, already in the grip of a prolonged recession, will be further mauled."

Van Niekerk said some farmers blamed government for maintaining interest rates at an artificially high level. However, government did not dictate monetary policy to the Reserve Bank.

He said government had launched the most comprehensive aid package yet.
Farmers face death threats, stock killing

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Cattle are being mysteriously slaughtered and threats made over telephones in an isolated Natal Midlands community near Richmond where intimidation against white farmers is continuing.

The farms, described as being on a "tense war footing", are about 15 km from strife-torn Richmond.

Families, including former Natal rugby forward Mort Mortassagne, were at the receiving end of threats to leave the area or "face the consequences". They said they were forced to live virtually under seige. They carried firearms for protection as they went about their daily business, whether it was working in the fields or nursing children.

One farmer in the area has reportedly had more than 70 head of cattle either slaughtered or stolen.

Another farmer, Barry Pot- tow, said a resident of the nearby Gengeshe location was ambushed and shot dead with automatic weapons last week. His home was then patrol-bombed.

Tensions are still running high in the community where, he said, Inkatha-supporting residents found it very difficult to get to Richmond to buy groceries.

Mr Mortassagne, who travels everywhere with his family in an old Rheebok armoured vehicle, recently received a second threat over the telephone. He had previously been warned that his death was "only days away". This time he was told that his home would be burnt down.

"The intimidation is carrying on. There's no doubt about it," said Mr Potrow.

However, another farmer said he believed a criminal element was taking advantage of the tense situation in Richmond and fomenting trouble.
State land, urges ANC

By Jo-Anne Collings

The ANC is gearing up for battle over the planned auction of 38 parcels of Government land for residential areas across the Reef.

Yesterday the ANC released a statement calling on the Government to suspend the auction of land at the Carlton Hotel in Johannesburg.

Sources close to the ANC said the organisation viewed the auction as a test case, and would fight the Government with all its resources.

"The offer of this land to speculators and developers comes at the very moment and having made across the country, particularly in the Reef," the statement read.

The ANC demanded that the sale be suspended "in order to provide the opportunity for a more socially responsible approach to be considered - an approach more in keeping with the needs of our citizens than with their past".

Helping hand for hungry Norwood schoolchildren

By Anna Cox

In the heart of the upmarket suburb of Norwood, Johannesburg, there are children who go to school hungry every day.

And if it were not for the efforts of Christo Lodder, headmaster of Dirka Uys Laerskool, who runs a feeding scheme at the school, many would go hungry.

"We have our own children at this school. It is one of the last few Afrikaans schools in the northern suburb, and when Joubert Park Laerskool closed we got many children from Hillbrow and Berea," said Mr Lodder.

A teacher at the school asked her why she had done it and she answered very simply that she was hungry," said Mr Lodder, who took over as principal in April.

He began investigating all the suspected cases of hardship and personally visited each family to see what conditions they were living in.

"Some families are sleeping on blankets on the floor of their furnished flats in Hillbrow. Husband and wife are often unemployed and there is no income. Some parents are even struggling to pay bus fare to school," he said.

Several hurt as hospital workers, protesters clash

Several people were injured in a clash between hospital workers and those on duty at Hillbrow Hospital in Johannesburg yesterday.

The confrontation took place in the hospital's public relations department and between some hospital workers and those on duty.

A waiter and a cook were injured in the fray.

A police spokesman said hospital workers were on duty and were attacked by protesters.

"We are not aware of any injuries," he said.

A hospital worker said the protesters were demanding the resignation of the hospital's management.

Hospital senior superintendent Dr Tseweba said the incident was a "blackmailing" incident.

New HIV and hepatitis test to be launched soon

A new test for the HIV and hepatitis virus - a 10-minute "tongue-up" saliva test - will soon be launched in Johannesburg.

British dental consultant Dr Marietta Midda, who is involved in clinical trials and the launch of the testing method, arrived in South Africa this week to assist with the Dental Association of SA congress.

Developed by Oracle Diagnostikon, the saliva test is reported to be as accurate as the current laboratory standard test on blood but has the convenience of being quicker and cheaper and can be done in the privacy of one's home.

National Institute of Virology director Professor Harry School said the test was still under evaluation and that it could not comment fully.

"It is proving to be reliable that certainly it would be a very useful facility," said Professor School.

However, he strongly cautions against people checking themselves in the absence of professional advice.

"According to Dr Midda the home test-kit has met with some controversy in the US and is not available in any patient undergoing an HIV test must be counselled by a trained professional," he said.

"In some cases, however, it would be better to have a quick diagnosis as some patients who were negative committed suicide before receiving the results of their blood tests," he said.

Several hurt as hospital workers, protesters clash

The Transvaal Provincial Administration said yesterday it would meet the Soweto Action Committee for talks on restoring Baragwanath Hospital to normal.

Fannie Ferreira, MEC for health services, said restoring the hospital would be discussed at the committee's request. Of the more than 2 000 guards, only 380 are on duty. That would give the town more reasons why their demands should be reconsidered, he said, and about 600 were re-employed.
Drought gives water experts flood of ideas

While the drought was devouring the northern Transvaal this week, experts were planning major water schemes. DIRK NEL reports.

Politics pulled the plug 10 years ago on joint water schemes with Zimbabwe on the Limpopo River.

At Pietersburg this week, a few kilometres from the river, South African and Zimbabwean officials were in the mood to revive them at a conference on water affairs.

Changes in South Africa meant politics was also a prompt for reviving the plans, supported by the best reason of all mutual need. It is still too early for details of joint schemes to have emerged from the conference, but it looks promising.

Urgent task

Domestic planning was easier to be specific about, and one project outlined was a large dam on the Olifants River, at Roopiport in Sekhukhuneland, to serve Pietersburg and neighbouring towns.

A working group was formed at the end of the conference to make specific proposals for action. The task is urgent, since conference heard that the drought threatens the water supply of 5 million people in northern Transvaal alone.

The talks ranged widely, and the animals in the Kruger National Park were not forgotten; one suggestion was improving water supplies to the park, using the Olifants, Luvuvhu and Letaba rivers.
Cashing in on the tourist crop

The government, recognising the capacity of eco-tourism to kickstart the rural economy, this year made R600-million available to fund the infrastructure for these kinds of ventures.

"Farmers, hard hit by economic depression and the drought, are selling their cattle, erecting game fences, stocking the land with wildlife and building lodges or chalets and holding thumbs that this will save them from going under," says Grossman.

Conservation authorities in kaNgwane and in

Harvesting tourists

Bophuthatswana report that, whereas they struggled to sell the notion of conservation to rural people in the past, they are now receiving spontaneous applications for reserves to be established in parts of these homelands.

Take a tiny reserve at a place called Mzinti in a remote and drought-stricken corner of kaNgwane not far from the Mozambique border. Here the KaNgwane Parks Corporation (KPC) made a healthy turnover of R100 000 over the last year by conducting a few safaris for foreign hunters, accommodating some tourists in tents and selling a few head of stock.

The parks authorities aim to use these resources for building civic projects in the local community such as clinics and creches.

"These are small amounts of money. But in these depressed areas it indicates some form of growth and development," says KPC director Jeremy Anderson.

The result is that wildlife ranching is now the fastest growing and most dynamic livestock industry in South Africa — and it is fast becoming the most dynamic force for conserving the country's indigenous plant and animal species.

And it's not only wildlife tourism that is encouraging farmers and peasants to preserve the rural environment. In the northern Transvaal and parts of the eastern Free State, farmers are converting their old stone buildings into guest houses for sensitive visitors. Others are allowing their properties to be used, in return for a fee, as horse and hiking trails.

But Grossman and Ferrar point out in their report, published in the latest edition of The Traffic Bulletin, that eco-tourism should not be seen as a magical panacea that will automatically solve the problems of rural development.

"Game ranching should not be a quick-fix solution to poverty in the white and black rural areas. A lot of people put up a fence and call the place a game lodge and think they will make megabucks overnight," says Grossman. "But it doesn't work like this. These projects need care and planning. They have to be carefully marketed so that they can become financially viable and, most of all, they have to have popular support."

Many new game farms and private reserves have adopted the latest conservation principles being promoted by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which stress the need to promote tangible benefits to rural people living in and around these protected wildlife areas.

"Perceptions in the rural areas are changing. People used to see wildlife as a nuisance and a threat to their traditional way of farming. There is now a growing awareness of the potential for rural development through game farming," says Grossman.

"But in South Africa revenue derived from the wildlife trade does not reach the rural poor as well as it does in certain projects in neighbouring countries and there is not sufficient participation by local people in decisions about these conservation activities."

These inadequacies have to be addressed for wildlife conservation to achieve the full potential it has to help reconstruct South Africa's rural economy.
PRESIDENT F W de Klerk has announced the appointment of a new Deputy Minister of Law and Order and an official government spokesman. The current Deputy Minister of Law and Order and of Land Affairs, Mr Johan Scheepers, will serve as full-time Deputy Minister of Land Affairs only. Mr Gert Myburgh, MP for Port Elizabeth North, will take over as Deputy Minister of Law and Order.

Mr de Klerk said the continuing pattern of violence and the urgent need for real action regarding the problems surrounding the land issue dictated that these departments acquire special attention.

The new appointments come into force on Monday.

Mr de Klerk also announced the appointment of Mr Dave Steward, current head of the SA Communication Service, as special government spokesman.
R150m paid out to farmers

PRETORIA — More than R150m in government drought aid had been distributed since April, Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk said yesterday.

The largest amounts had gone to interest subsidies on carry-over debt (R550m), debt consolidation (R395m), interest subsidies on production credit (R286m) and relief for stock farmers (R253m).

Van Niekerk said bottlenecks were being identified in the processing of aid applications and these were being removed as a matter of great urgency.

He warned that although the aim was to assist as many farmers as possible, not all farmers would be able to survive financially because of the stressed situation in the industry.

A management committee and a co-ordinating centre had been established by government to ensure the smooth operation of the relief process.

Communities with critical water and food needs were asked to contact urgently Mike Walters of the centre at (012) 208-2287.

Van Niekerk said a task group was visiting the independent and self-governing territories to integrate short-term relief with longer-term development programmes.

Governments of the self-governing territory had full authority to spend funds according to their specific needs. In fact, these govern-
R1,5-bn for
drought relief
since April 1

A total of R1,5 billion has been spent on drought relief since April 1, mostly to subsidise interest on farmers' debts, Agriculture Minister Dr Kraai van Niekerk said yesterday.

A sum of R55 million had been channelled for this purpose and R26 million had been paid towards interest subsidies on production credit. R25 million on disaster relief for stock farmers, R39 million for debt consolidation and R3.6 million for the transport of stockfeed.

A task group was visiting independent and self-governing territories to integrate short-term drought relief with development programmes.

In addition, the SADF was helping to transport water, and boreholes were being sunk.

Communities in need of water and food supplies can contact Mike Walters at (012) 306-2287. — Staff Reporter.
PIETERSBURG — A red tape-cutting initiative has brought water to thousands of drought-stricken villagers said to be worse off than communities in Somalia and Iraq.

The urgent programme, involving private enterprise, Department of Water Affairs officials and British disaster relief engineers, is operating in remote rural areas in Lebowa, Venda and Gazankulu.

A water supply task force, operating under the National Drought Relief Consultative Forum, this week invited the media to visit its projects.

The project uses private-sector finance and equipment, government influence and infra-structure, and ready-for-anything action teams to get the job done, said Water Affairs strategist Simon Forster.

Engineer David Williamson co-ordinates events from an operations room in Pietersburg where crisis information is gathered and urgent drilling, repairs and maintenance are arranged.

"By cutting out all formalities which cause delays, we have managed to supply thousands of drought-hit people with clean drinking water within a short time," Mr Forster said.

The situation was critical in some areas, said British relief engineer Ian Johnson.

"Some villagers in Venda are worse off than communities in Somalia and Iraq — many are down to a quota of a litre of water a day each, and such people are in danger of contracting all kinds of diseases because domestic and personal hygiene is virtually non-existent."

At a village near El Mass Hospital, villagers crowded expectantly around a drilling rig. The contractor predicted he would strike water within two days.

A few kilometres down the dusty road, 200 children, all carrying 25 litre containers, queued for water at a dusty pump.

Task force leader Malcolm White said the pump provided water for thousands of people.

Meanwhile, with the Department of Water Affairs, villagers' employment and agricultural efforts went about their work in other areas this week as part of the overall programme.

"The drought relief programme supplies employment for many," said Mr Forster.

The Delta Motor Corp had provided a fleet of vehicles to get work teams to project sites, and other firms had provided advice and equipment.
Apartheid rolls on

THE six homelands are set to gain administrative control of more than one-million hectares of land, prompting an outcry that the government is surreptitiously continuing to implement grand apartheid.

Plans for the transfer of the land, earmarked during the apartheid era for incorporation into the homelands, will go before the cabinet this month.

However, ANC spokesman on land affairs Atinka Claassen has already slammed the proposed move as "cynical and dishonest".

This land was formally owned and administered by the SA Development Trust, which was attached to the discredited Department of Development Aid.

In terms of the White Paper on Land Reform released last year, the incorporation of this trust land was stopped in the light of the government's reform process.

But the state has come under pressure from homeland leaders, who said the land was promised to them in the past and that they needed it now for development. The bulk of this "promised land" is being claimed by KwaZulu and Lebowa.

About 500,000hectares of the land is already occupied by communities and tribes. A further 500,000hectares, although partly earmarked, has not been allocated, and could be sold or developed.

Almost 240,000hectares of this land is presently leased to farmers, mostly whites. The leases expire at the end of the year.

Prohibition

Deputy Land Affairs Minister Johan Scheepers said this land could not be left without tenants. The government would have to decide soon what to do with it and other promised land.

It had to reconcile promises made years ago to the self-governing territories, and policy contained in the White Paper which prohibited the incorporation of this land for state farming purposes.

The land, Mr Scheepers said, could not be sold on the open market, as this would create problems with extra-parliamentary organisations and with the homelands, which claimed it as their own.

An interim solution would be to place the "promised land" under the administrative control of the self-governing states. Joint structures between the government and the homelands would be set up to decide how the land should be used.

"We must come to an agreement with the self-governing territories on how they are going to utilise the land. It is not a question of merely handing over the land for administrative purposes," he said.

He stressed that while the land would be administered by the self-governing territories, it would still be owned by the state, pending further decisions.

Miss Claassen said yesterday the proposed action was ultimate proof of the government's bad faith over "de-racialising" access to land.

Recent government policy expressed in the White Paper was cheap fraud, she said. The only land identified by the White Paper for emerging black farmers was the same trust land which was now being given away.

By putting the onus for development of the land on corrupt and unpopular homeland governments, she said, the state was absolving itself of further responsibility for rural development.

It was an attempt by the government to pre-empt a new rural-development policy by an interim or future government.

Negative

"It indicates a mad scramble to get rid of state assets so that it cannot be used as a national resource in the future."

Miss Claassen said it was cynical and dishonest to say that the transfer of land was less serious because it involved only passing over administrative control.

For people living in these areas, administrative control by the homelands had exactly the same negative effect as full incorporation, she said.

If the government went ahead with its plan, it would be reverting to the unilateral apartheid land policies of the last decade, thus slamming the door on the possibility of negotiated land solutions.

See Page 12
Jannie gets tough and refuses to budge from family farm

By DAWN BARKHUIZEN

A BATTLE is looming between a Free State farmer and the Qwaqwa authorities who want to incorporate his prime farming land into a national park.

Farmer Jannie Ballot has been given until August 31 to vacate the land that has been in his family for more than 130 years — but he says he will not budge and has appealed to the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation (ACLA) to intervene.

"When our farms were first expropriated we were told the land would be given to black farmers in Qwaqwa. Now we find that rich, productive farming land is being given to wild animals which will have to be trucked in. It would be a criminal waste and I will not let them do it," he said.

Mr Ballot is one of seven farmers in the fertile Eastern Free State valley, Die Moot, whose land was expropriated by government in 1986 for incorporation into Qwaqwa.

Die Moot, about 230km south of Bloemfontein, was part of a larger tract of land expropriated between Harrismith and Kestell.

While the other farmers left Die Moot, Mr Ballot remained on the land that had been in his family for four generations and leased it back from the Department of Development Aid at R15/ha for grazing and R22/ha for arable land — about half the going rate for land in the area.

Last December, control of the farm was handed to Qwaqwa, and three months later, he received his eviction notice.

"It breaks my heart. This valley is like the Hex River Valley and was once one of the richest farming areas in the Free State. The soil is so good that you can farm practically anything.

"After 1986 the other farmers left and their farms were ruined. Their houses were stripped and the entire farming infrastructure here collapsed.

"The mobile clinic stopped doing the rounds, the school closed, the shops went out of business, and those who suffered most were the black residents.

"Our labourers were distraught — they didn't know what would happen to them and they didn't want to leave either.

Heritage

"I carried on farming because this is my heritage. Besides, I've got nowhere to go. I love this land. It has enormous agricultural potential," he said.

Mr Ballot's former neighbour, Brigadier Robert Crowther, has also applied to ACLA to have his farm returned to him.

Mr Erik Buiten, chief director of land matters for the Department of Regional and Land Affairs, said the Qwaqwa authorities and the new defunct Department of Development Aid had jointly decided to incorporate Die Moot into the Qwaqwa National Park.

Professor J Bohana, chairman of the Qwaqwa Tourism and Nature Corporation, declined to comment and referred inquiries to the ACLA.

A spokesman for the ACLA said a recommendation would be made to President FW de Klerk on completion of its investigations.
STRIDING through the long, tawny-coloured grass, Mr Andries Radebe flung his right arm out to indicate where his home once stood. The 81-year-old man pointed to the land he had ploughed for crops, where the cattle grazed, where the children played. "That was the school, the Wesleyan church was over there. I planted these trees myself," he said; gesturing rapidly.

For the first time since 1977, Mr Radebe was walking on the soil he inherited from his father in Cremin, 30km from Natal's Ladysmith.

Now, with the help of the Legal Resources Centre, he is launching a court battle to regain the land taken by the government 15 years ago as part of its policy of removing "black spots".

Mr Radebe, his family, and the families of 59 other title holders were forcibly removed to the township of Esikhfeni, which falls under Kwazulu.

Mr Radebe, born in 1911, has two sons and three daughters. They did not accompany him this week as he walked over the land, reliving memories of the past. They did not see him weep over the unmarked graves of their brother and sister.

Under a blue gum tree, Mr Radebe bent down, his face suddenly contorted with grief. "Two of my children lie buried here. "My wife had triplets in 1963. The little girl died the same day. It was a Friday. The next Friday we buried her brother."

"But the remaining triplet is alive today. He matriculated and became a policeman."

The diminutive old man speaks English fluently, although he uses Zulu for greetings and thanks.

He describes the lifestyle once enjoyed by the community in Cremin prior to the forced removal and talks of raising such crops as pumpkins, beans and melons.

The fruit trees are gone now, but the grave of trees he planted for shade around his home still stands. Apart from these trees, the only trace of Mr Radebe's family history are the huge stones which marked out his kraal.

Mr Radebe was proud of his herd of cattle, which represented his life's savings. But because there was no grazing in the township, he had to sell them at a pittance to the white farmers who took over.

"Up there, that's where the cattle grazed," he said, his arm tracing an arc towards the horizon.

For 11 years after the expropriation, the land lay fallow. Then it was sold to the late Mr Derek Dreyer.

Mr Radebe tried on a number of occasions to regain the land.

He went in person to the Native Commissioner's office several times. He gave up when he was told to stop making a nuisance of himself and that his file was closed. He felt so humiliated by the clerk's attitude that he wept.

The determined old man went to attorneys for advice. They charged him R200 to tell him there was nothing that could be done.

During the state of emergency, he thought it best to keep quiet. But he never stopped hoping that one day he and his family would reoccupy the land.

The government has since been charged with the Maritzburg Supreme Court alleging that, for several reasons, correct procedures were not followed and as a result, the government never got title to the land.

The government intends opposing the application and the answering affidavit is due to be lodged on September 30.

Executors of Mr Dreyer's estate, his sons Andre and Leon of Dundee, and Mr RW Lee of Ladysmith, have not opposed the application so far.

The progress of Mr Radebe's case will be watched with interest by the 99 other dispossessed families. They regard it as a test case. The land which could be involved is 623 hectares.

- The Land Commission will hold a public meeting in the Ladysmith town hall at 10am on Tuesday to hear from other Ezikhfeni township residents.
3m refugees to flood PWV?

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 Sauer mann 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 Sauer mann.

The area, the Development Bank's region G, could be categorised as a major disaster area, rural development experts said at the weekend.

A confidential report by a development agency in the area said 90% of farmers surveyed had reported harvests of 5% or less.

Rural Foundation Northern Transvaal regional manager Mr 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 262 000 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 50 000 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 Sauer mann said.
Africa needs 2m tons of food

WINDHOEK. — Eighteen million people in Southern Africa need a further two million tons of food aid to survive the region’s worst drought this century, a development official said yesterday.

Mr Charles Hove, chief economist of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC), said in an interview that the requirement could escalate before a meeting later this month to assess the region’s needs.

Figures presented to a conference of SADCC ministers here showed that the region had been able to provide about half its food needs this year.

An SADCC task force was set up in April to procure and distribute drought aid to 18 million people in immediate need.

Donors promised food worth $600 (about R1 690m) at a pledging conference in Geneva in June to meet an assessed need in the region, excluding South Africa, of seven million tons. — Sapa-Reuters
‘Millions will flee to PWV area’

Bank warns of drought’s huge exodus

DROUGHT in the northern Transvaal could force between 1 million and 3 million people to move to the PWV area this year, according to the Development Bank of SA (DBSA).

The homelands of Gazankulu, Lebowa and Venda are already under pressure from jobless labourers and from thousands of refugees pouring in from drought-ravaged Mozambique.

Farmers with no crops to harvest are dismissing workers. Most farmers are seeking alternative income and many have already put their farms up for sale.

DBSA senior project leader Hannes Sauermann said 1.2 million people from the far northern Transvaal were expected to move to the PWV this winter.

Between 2.5 million and 3 million people could desert the homelands for the PWV if no rain fell there by November this year, leading to serious overcrowding in the urban areas and the mushrooming of squatter camps, he said.

More than a third of the workforce on farms in the far northern Transvaal — about 70,000 people — have been dismissed and sent to nearby homelands as a result of the drought.

About 200,000 refugees have fled drought-devastated Mozambique and poured into Gazankulu, Lebowa and Venda in search of food and water, said Sauermann.

The area, the Development Bank’s region G, could be categorised as a major disaster area, rural development experts said at the weekend.

A confidential report by a development agency working in the area said 90% of farmers surveyed had reported harvests of 5% or less.

About 10% of farmers had left the area and 90% were making a living by alternative means.

The 290,000 jobless people are putting great pressure on the Venda, Gazankulu and Lebowa homelands, which have already been declared drought disaster areas.

Crop failure and the sudden population shifts have brought widespread malnutrition to the homelands.

The development agency report said: “The last eight dry years have placed farmers in a position from which they cannot recover.

“The northern Transvaal’s final development initiative has come to a halt as a result of the drought and its economic consequences,” the report said.

“All existing development projects have come to a halt and will take at least two

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Farmers fear future govt will appropriate funds

There is growing concern among farmers that a new government might appropriate control boards' stabilisation funds, built up mainly from producer levies.

The Wheat Board’s stabilisation fund is about R100m.

However agricultural authorities say that, in a country with a fast growing population and finite food production capacity, it would be a foolish government that unrealistically depressed producer prices. If prices were reduced to too low a level, production would tumble and food shortages would follow, as has happened in Zimbabwe. Farmers are also concerned about a new government’s attitude to primary producers.

Co-ordinating Committee of Marketing Boards chairman Fanie van Rensburg said last week the Marketing Act could be a dangerous instrument in the hands of a government unsympathetic to producers.

Agriculture authorities say the Act allows the Agriculture Minister to veto a national marketing council recommendation. A Minister unsympathetic to producers could favour consumers and reject recommendations for price increases.

A National Maize Producers’ Organisation (Nampo) source confirms that many farmers are anxious and uncertain about the possible consequences of a new government. They are concerned about land expropriation and control boards’ stabilisation funds.

An SA Agricultural Union spokesman says the SAAU has had direct talks with the ANC. But there has been contact through organisations such as the IDC’s forum on drought relief.
ANC to put the consumer before the farmer

ANC agricultural affairs spokesman Derek Hanekom said yesterday any special treatment enjoyed by farmers which prejudiced the consumer would have to be abolished.

A new government would have to be more consumer friendly, as had not been the case until now, he said. Subsidies, too, would not be granted at the expense of the consumer.

On land redistribution, Hanekom said in specific cases land rights would have to be restored to original owners. A special court would also be established to settle competing claims for land.

He said the fate of the reserve and stabilisation funds of the marketing boards was also an issue to be considered. However, the ANC acknowledged the boards had a function in the overall agricultural economy.

Meanwhile, the Free State Agricultural Union has invited political groups, including the ANC, to present their agricultural policies at its annual congress in Bloemfontein today, Sapa reports.

The ANC, Inkatha, the CP and the NP will present their policies after a motion opposing this was defeated yesterday.

Free State Agricultural Union president Pieter Gous said farmers had become a valuable commodity in countries which had realised the value of the white commercial farmer and which had had their "flirtation" with socialism.

He warned political groupings to be careful how they handled the just demands and viewpoints of farmers if they did not want serious problems and did not want to "walk the present Zimbabwe agricultural road".

He said it had cost countries like Zambia dearly to learn that farmers, who produced food, had to be kept on their land.
EC will give R2.6-m for drought relief

The European Community has agreed to contribute R2.6 million to support emergency programmes designed to provide drought-affected rural communities in South Africa with access to safe and adequate water supplies.

The Commission of the EC said in a statement in Pretoria yesterday the agreement was in response to a request from the Kagiso Trust, on behalf of the Consultative Forum on Drought.

It said the programmes were being co-ordinated by the forum's Water Task Force.

The Consultative Forum on Drought, which was convened by the Independent Development Trust and Kagiso Trust, involves community organisations, Government departments and non-governmental organisations. — Sapa.
Farmers could quit their land – warning

BLOEMFONTEIN — Free State farmers were not quitters, but if they were deprived of their land, and their lives deteriorated while the political role-players allowed this to continue, there could be a big shock for political groupings, according to Dr Pieter Gous.

Dr Gous, who is president of the Free State Agricultural Union, was speaking at the union’s annual congress in Bloemfontein yesterday.

He said farmers had become a valuable commodity in countries which had realised the value of white commercial farmers and which had had their “flirtation” with socialism.

He said groups of these farmers had already visited several of those countries and similar visits were being finalised.

Dr Gous warned political groupings to be careful how they handled the just demands and viewpoints of farmers if they did not seek serious problems and did not want to “walk the present Zimbabwe agricultural road.”

He said it had cost countries like Zambia dearly to learn that farmers, who produced food, must be kept happy on their land.

Dr Gous emphasised that the Free State Agricultural Union regarded private ownership as non-negotiable. It rejected central decision-making and regarded the profit motive as the greatest driving force in economic/financial decision-making.

Dr Gous said if the present Government accepted a market-oriented policy and abolished protection, control and subsidies, there was no justification for retaining exchange control.

Lifting of exchange control would allow farmers, who wished to avoid the foreseen socialist system after a democratic election in South Africa and find refuge as food producers in other countries, to take their hard-earned assets such as tractors, lorries and implements with them, without any financial objection.

Despite farm-watch patrols, attacks on white farmers continued and most of the white population apparently merely noted this state of affairs. Sapa.
Africa can avert the lunar landscape

By Lynda Loxton

To fly across much of southern Africa is to fly across the face of the moon.

With these stark words, SOUTH Associate Editor and UWC academic Professor Peter Vale describes the ghastly phenomenon we here in the Wet Western Cape have perhaps lost sight of—the drought that is ravaging the land, the people and animals of Africa.

In a recent review of publications dealing with similar experiences in other parts of the world, Vale chronicles the social and economic stresses drought is causing in Africa.

He says no country on its own—and particularly South Africa—can come up with a long-term and viable solution.

"In many ways, political change in South Africa has brought the spectre of famine closer. The ending of apartheid has made the region's borders more porous. Countless pairs of feet are criss-crossing southern Africa—most of these people have no doubt of their final destination—South Africa.

"This has aggravated the serious food situation within the country: Operation Hunger estimates that it will feed two million people this year. As the drought pushes more and more feet across the borders, this figure is destined to increase," Vale says.

South Africa's bureaucrats have not been very good at dealing with this issue and Vale fears that, if left alone, they will continue to deal with it in their usual way: "Fob off questions, keep the public in the dark, shuffle decisions between government departments and hope that the problem will go away."

This, he believes, will be a grave mistake.

"If anything, the calamity we now face should be the beginning of new pathways to understanding our unique African predicament.

"To achieve this, we will need to learn what we can from the international experience of both drought and famine.

"But more than this, we will need to accept that the horror of what is happening to southern Africa can only be assuaged by deepening the accord between the states and peoples of the region."

"In particular, African countries, including South Africa, have to work together more closely to deal with four priority areas."

• Regional transport and distribution networks have to be improved to ensure that emergency food supplies reach the people who need them—quickly.

• Agricultural skills should be pooled, especially in subsistence agriculture. Governments must ensure that small-scale farmers have confidence in grain as a profitable crop. This means that producer prices must be attractive enough to encourage farmers to plant grain, else it will not be planted as is happening now.

• The region also needs to share information. South African scientists, for example, should dovetail their efforts at developing an adequate early warning system with the one now in use in the neighbouring countries.

• A regional grain reserve should be built up. It was "a disaster for the sub-continent that the South African government in the face of calls from organised agriculture, was not prepared to move in this direction," says Vale.

"But India has shown that prudent rotation of its 20 million tonne grain stocks can keep its people fed and keep farmers on the land.

"This drought has brought South Africa face-to-face with its acute geographic vulnerability. It has heightened a popular belief that in an undeniable way, South Africa has been dragged to the very edge of the mess which manifests itself elsewhere on the continent: the curse of the three D's—Debt, Drought, Drift."

Vale believes that with greater cooperation, those three D's can be averted.
Angolan govt slated for ‘soldier-police’

LISBON. — Angola’s former rebel movement Unita accused the government yesterday of transferring nearly 28,000 soldiers to the police force to avoid demobilising them under a peace agreement.

“Since August 1991 there has been a flagrant violation (of the peace accord signed last year) by the government with the illegal transfer of large numbers of Fapla (government) troops to the police,” Unita said in a communique issued here.

The United States yesterday also expressed concern about rising tensions in Angola and said the government in Luanda must take steps to guarantee the neutrality of the police.

Unita accused the ruling MPLA of setting up a special squad of riot police, trained by Spanish, German and Cuban instructors, which targeted Unita members and sympathisers.

The former rebel movement, which signed a peace accord with the government in May 1991, accused the government of planning to use the riot police to intimidate voters in Unita strongholds in Angola’s first free elections on September 29 and 30. — Sapa-Reuter
Drought victims receive EC aid

THE EC yesterday donated R2.6m to the Water Supply Task Force to keep emergency water supplies going to drought-stricken communities in the far northern Transvaal.

The donation was significant because it was the first to an agency involving government in many years, Agriculture Ministry spokesman Frans Loots said yesterday.

EC spokesman in Pretoria Tim Sheehy said: “We recognise that the current drought is having a devastating impact in some parts of SA. Many rural communities which comprise some of the poorest people in the country are suffering badly from the effects of the drought.

“We understand there are real dangers that this may precipitate major movements of population.”

The money will be used to buy water pumps, drilling equipment and other capital items, task force co-convenor Len Abrams said.

Abrams said it was ironic that international aid had to be used while SA drought relief money remained inaccessible to the task force. “It points to the absurdity of bringing in foreign capital while SA can cope with the drought better than other countries in the sub-region.”

But Loots said government was helping extensively by providing drilling rigs, tankers and engineers.

RAY HARTLEY

Government was reluctant to give taxpayers’ money to non-governmental agencies because it would lose control over how the money was spent. “There may be some red tape involved in getting money to these agencies. Some of them are not interested in giving the government information on their books.”

GERALD REILLY reports that a Nampo spokesman said yesterday that tens of thousands of farm-workers were being housed and fed on farms for humanitarian reasons and in the hope of good summer rains. This had reduced significantly the drift of unemployed workers to platteland towns and into major urban areas.

Financially strapped farmers had made agreements with workers to allow them to remain on farms without pay until preparatory planting work for new crops could begin.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa has said drought in the northern Transvaal could force between 1-million and 2-million people to move to the PWV area this year.

Nampo supported an appeal to farmers by SA Agricultural Union president Boet Fourie to speed up the “sluggish flow” of applications for aid. Fourie warned that applications received after August 31 deadline would not be considered. The Nampo spokesman said planting time was approaching and if serious bottlenecks in the process were to be avoided, farmers would have to “hustle”.
ANC ‘won’t nationalise land’

BLOEMFONTEIN. — The ANC’s policy was not to nationalise land, but redistribution to address the problem of “maldistribution”, ANC agricultural spokesman Mr Derek Hanekom told the annual congress of the Free State Agricultural Union here yesterday.

He said the challenge faced by the ANC was the unequal access to land, productivity and efficient production to ensure sustainable food production.

A big problem was the prevention of people buying or leasing land, Mr Hanekom said.

Mr Paul Farrell, National Party MP for Bethlehem, said the NP and the government regarded organised agriculture as the mouthpiece of the farmer. It was accepted that groups other than white would have a voice.

Mr Dries Bruwer, Conservative Party MP for Lydenburg and CP spokesman for agriculture, told the congress the CP believed in private land ownership and commercial farming. — Sapa.
ANC: no nationalised land

BLOEMFONTEIN — It was not ANC policy to nationalise land, but there would have to be redistribution, ANC agricultural spokesman Derek Hanekom told the annual congress of the Free State Agricultural Union in Bloemfontein yesterday.

"The challenge faced by the ANC was the unequal access to land.

"The greatest source of income in rural areas had been remittances from migrant labourers, but as more people lost their jobs those on the land became more dependent on subsistence farming.

Mr Hanekom said the ANC proposed a land claims court to deal with people who had been forcibly removed.

He said the ANC land reform programme was not a socialist system.

He suggested a land tax on those not using land productively. — Sapa.
Meat to get new marking
PRETORIA — A meat marking system which will identify all carcasses and meat fit for human consumption was announced yesterday by Agriculture Department meat hygiene director Jan Coetzee.

He said the step had been taken to help the public and local health authorities. The public assumed meat products bought in shops originated from approved sources but this was not necessarily the case because of illegal slaughtering, he said.

The directorate, Coetzee stressed, was responsible only for health and hygiene control within an abattoir. Outside abattoirs, this became the responsibility of the National Health Department and local authorities.

Ferco Oindo of Kenya, who was recently appointed Bophuthatswana National Parks Board chairman, at a news briefing yesterday. — Picture, ROBERT BOTHA

Redistribution of land is on the cards, says ANC
BLOEMFONTEIN — It was not ANC policy to nationalise land, but "maldistribution" of land would have to be addressed and there would have to be redistribution. ANC agricultural spokesman Derek Hanekom told the Free State Agricultural Union annual congress yesterday.

The challenge faced by the ANC was the unequal access to land, productivity and inefficiency in production to ensure sustainable food production.

Hanekom said a bigger problem than the forced removals of blacks from farm land was the prevention of people buying or leasing land.

The greatest sources of income in rural areas had been remittances from migrant labourers, but as more people lost their jobs, those on the land became more dependent on subsistence farming.

Hanekom said the ANC proposed a land claims court to deal with people who had been forcibly removed. He said the ANC land reform programme was not a socialist system, and gave Taiwan as an example of successful land reform.

He suggested a land tax could lead to the release of land by those who were not using it productively.

The ANC did not have a comprehensive agricultural policy, he said. MP Paul Farrell (NP, Bethlehem) said the NP and government regarded organised agriculture as the mouthpiece of the farmer. It was accepted that groups other than whites would have a voice.

Agricultural finance would depend on the repayment capacity of land.

Surpluses were a bigger problem than shortages and quality would become increasingly important.

MP Dries Bruwer (CP, Lydenburg), who is the CP's agriculture spokesman, said that Western economies would recover only if agriculture recovered. The CP believed a government which did not care for farmers, or did not recognis them as a special sector, was a stupid government.

The CP believed in private land ownership and commercial farming based on private initiative. It rejected any form of state interference that would lead to artificial redistribution of agricultural land, collective land ownership, and socialist agrarian economic systems.

Land courts were not part of CP policy because a healthy legal system could deal with land claims. — Sapa.

Urgent need to plan for water shortage
PRETORIA — SA's limited water resources would force the country into a crisis unless coordinated planning and management techniques in the Southern African region were developed swiftly.

This was revealed at a water week conference at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research which ended yesterday.

Speakers said water scarcity intensified by mismanagement, overdemanation or underdevelopment of the region's water resources would hobble economic growth. Water Affairs engineer Ph dienger H van Niekerk said the undervaluation of water would lead to shortages and low economic growth throughout southern Africa.

GERALD REILLY

If the price of water was to reflect its scarcity, other options such as regional transfers and desalination would become viable, speakers said.

Correct pricing would control demand, encourage careful use and provide the finance to ensure a co-ordinated water resources development.

Water Affairs Commission executive director Piet Odendall said water demand from SA's growing population would outstrip supply by the second decade of the new century.

Speakers warned conflict among water users was escalating as growing needs outstripped the natural geographic availability of water.

Water Affairs engineer A Conley said with the increasing scarcity of water and the reduction of suitable sites for new projects, the costs of supply schemes were rising rapidly.

For water provision to be sustained, the concept of users paying an economic price would have to be accepted, he said.

Speakers stressed SA's water supply sector remained highly fragmented. Institutions involved included homeland governments, local authorities and water boards.

Planners were confronted by alarming policy and strategy deficiencies that prevented comprehensive programmes being initiated in developing communities.
Drought devastates wildlife

THE drought is having a devastating effect on SA’s wildlife and animal populations that had taken years to reach optimal size. African Wildlife Foundation senior associate Perez Olimo said yesterday.

Olimo, a Kenyan who was appointed chairman of the Bophuthatswana Parks Board recently, said game parks were undecided on whether to cull the animals and sell them before they died naturally because of the drought.

He said SA and Kenya employed very different game management methods.

While Kenyan game parks were seldom fenced and game interacted naturally, SA parks were highly managed and some species were actively protected against predators.

"SA’s parks are heavily influenced by human decisions. Once you fence in, you naturally block off the traditional migration of animals and the management aspect intensifies," he said.

He said SA tourism could be improved by increasing the number of high quality game viewing opportunities and charging higher fees for them.

The education of children on the value of game was an essential part of game management, and programmes to allow children into parks would be developed by the Bophuthatswana Parks Board, he said.

Olimo, who has acted as a consultant on game policy in 38 African countries, will spend a week talking to top game officials about the future of SA’s game parks.

He is responsible for co-ordinating the African Wildlife Foundation’s African elephant conservation programme and policy.


Kaunda at convention

FORMER Zambian president Kenneth Kaunda and SA Deputy Finance Minister Theo Alant will share the platform at the seventh annual convention of the Association of Black Accountants of Southern Africa (Abasa) next month.

The conference, with the theme "accountability within the SA economic structures," will also feature Auditor-General Peter Wrenley, Weekly Mail editor Anton Herber, Vrye Weekblad editor Max du Preez, and SADCC executive secretary Simha Makanedi from Zimbabwe.

The three-day conference starts on September 6 in Sandton.

August retail sales likely to drop, economists say

PRETORIA — The expected total retail sales value in August will reflect the continuing downward spiral and growing distress in the sector, economists say.

The Central Statistical Service says August's expected figure is down by 1.5% to R5,74bn compared with July.

The投影 is based on information from 190 major retailers.

After seasonal adjustment, only a slight increase of 1.3% is expected.

CSS says total real retail trade sales for the first eight months show a decrease of 5.2% compared with January to August last year.

Stellenbosch University's Bureau for Economic Research expects the trend to continue at least until the year-end, with some hope of a recovery in the first quarter of next year.

Other economists say most sectors of the economy will remain "bogged down and shackled" until real and measurable political progress is made.

CSS says that in the three months to end-August retail sales at current prices increased by 7.2% to R21,104bn, but at constant 1990 prices they declined by 6.7% compared with July-August last year.
Govt details funding of drought aid scheme

GOVERNMENT has spent at least R1.3m on emergency water provision, Agriculture Ministry spokesman Frans Loots said yesterday.

Responding to allegations by Water Supply Task Force co-convenor Leo Abrams that state drought aid was inaccessible, Loots said government had provided the task force with machinery and expertise.

The task force is a joint government and non-government initiative to supply emergency water to drought-stricken areas of the far northern Transvaal.

This week the EC donated R2.6m for drought relief operations in the region.

Loots said R128,000 was being spent every week on activities which assisted the task force.

A further R270,000 had been spent by the SADF on water transportation, and Water Affairs had spent R50,000 on drilling boreholes in Venda and Lebowa.

A sum of R494,000 had previously been spent on emergency water provision in the eastern Cape, Loots said.

"Apart from supplying accommodation to engineers... in offices, homes and caravans, the Department of Water Affairs has its own team of nine engineers and geo-hydrologists in the field to assist with the actions," he said.

Other aid included the provision of water tankers, computers and communication equipment.

Loots said R130m had been given to homeland governments and further aid was being considered for the TBVC states. Some of this money would probably go towards emergency water supplies.

The SADF was also involved in transporting water in Natal and the Transkei.

He said more details on the funding of emergency drought relief would be released shortly.

In another development, Deputy Water Affairs Minister Japie van Wyk yesterday opened a new water scheme for farmers in the Kalahari.

The scheme, which will be subsidised by government, will supply water to 570 farmers in a 1.5-million-hectare area.

A locally manufactured Sarmco flask tank supplying residents of Ngomi in KwaZulu with emergency water.

SA doctor presents Rubber tanks carry water
‘Let our children return to our land’

SOME other schools were only closed, but everything was destroyed at St Hilda’s. Old as we are, we are eager for our children to return to Roosboom. I pray every day that the children will be able to return to the land of their forefathers.”

The poignant words were those of 75-year-old former teacher Ethel Hlatshwayo, speaking this week at one of the first hearings of the government-appointed Advisory Commission on Land Allocation in Natal, and the first involving communities forcibly removed by the state from land they legally owned. The areas in question are Roosboom, a small town south-west of Ladysmith, and Charlestown, near Volksrust.

The Roosboom claim has its roots in two land purchases 100 years ago — of 244 acres by Charles Sitholi and 722 acres by John Khumalo and nine others. When Joseph Khumalo secured an option to buy 1 500 acres, he formed a syndicate with 48 families to buy. They thought their futures, and those of their children, were secure.

In 1976 and 1977, the minister of agriculture expropriated the Roosboom land and forced them out to Ezakheni in kwaZulu.

The people of Charlestown, which was reduced to a ghost town by removals in the 1960s and 1970s, have committed themselves to returning to their land and have tried to negotiate with government officials on numerous occasions, to no avail.

Heartrending as it was, the evidence of Hlatshwayo and others before the commission may not lead to the restitution of their land. The commission, they stress, is a flawed body which merely advises State President FW de Klerk and has no independent powers. Communities were asked to nominate representatives to it, but none of the nominees was appointed.

Set up in terms of the Abolition of Racially Based Land Measures of 1991, its brief is to make recommendations on the identification of state land, planning and development within the state’s financial means, and land allocation.

The Roosboom and Charlestown people want an independent body with decision-making powers. Says Joanne Yawitch of the National Land Committee: “A judicial process is needed that can fairly adjudicate on disputed land claims.”

Also under fire is the commission’s terms of reference: “Two things are at issue,” Yawitch says. “The first is that the 1913 and 1936 Land Acts disadvantaged specific groups of people and a process is needed to address this. The second is development and the need for land for the landless. A separate process is needed to address this. A case in point is land at Impendle, Natal. At a commission hearing, the debate centred on the development of the land and various bodies presented ideas. No communities were represented.”

Moreover, the issues addressed there are completely different from those in the cases of Roosboom and Charlestown.”

Yawitch also points out that plans to transfer more than a million hectares to the homelands has major ramifications, over which there may be dispute. “How does the government know if there are claims on this land? In its White Paper on land released last year, the government indicated that the incorporation of trust land should be stopped. A moratorium on contested land is needed.”
Outcry at state plan to hand control of land to homelands

By EDYTH BULRING: Political Correspondent

THE government has come under mounting pressure to drop its plans to transfer administrative control of more than one million hectares of land to the homelands.

The Democratic Party, the SA Council of Churches, the Association for Rural Advancement and the National Land Committee have joined the ANC in denouncing the proposed move.

Land Affairs deputy minister Johan Schoepers told the Sunday Times last week he would propose to the cabinet at the end of the month that more than one million hectares of former Trust land be administered by the six homelands.

The proposal was slammed by the ANC which accused the government of attempting to go back to grand apartheid. The transfer of administrative control would have the same negative affect on people's lives as the incorporation of the land into the homelands, the ANC said.

DP spokesman on land affairs Peter Soal said yesterday Mr Schoepers had requested a meeting with him after the DP had also rejected the proposal.

At the meeting on Thursday, Mr Schoepers had said he had come under pressure to transfer the land to the homelands. His proposal for administrative control was an alternative to this move.

He had asked Mr Soal for an alternative that could be put to the cabinet this Wednesday.

Choice

Mr Soal said the DP's first choice would be for the government to continue administering the land and starting to settle black farmers.

Alternatively, the land should be administered jointly by the government and the homelands with the aim of settling black farmers, Mr Soal said.

This would prevent the total relinquishing of administrative control, Mr Soal said.

Meanwhile, the National Land Committee, an organisation which acts on behalf of dispossessed communities, has called for a moratorium on the further disposal or transfer of state land pending the establishment of a legitimate process to deal with land allocation issues.

National Land Committee spokesman Joanne Yawitch said none of the communities with whom the organisation worked, and who could be affected by any change, had been consulted by the government.

"True to old-style apartheid, crucial and far-reaching decisions about people's lives are being taken, without their participation," she said.
Row brews over plan to auction Govt land

By Jo-Anne Collinge

The Government's proposed auction of 53 parcels of prime urban land in the PWV area hangs in the balance as opposition mounts to the authorities' repeated moves to dispose of State-owned land in advance of the installation of an interim government.

When the urban land auction was announced a fortnight ago, the ANC gave notice that it would pull out all stops to prevent the sale going ahead.

The Star is reliably informed that the ANC has been joined by other parties, including business interests, in pressing for a suspension of the auction.

The ANC was stinging in its criticism of the Government's intention to "offer this land to speculators and developers" when an enormous land and housing crisis existed in the PWV.

Earlier this month, an auction of agricultural land in the Tarkastad and Queenstown areas was halted after development organisations and the ANC Border region raised protests.

Some of the land in question is being claimed by communities who were subjected to forced removal and whose cases for reparations are being considered by the State President's Advisory Commission on Land Allocation.

The community of Majeng in the northern Cape was less fortunate. Though it had made known its intention to reclaim the land from which it was moved, the farm was sold by the State to a white farmer earlier this year.

In addition to privatisation of land, the proposal by Minister of Land Affairs Johan Schepers that six self-governing homelands might gain ownership or powers of administration over another 1 million ha of land has raised a storm of protest from the National Land Committee (NLC), SA Council of Churches and, it is understood, the Patriotic Front.

After the initial report, Mr Schepers made it clear that the transfer to the homelands was only one of several options being considered. Other options included the sale of the land to individuals, communities or tribes, or joint control by the SA and homeland governments.

The minister's clarification does not get around criticisms of the ad hoc and unilateral nature of the action.

"We believe that this step by the State is a move calculated to pre-empt the possibility of a new government implementing a coherent and carefully planned process of allocating State land. It will also bolster the homelands in the days before they are dismantled," said the NLC.
Govt suspected of plotting land move

GOVERNMENT was considering handing over 1-million hectares of trust land to the homelands to avoid taking a decision on giving it to black farmers, DP spokesman Wessel Nel said at the weekend.

And development agencies called on the government to observe undertakings made at Codesa not to cede land to the homelands while negotiations on their future continued.

Nel said that government might hand over administration, but not ownership, of the land because the fate of white farmers who presently leased part of the land could become a thorny political issue.

Other sources said they believed government would transfer trust land to homeland control despite undertaking not to.

Nel said the land was ideally placed to be handed over to black farmers, but if this was not possible, government should consider renewing the leases for short periods.

"Government appears to have adopted a general strategy of running away from all the hard choices and dilemmas of its own making by passing the buck as quickly as possible," Nel said.

The trust land was bought by government from white farmers for homeland consolidation. Much of it has been leased out to whites, while other tracts have lain dormant for years.

Most of the land now in limbo adjoins Lebowa and KwaZulu. National Land Committee (NLC) spokesman Joanne Yawitch said she feared homeland bureaucrats would end up with the land if control was ceded to them.

Homeland administrations were already struggling to supply water to many drought-afflicted communities and the additional budgetary responsibility would make things worse.

"This step by the state is a move calculated to pre-empt the possibility of a new government implementing a coherent and carefully planned process of allocating state land," said Yawitch.

Such damaging action could only be taken as a determination to carry grand apartheid policy to its logical conclusion.

Government was not divulging exactly which areas would be transferred because it feared an ANC-inspired "land occupation campaign". The NLC was mapping areas likely to be affected by using Deeds Office documents, said Yawitch.

A government source yesterday confirmed that no decision had been taken on what to do with the land.

The Natal-based Association for Rural Advancement called on the government to observe undertakings made at Codesa that there would be a moratorium on land transfers to the homelands.
By Jo-Anne Collinge

If the Government pursues its plan to hand over control of more than one million hectares of land to self-governing homelands, it could do severe harm to communities on this land in terms of their access to pensions, health and social services and land, the National Land Committee (NLC) warns.

The intention of the Government to transfer the administration of this former South African Development Trust (SADT) land to various homelands was disclosed recently by the Ministry of Land Affairs.

It is the latest of a series of controversial moves to unilaterally dispose of land under central government control in the face of claims for restoration of land or reparation by communities which suffered under racial land policies.

"Such a step will not only have severe and detrimental consequences for the communities concerned, but will pre-empt the possibilities of establishing a coherent land and development policy in the future," an NLC statement reads.

The NLC noted that in the '80s the forced incorporation of communities such as Bekkersland, Moutse and Bothshabelo plunged these areas into upheaval and bloodshed. Now, the Government seems intent on replicating this experience.

The NLC, an umbrella organisation embracing a number of regional land rights and rural development groups, charges that "true to old-style apartheid, crucial and far-reaching decisions about people's lives are being taken without their participation".

The land give-away to the homelands was out of step with moves toward an interim government.

"We believe that this step by the State is a move calculated to pre-empt the possibility of a new government implementing a coherent and carefully planned process of allocating State land. It will also bolster the homelands in the days before they are dismantled."
Rural whites get lion's share

THE average income of whites in rural areas last year was more than five times higher than that of blacks, according to an incomes and expenditure study by Unisa's Bureau for Market Research.

The study results, released yesterday, show the average income for white households was R5,844 and for blacks R10,785.

It was found young whites tended to leave the rural areas after the age of about 19 but many returned after the age of 30-34.

The pattern was different for blacks.

Food accounted for 35.8% of black households' spending compared with only 11.9% for white households.

The biggest chunk of whites' budgets went to housing and electricity (20.8%) income tax (14.2%) and transport (13%). Blacks spent 9.6% on housing and electricity, 9% on clothing and footwear and 8.6% on furniture and household equipment.

In metropolitan areas, black households spent 38.9% on food and whites 22.8%.

White households spent 19.6% and blacks 5.2% on housing and electricity. 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 (9.5% for blacks and 5.3% for whites) and furniture and household equipment (11.2% and 4%).

In 1990 black metropolitan households spent 28.7% of their budgets on food compared with 38.4% by rural blacks in 1991.

Cush expenditure on housing was 25.5% of whites' budgets in metropolitan areas and 15.4% in rural towns.

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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 ARC, Cosatu, Nactu, Nafcoc, the SA Council of Churches, Saccoc and the SA National Civic Association.

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Shady developers fleece home buyers

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 1989 and now part of the Lawyers for Human Rights organisation, was receiving about 25 complaints a day from people who had lost their deposits to fraudulent development companies.

"There is actually very little township development going on at the moment, which makes the number of complaints all the more surprising," he said.

The HRU had more than 4,000 people on its books who had been taken for a ride by "fly-by-night developers" promising cheap housing. "These companies make use of door-to-door salesmen, who also go around factories to dupe low-income workers.

More often than not, even the land availability for the proposed site has not been cleared with the authorities," Leveson said.

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 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."
GOVERNMENT would definitely not hand over more than a million hectares in trust land to the homelands as weekend reports suggested, Deputy Land Affairs Minister Johan Scheepers said yesterday.

He said in an interview government still supported the principle of handing over land for private ownership to black farmers and the Cabinet would take a final decision on the fate of the land by the end of September.

"It is not government policy to hand over land to the self-governing territories. The principle for us is to establish black farmers as much as possible."

But a development agency source said yesterday government was still under pressure from the homelands to cede land to them.

The source said the majority of the land would be handed over to KwaZulu in an effort to consolidate that area for political reasons.

"This is just a technical smoke-screen for a political decision that implies the continuation of the homelands in the long term and strengthens the hands of those arguing for a federal system in negotiations," the source said.

Scheepers said the handing over of administratve control and not ownership to the homelands was only one of many options being discussed.

He said government was in the process of consulting political parties and organisations about what to do with the land, but would not name those taking part in the discussions.

"There is also some land which has been taken away from tribes and it must be given back," Scheepers said.

Some of the land was already occupied by black farmers, while other parts were being used for forestry and nature conservation, he said.

"The prime purpose is to try and deal with land ownership by communities. We must reconcile the promises of the past with the needs of the present," Scheepers said.
State accused in land transfer to homelands

Government buying support in negotiation process:

THE Association for Rural Advancement (Afra) has called on the Government to stop its planned transfer of 1.2 million hectares of land - 600 000ha of it in Natal - to the homelands.

Afra said in a statement that the Government refused to reveal the exact location of the land and it had fallen to the association and other organisations working on land issues to try to do this.

"The planned transfer contradicts statements the Government made in its White Paper where it undertook not to pursue consolidation of the homelands," Afra said.

"It also contradicts agreements reached in Codesa (Convention for a Democratic South Africa)."

Afra could only conclude the Government was using the issue of land as a bargaining chip to buy support from homeland leaders in negotiations.
Inquiry into land claims sent to FW

By Jo-Anne Collinge

The Advisory Commission on Land Allocation has completed its investigations of the first few land claims lodged by communities uprooted under apartheid laws, and its recommendations are now before the State President, according to commission chairman Mr Justice T H van Reenen.

In some cases, where vacant State land was not available to resolve the problems caused by removal, the commission had recommended that the Government acquire land for the purpose.

Some communities are arguing that they should be restored to the very land from which they were removed; others are seeking compensatory land, he said.

Mr Justice van Reenen said that, in hearing cases from land claimants and other parties, the greatest problem had not been deciding who had a right to the land “but whether we, as a commission, are entitled to deal with the land in question”.

In terms of the Abolition of Racially Based Land Measures Act, the commission was empowered to make recommendations only in respect of non-utilised Government-owned land.

In some cases the land from which people were removed was no longer in State hands, but had been sold to private parties. In other cases, the land had been expropriated by measures other than those laid down in the Act.

“We have already made suggestions which involve property which does not fall in that category (which the Act empowers the commission to deal with) but which we consider could be used to solve a particular problem. We believe the Government should buy property in some cases.”

Numerous other claims are waiting to be heard. The commission’s one-year term ends in October, but it is likely to be extended.

I spied on inmates, probe told

A police reward for information on people with unlicensed firearms prompted a Nancefield hostel resident to spy on other inmates.

“Mr 01” yesterday told a Goldstone Commission committee he went to the police in 1989. He also approached the police with information after he learnt that the Sowetan newspaper was offering a reward for information on people who killed train commuters in October last year.

His contact was Detective Warrant-Officer Sjula Sithibe, of the Firearms Unit, who introduced him to a Captain Kruger.

Acting on Mr 01’s information, police raided the hostel, found firearms, and arrested two men.

Mr 01 said he was paid for the tip-off, and Captain Kruger told him to continue supplying information.

Mr 01 said hostel residents who were Inkatha members were encouraged to attack ANC supporters.

Among Inkatha leaders who addressed hostel meetings were Themba Khoza, Musu Myeni and Humphrey Ndlovu.

Mr 01 said he was at a meeting at which plans to attack train passengers were outlined. Armed with a panga, as he could not afford a firearm, he joined the other hostel members the next day at 6 am.

At Kliptown station he suggested that he should turn back, as the sight of a panga might frighten commuters.

Mr 01 told the committee that he later informed the police about the incident. This led to the arrest of a number of people at the hostel whom he identified as the organisers of the train attack.
White Paper 'not last word'

By Jo-Anne Collinge

The addition of large tracts of former South African Development Trust (SADT) land to the six self-governing homelands would run sharply contrary to the Government's White Paper on the land question, says Deputy Minister of Land Affairs Johan Scheepers.

Reacting yesterday to a storm of protest which followed press reports that the Government planned to augment the homelands by about 1 million hectares of former SADT land, Mr Scheepers stressed it was "untrue" that these territories would gain ownership or administrative control of this land.

No decision on the matter had yet been taken, he said. But his department was continuing to consult the homelands and other parties and would shortly make recommendations to the Cabinet.

The department's view was that it might be necessary to deport something from the White Paper to relieve land pressure in the self-governing homelands. But this should not extend to incorporating SADT land into the homelands or placing it under their sole administrative control, Mr Scheepers said.

"We see the main issue as landless people; people in need of the land adjacent to self-governing territories. When we talk to these territories, they say: 'Our people need more land.' We are not shifting aside the White Paper; it is still a working document. But when you investigate possibilities, you go beyond the White Paper."

Mr Scheepers made it clear that, having consulted various parties, the Government would make its own decision.

"We are still the Government and we must govern" was his answer to accusations that the move constituted unilateral action ill-suited to the phase of political transition.

He said he believed it would be impossible to take a decision that would satisfy everybody. But he appealed for parties to be "balanced".
Flexible aviation policy is possible

SA's proposed new aviation policy was based on selected deregulation rather than a complete "open skies" approach. Directorate of Civil Aviation (DCA) commissioner Japie Smit said yesterday.

Addressing delegates at a Transport Department conference on civil aviation policy in SA held at Midrand, Smit said an "open skies" policy would mean foreign airlines could fly into SA even if other governments denied SA carriers a fair chance to compete on an equal basis.

The necessary legislation giving effect to the new policy would be submitted to Parliament next year. It was hoped to implement it not later than July 1, he said.

"The SA approach, having already taken some progressive steps, is to move with circumspection — even if it means being critical for the protection of vested interests.

"The reason is the desire to develop and expand an aviation environment which is above all stable. The course to follow is to steer clear of the pitfalls of regulatory protectionism on the one side and destructive competition on the other," Smit said.

The new policy had already stimulated foreign countries to the extent that since November the Transport Department had been involved in 28 bilateral meetings and a further 15 were scheduled for this year.

The proposed policy would be flexible enough to allow government to pursue its national objectives in an integrated international environment within a bilateral regulatory framework. The SA economy, and more specifically trade and tourism, the consumer and the aviation industry, would all gain substantially from the greater competition, Smit said.

The implementation of the new policy included the ratification of certain existing international aviation conventions.

Also speaking at the conference, Lexec-tran MD Victor Prins said the basic objective of the new policy was to continue the development of a network of regular scheduled international air transport services to and from SA within a well-defined regulatory framework — including some economic regulation.

Prins said the new regulatory framework consisted of a new International Air Services Act providing for a new licensing system, and a council to administer the system and new bilateral agreements based on a set of new principles.

For instance, he said, no cabotage rights — allowing foreign airlines to operate domestic routes in SA — would be granted.

SA Tourism Board chairman Piet van Hoven predicted that in contrast to 1982, where 28 foreign airlines served SA, 37 foreign carriers would fly to SA in 1994, offering 10 035 services and 2 405 968 seats.

Van Hoven believed that soon carriers from India, Egypt, the Middle East, Canada, Argentina and Japan would enter the SA market. This year's income from tourism could be higher than that from agriculture, but the opportunity for tourism to grow depended on the marketing of SA as a destination, he said.

Drought, recession and debt sink Superlink

NATIONAL supermarket supplier Superlink Stores (Pty) Ltd was liquidated in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday with debts of R4,2m. Superlink had brought the urgent application for its own winding up, which was granted by Judge P Bliden.

MD Johannes Jacobus Lombard said in court papers that Superlink had assets of R3 163 079 (including trade debtors of R1,7m) against liabilities of R4 267 130.

This amounted to a shortfall of about R1 094 051.

Lombard said Superlink had started trading when there was already a down-turn in business. "This problem has been exacerbated by the general recession and political turmoil throughout SA."

Superlink also had been severely affected by the drought, which had placed its largest members and their customers in severe financial difficulties.

In addition, one of Superlink's major competitors recently tightened up its credit arrangements with customers, many of whom were also customers of Superlink and were now unable to pay their debts.
Govt blamed for agriculture crisis

PRETORIA — The agricultural industry, and particularly the maize industry, is being pushed into an unprecedented crisis by government's failed economic policies and debt of up to R23bn, Nampo says.

The policy and its consequences have destroyed profitability in the industry, says Nampo's Mielies-Maize, and maize production has become a high-risk industry.

The journal said production in the summer grain area had been dealt a near-death blow by the drought.

The poor agricultural year was dramatically reflected in the economic growth rate, while forex losses were being suffered because of the need to import basic foods.

The journal said against this background it could have been expected that politicians, state departments and business would show concern.

"However, judging from the fierce attacks on agriculture and farmers from public platforms the opposite seems to be true." 

An example was the recent "unscientific and rash" recommendations of the Board on Tariffs and Trade report on food price inflation, one of which was the termination of control boards' statutory powers.

Government economic policy and its effect on the prices spiral, as well as the cost squeeze because of uncontrolled state spending, were not properly addressed in the report, Nampo claimed.
AN IRATE farmer livened up the staid proceedings at the Reserve Bank AGM yesterday with an attack on Governor Chris Stals's tight monetary policy.

Bothaville farmer Crawford von Abo blamed the Reserve Bank for the farmers' woes in a speech aimed at getting him elected to the Bank's board of directors as the representative for agriculture. In a change from the usual Bank AGM, the position was contested, and the election took place with a secret ballot. Von Abo suffered a resounding defeat by Johannes Preeur.

Von Abo told Stals: "You will have to see that agriculture just does not have the capacity to absorb so-called market-related interest rates while the authorities do not allow farmers to pass on their cost increases to consumers." He said interest rates accounted for 47% of farmers' debt burden.

Stals responded that the Bank was not insensitive to farmers' problems, but monetary policy had not caused the drought. The Bank could not set different interest rates for different sectors of the economy.

First National Bank MD Barry Swart told Stals the banks applauded his single-mindedness.
Farmers slam Reserve Bank for economic

ROY COKAYNE
PRETORIA. — Farmers mounted an attack on the Reserve Bank, blaming it for most of their financial woes, at the bank’s annual meeting.

They also tried to unseat Mr Johannes Fourie, representing agriculture on the board and put forward their own candidate, former Maize Board chairman and current chairman of the Free State Wheat Producers’ Association, Crawford von Abo.

But Mr Fourie, who had to stand for re-election in terms of the Reserve Bank Act, was re-elected after the first ballot in 61 years to elect a director.

Mr Von Abo appealed to the Reserve Bank for relief for farmers.

He said the aims of official agricultural policy were the development of agriculture in such a way that the production factors, with related functions, were used in such a way that agriculture made a contribution to the optimal economic, constitutional and social development and stability of South Africa, and at the same time contributed to the promotion of an economically healthy farming community.

Mr Von Abo said according to the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) — and without taking into account the effects of the 1981/82 drought — at the end of the 1980/81 season 2,386 producers could not get further production credit, 40.2 percent of producers with production credit did not have the ability to repay it and 700 farmers on average were liquidated each month last year.

The Standard Bank reported mealie prices had risen by 80 percent in the past decade, but the real price had dropped by 47 percent. Corn prices had increased by 73 percent, but had dropped in real terms by 49 percent.

Total agricultural debt in 1980 was R3.2 billion, compared with R17 billion in 1990, he said.

Factors responsible for this, according to the Economic Advisory Council, were inflation, 47 percent, interest, 31 percent, and the drought, 22 percent.

"The crux of the problem in agriculture was that agriculture was being held responsible for price rises in the agricultural sector and the agricultural sector was being expected to break the inflation spiral," said Mr Von Abo.

"Agriculture is not allowed by the government of the day to pass on to the end user the cost increases of the agricultural sector and the risk factors in the industry.

"Where interest rates are used as an instrument to restrict inflation, agriculture must also get this medicine, although it has not contributed at all to the sickness of inflation. Besides, this medicine has contributed to agriculture's debt increasing by 31 percent.

"Agriculture does not have the ability to absorb market-related interest rates when the government of the day does not allow agriculture to pass on its cost increases to the end user. This makes the aims as spelt out in the White Paper on Agricultural Policy a farce," he said.

Mr Von Abo asked the Reserve Bank, as a responsible institution, to make a contribution to the aims spelt out on Agricultural Policy.

Reserve Bank Governor Dr Chris Stals said he had sympathy for the situation in the agricultural sector and accepted that high interest rates created many problems.

The Reserve Bank was attempting to reduce nominal interest rates, but the governor stressed there was not an easy way to reduce inflation.

He said if they did not accept realistic and market-related interest rates, it would lead to higher inflation and ultimately higher interest rates.

Dr Stals said this did not mean nothing could be done to aid the agricultural sector, but stressed the solution did not lie with the Reserve Bank because it could not be selective in its policies, which had to apply to all sectors.

He said the agricultural sector should look to other channels that could be selective, adding there was already a long list of aid schemes for farmers.
R250 000-a-week aid

PRETORIA — The Department of Water Affairs is spending R250 000 a week aiding drought-stricken rural areas through a network of task forces co-ordinated from Pietersburg.
blacks over land ownership."

But the National Land Committee (NLC), which appears to follow a line similar to the ANC's on the issue, says that if government is serious about dismantling apartheid structures, it should not consider handing any control to other authorities.

The NLC's Joanne Yawitch says: "Control should be retained by the relevant government agencies. In this case, it should be managed by the Department of Agriculture."

The land in question was formerly owned and managed by the SA Development Trust, linked to the Department of Development Aid. It was scheduled to be incorporated into six homelands but the process was halted abruptly last year following publication of government's White Paper on Land Reform.

Incorporation was seen as contrary to the reform process. But government caused a storm earlier this month and was accused of trying to continue to implement grand apartheid when it admitted that the land might be placed under the administrative control of the self-governing states.

Government's problem is that a solution is needed urgently and a Cabinet decision is expected shortly. Though much of the land is occupied by communities and tribes, nearly 25% is leased to farmers — most of them white — whose tenure expires at the end of the year.

The issue is exacerbated by government being caught in the middle of two pressure groups. The liberation movements are adamant that nothing should be done to expand or enhance the standing of the homelands. Yet self-governing leaders are demanding the handover of promised land for much-needed development.

Yawitch says a political motive which contradicts the spirit of Codesa is being attributed to the moves by the Department of Land Affairs. "Clearly, handing land over to the self-governing territories strengthens a political position. It enhances the influence of those territories, increases the number of people over whom administrators of those territories have influence and strengthens the hand of those who want a federal solution for SA."

But Scheepers insists: "While I am discussing the issue with the homelands, it is not our intention to hand the land over to any self-governing territory, either by way of incorporation or administrative control. It will remain the property of central government, whatever course of action is chosen."

Though acknowledging that Scheepers is aware of the need for a workable solution, Yawitch says any form of control given away will have severe implications for the people in the area. "Every aspect of their daily lives, from pensions to health and other social services, will be affected."

It is hard to believe government can be contemplating increasing the power of the homelands in any way and even harder to accept this in respect of the highly emotional land issue.
Minister denies claim on land for KwaZulu

MORE than 600 000 ha of state land could still be transferred to KwaZulu, despite government assurances to the contrary, Association for Rural Advancement (Afra) co-ordinator Richard Clacey said yesterday.

But Land Affairs Deputy Minister Johan Scheepers reiterated his standpoint that no decision had been taken on the land. He said the area on the KwaZulu boundaries was far less than 600 000 ha. Groups like Afra were welcome to discuss with him their opinions on what should be done with the land.

Clacey said any land transfer would lead to an escalation of violence because some communities in areas likely to be transferred were openly hostile to incorporation into KwaZulu.

He had it on good authority that government was considering transferring the land for strategic political reasons — a charge denied by Scheepers, who described the land issue as non-political.

Clacey said KwaZulu was putting pressure on government for additional land.

He said government claimed it was considering transferring administration — and not ownership — as one of many options were misleading.

Afra had identified three types of land likely to be transferred: land now leased by white farmers, land settled by blacks, and small areas of land around townships, he said. Some of the land leased by white farmers had been seized from people who still claimed ownership, Clacey added.
SA can learn from Australia’s drought policies

TREVOR BISSEKER

Since the RAS inauguration in 1971, more than R1.2bn has been spent on aid to more than 25,000 farmers.

The imaginative programme is best illustrated by a few examples:

A dairy farmer in financial difficulty asked for help. The RAS provided an intc. cash subsidy on his commercial feed, which allowed the farmer to build up herd numbers. He was able to improve stock nutrition through growing better feed, which improved production.

Over the period of assistance, the RAS provided an interest subsidy of R14,000, and farm income increased from about R120,000 to more than R340,000. The farmer no longer needs help.

A farming couple in a wheat area suffered from a combination of poor seasons caused by drought, high debts and low commodity prices. They had been on the farm all their lives and were reluctant to leave, but were advised by consultants to sell up. With the help of a re-establishment grant, they were able to move to a coastal tourist town, buy a small house and start a new life.

Household support, similar to unemployment benefits, is available for a year to farmers who leave the land, and may be extended. If the farmer resumes farming, the money has to be repaid with interest.

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ough Australia’s current drought is not as severe as the one devastating Africa, New South Wales and Queensland, which together produce more than half the country’s agricultural products, are in their third successive dry year.

Comparisons with SA may not be entirely valid in view of SA’s special problems, among them the large peasant populations on farms and in the homelands, and the need to deal with homeland governments. Processes about 60,000 aid applications from farmers, made through cooperatives, is a huge task, and there are also complications caused by the involvement of various state and state relief organisations. But these are not insurmountable difficulties, and they could be eased by a cohesive drought policy. Australia’s new policy is based on the recommendations of a working group set up two years ago.

"The big issues are how to introduce a drought policy in a deregulated environment, and to convince farmers they must manage for risk, including drought," said committee chairman Onko Kingma in an interview in Canberra.

Agricultural income in 1991/92 was the worst for several decades, and farm indebtedness to financial institutions has grown from about R26bn in 1987 to nearly R60bn. Yet, in sharp contrast to practices in SA where farmers’ debt is expected to reach R90bn by year-end, aid in Australia is not triggered by the declaration of drought disaster areas.

Central to the policy is a realisation that assistance to protect farmers is misplaced, as it could support unsustainable farming systems.

The new policy is aimed at encouraging farmers to take responsibility for their own long-term drought management. It accepts that the policy alone may not be sufficient to address all the complex issues involved. "It therefore has to be considered in a wide context and be linked to other policy areas, including taxation and farm management," says Kingma.

Two key aspects of the policy are the rural adjustment scheme (RAS) and the income equalisation deposits (IED).

The goal of the RAS is to increase economic returns from the farm’s financial, physical and human resources. It includes programmes for concessional interest rates, land purchase and improvement, training and, as a last resort, schemes to help farmers leave the land "with dignity".

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he RAS is flexible so that it can cope with all contingencies and avoid problems associated with ad hoc responses to extreme conditions. It is being revamped "to give clear focus on sustainable, long-term profitability".

Special attention is given to farmers who need help in conditions of severe drought, such as drought, but Primary Industries and Energy Minister Simon Crean pointed out that assistance would be given "to those with sound prospects who are temporarily in financial difficulty".

Subsidies of up to 100% of the interest on commercial loans and existing debt will be provided to farmers "whose businesses are profitable in the long term". Farmers without prospects of recovery are helped to quit the land.

In normal circumstances, farmers will be able to obtain incentives through interest subsidies or grants to improve and develop their farms and support through activities such as training, farm appraisal and planning services.

There is also a rural action programme offering social services ("don’t miss out because you live in the bush"), a rural counselling service for farm families in financial difficulties, a Landcare programme involving about 1,000 groups of 20 farmers each, and water and soil conservation programmes. All are widely promoted by government.

The IED scheme enables farmers to place earnings, unclaimed on deposits in good years, to be withdrawn and taxed in low income years. The deposits (minimum R200,000) are tax deductible in the year in which they are made, and tax is imposed in the year in which it is withdrawn.

From October 1, a system of farm management bonds will be incorporated into the IED programme.

Since the RAS inception in 1971, more than R1.2bn has been spent on aid to more than 25,000 farmers.
Barricades in the bush

— Sparsely grazing for cattle
— brought on by the drought is
— causing rural people to clash
— with nature conservationists,
— reports EDDIE KOCH

This was the latest in a series of con-
— flicts around nature conservations
— that have erupted over the poverty and
— hardship caused by drought intensifying
— social tensions in many rural areas.

Residents of Matlala, a sprawling
— township in Limpopo where the
— local youth believe Paul Kruger stole
— their land to create the park, earlier
— this year told The Weekly Mail how they
— had picked battles with game
— protectors after going into the park to
— poach animals and collect wood.
— “People feel that it is hard times like
— this the land must be given back to the
— people,” said civic leader Lawrence
— Mooi. “When people are starving it is
— not right to worry about the welfare of
— wild animals.”

People from the village of Matlala, near the Kruger Park’s Nelspruit Gate, have expressed similar sentiments.

About two weeks after the kahogan Park Preservation Corporation (KPC) erected a fence around a beautiful piece of tribal land in the Matlala area, a group of local youths gathered and marched on the fence

called them and said they wanted to see a nature reserve for their people.

“We were very excited because it
— hasn’t been easy to persuade rural peo-
— ple about the advantages of game
— reserves,” says KPC field ranger
— Arnie van Wyk. “But the next thing
— there were mass meetings in the vil-
— lage and people were saying that
— unless we took down the fence our
— game reserves’ tents would be burnt down.”

The National Parks Board, which manages the Kruger Park, is
— alarmed by reports that people living next to the reserve in Limpopo have begun talking about
gutting the fence down and sending their cattle into the park.

“We are really worried that the drought is forcing people to take militant action,” says a conserva-
— tionist who asked not to be named. “This is undermin-
— ing all our efforts to preserve the biological species in the reserve and to educate people about the importance of nature conservation.”

Unlike unrest in the urban areas, most of these projects have gone unnoticed by the media. But even a scrawny sweater, shows that nature conserva-
— tion is becoming a major source of conflict in many rural areas.

Which is why some conserva-
— tion agencies are now taking innovative mea-
— sures to deal with the resentment that is spreading around their projects.

Kahogan Park’s conservationists have started a pilot scheme in the Komatipoort district which allows cattle farmers from a nearby village to graze their cattle “in a sus-
— tantiable way” in one of their small reserves.

“We’ve agreed with the farmers that only cow, female calves and a limited number of bulls are allowed to graze in the conservation area,” says KPC director Jeremy Anderson. “This has been enormously helpful in getting along together and the project that has been generated by trust.”

And on the other side of the Transvaal, the Hop-
— bush-Gum Park Board has
— agreed to make alter-
— native land available to farmers who had to rem-
— ove their cattle for the cre-
— ation of the new Mad-
— ikwe Game Reserve near the Nelspruit border.

These initiatives show that it is possible to mediate
— the need for conservation of specie,
— with the interests of rural people. But unless they are replicated on a much wider scale we are likely, in the immediate future, to see more battles as in the bush.
THE WEEK'S skirmishes over land and the cost of the war raised quite a bit of dust.

The attempt to annex the 530 square miles of Government land on the Beira was stopped by ANC pressure, and the Deputy Minister of Land Affairs, Johan Schoepers, indicated that the government was in no hurry to take control of the land and that the government would not rush into making decisions about the land.

We are in the early stages of the negotiations, but it is clear that the government is looking for a solution to the land issue. It is important to note that the government is not alone in this, as the ANC and other organizations are also involved in the talks.

Incorporation

Schoepers made it clear that the government is not going to make any decisions about the land issue without consulting the people. He said that the government is committed to finding a solution that is acceptable to all parties.

The land issue is a complex one, and it is important to consider the needs of all parties involved. The government is working hard to find a solution that is fair and just for everyone.

The Government Found itself in a bit of a hot water this week over its attempt to auction off land earmarked for black settlement. The question is: why did it do this?

The very obvious problem of landlessness and over-population in the homelands is the main reason why the government is trying to find a solution to the land issue. When we talk to self-governing territories, they say their people need more land to find their homes.

Although a considerable proportion of the 1 million hectares in the homelands is already heavily populated, a fair share of agricultural land is still being held in white hands. The government is trying to offer this land to the homelands without drawing attention to the solution.

The very obvious problem of landlessness and over-population in the homelands is the main reason why the government is trying to find a solution to the land issue. When we talk to self-governing territories, they say their people need more land to build houses and grow food.

The government is trying to offer this land to the homelands without drawing attention to the solution. However, it is clear that the government is trying to find a solution that is acceptable to everyone involved.
War over ‘promised land’

The Government found itself in a bit of hot water this week over its attempt to auction off land earmarked for black settlement. The question Jo-Anne Collinge asks is: what did it think it was playing at?

Memories of incorporation are recent and bloody — in Mountain Heads and Leebowfontein in the Transvaal, where resistance to the new administration gave rise to brutal vigilante-and security force repression. The Montese land grab in the free state during civil war in KwaZulu in 1990. Even the extension of homestead administration of areas beyond its borders and has been resisted. For instance, the homesteads on the plain that administration declared unlawful. The politicians from the past are unequivocal: by introducing an element of homestead rule, the Government has chosen a path which runs a high risk of conflict. It seems strange that it should have done this when political parties across the spectrum accept the inordinate demands of the self-governing territories, they say, ‘Our people need more land.’

Although a considerable proportion of the 1 million hectares is already heavily populated, a fair chunk constitutes agricultural land currently being leased to white farmers, he points out. The NLC’s Jo-Anne Collinge asks: Why this sudden about-face? And ANC sources point out that it is entirely feasible to offer land to the tenants without causing communal squatters to the solution.

While squatter settlements mushroom the Provincial Administration, for one, has been less than adept at finding land to give the homeless lease tenure. Earlier this month a Transvaal Supreme Court judge attempted to outlaw the TPA itself by a deplorable piece of allowing State land’.

The land policies of the ANC and the Government differ fundamentally. In the period of negotiations, many believed the policy differences were almost as great as the practices. Policy would remain suspended at least until the first democratic elections are held. The situation is now seen as a definite development that the Government has a land strategy in addition to the mandates of the Constitution and its supporters will have to work to make it remain a success.
By CHERILYN IRETON

THE Government’s R1-billion parcel of agricultural drought aid may be distributed too late to stave off sequestration for many farmers. Already only a quarter of all farmers facing imminent sequestration — and who have applied for a bail-out from the State-run agricultural credit board — can be rescued, says Mike Walters, who chairs the Government’s co-ordinated drought relief programme.

Three-quarters of aid applications processed by the end of July failed.

Close

“The position of farmers is pretty desperate and indications are that a large proportion will go to the wall,” says Mr Walters.

“We are trying to assess how many have been sequestered. But there is little doubt that without aid we would have faced a major disaster in the commercial farming sector.”

He believes that the Government, through its aid programme, will succeed in keeping most farmers in production, thereby helping to sustain the rural economy.

Applications for drought assistance — for carryover debt and interest subsidies — close this week.

Included in the aid package is a R15-million provision to prevent sequestration of farmers who show the ability to recover.

Many of the other allocations are also designed to keep farmers in business. They include assistance for workers, debt reconstruction, interest subsidies and money for emergency water supply.

Farmers’ debt is estimated to be nearly R20-billion, but the banks are not overly concerned about bad debts.

“We are not faced with a calamity yet,” says First National Bank general manager Neil Garden. “We will try to carry the farmer through by rescheduling payments where possible and assisting with cash flow. We are certainly not calling in facilities because of the drought.”

The commercial banking sector’s exposure to farmers is about R5-billion, representing an estimated 6% of their total book.

Former Nampo chairman Crawford von Abo told the Reserve Bank annual meeting this week that almost half of farmers with debt were unable to make any repayments. In the 1990-91 season more than 2 000 farmers were unable to obtain further credit.

He claimed that about 700 farmers were being declared insolvent each month, a figure dismissed by bankers.

Mr Walters says aspects of government relief to the farming sector will continue even if the drought is broken.

“Our aid has longer-term implications and there will be continued input for certain schemes. Aid through support for co-operatives will continue for another three years.”

Negative

The Reserve Bank has warned that agricultural production could shrink by as much as 15% this year.

It says in its annual economic report that drought in the summer rainfall areas had a negative influence on most crops. Worst hit was maize, which may fall from a peak crop of 11.5-million tons in 1988 to an estimated 3-million in 1992.

The production of sunflower seed, soya beans and dry beans was also more than halved by the low rainfall. However, record delicious fruit and citrus crops were harvested in the winter rainfall area.

The bank says that because of the drought real growth in gross domestic product may be about 1.6 percentage points lower.

“The drought has already caused a sharp increase in food prices and without any financial assistance it could have led to a loss of an estimated 69 000 job opportunities and a substantial rise in the already high debt of the farmers.”

“The lower agricultural employment could have caused the movement of an additional 250 000 people to urban areas with substantial financial implications for public authorities.

“The drought is not only resulting in increased government expenditure to provide assistance to the farmers, but it has a negative influence on the income of government as well as on the income of business enterprises associated with the farming community.”
Crisis talks loom on 'Bantustan' land deal

LAND and Regional Affairs Deputy Minister Johan Schepers will hold talks over the next 10 days with the six self-governing territories on the future of 4-million hectares of former trust land.

The land was promised to these territories for homeland consolidation before old-style apartheid was scrapped. The bulk of the "promised land" was allocated to KwaZulu and Lebowa.

Mr Schepers had told the Sunday Times earlier this month he would propose to the cabinet that administrative control of the land be transferred to the "Bantustans".

He had come under increasing pressure from the six territories to fulfil the old promises of land transfer. The transfer of administrative control seemed to be a compromise, he had said.

However, the proposal was greeted with outrage by the ANC, the DP and other land-interest groups, on the grounds that the move would effectively mean incorporation.

Over the past two weeks, Mr Schepers has held talks with the DP and the ANC over the proposals to the cabinet.

The DP suggested that joint administration of the land between the government and the self-governing territories would be a more acceptable option, as this would not mean the total relinquishment of control over the land.

Divulge

The ANC has also proposed alternatives.

Mr Schepers said yesterday that the cabinet had discussed his recommendations last week. It was decided these should first be discussed with the self-governing territories before a decision was taken.

The response of the self-governing territories would be taken to the cabinet before the end of October for a decision.

Mr Schepers declined to divulge the proposals he would be taking to the territories during the forthcoming talks.

However, sources in his department said some kind of joint administration between the SA government and the territories was in the offering.

Bike racer dies in Kyalami tragedy

MOTORCYCLE racer George Jeronidis was killed in a high-speed accident during the Yellow Pages Spring Challenge national championship meeting at Kyalami yesterday.

Fellow rider Freddy van Rooyen was seriously injured in the same accident.

Jeronidis was certified dead at the circuit by the track's medical officer.

Van Rooyen was stabilised and airlifted to the Johannesburg Hospital with suspected spinal and leg injuries.

The accident happened at the start of the second lap of the superbike race.

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