AGRICULTURE - LABOUR

CAPE TOWN — Long-awaited legislation on domestic and farm workers is unlikely to be introduced in this session of Parliament.

The news has disappointed the Domestic Workers’ Association (DWA), one of several unions which have been pressing for years to get legal provisions covering employment of domestic workers.

Dr Piet van der Merwe, director-general of the Department of Manpower, said a report from the National Manpower Commission had been completed and was under consideration but “we do not envisage legislation this year”.

Mrs Florrie de Villiers, secretary of the DWA, said it proved yet again how lightly the Government took the matter.

The NMC was instructed in 1982 to begin an inquiry into employment conditions for the two groups and the long delay in producing legislation has been strongly criticised and several questions have been asked in Parliament.

In December 1984 a delegation from three groups — the South African Domestic Workers’ Association, the Domestic Workers’ Association of South Africa and the DWA — travelled to Pretoria to protest to the Minister of Manpower, Mr Pietie du Plessis, about the delay.

Mrs de Villiers said domestic workers were an important workforce making a significant contribution to a stable society. “Having domestic workers allows many skilled and professional women to enter the economy,” she said.
Farmworkers are abused — Labour

PETER FABRICIUS
Parliamentary Staff

The Labour Party is to introduce legislation this session to protect farmworkers and domestic servants who at present do not have union protection.

The party announced this after the Minister of Manpower, Mr Piet du Plessis, said that no new legislation on this matter was planned for this session.

A Labour Party spokesman said Mr du Plessis had to make it clear that he was speaking on behalf of the National Party and not of Parliament in general and the Labour Party in particular.

"Our farmworkers have been continually overworked, underpaid and abused, and the old tot system is still very much in use," he said.
Committee to settle dining row

PARLIAMENT — A special joint committee of all the Houses of Parliament is to decide if the controversial segregated House of Assembly dining room should be open to MPs of all races.

The Speaker of Parliament, Mr Johan Grefsz, convened the joint meeting to prevent the issue being "blown up into something of national and international proportions". He reiterated his claim that the refusal to serve coloured MPs had nothing to do with race or colour. It was designed to ensure privacy for Members of Parliament.

Rev Allan Hendricks, chairman of the House of Representatives, one of the MPs' refusal, rejected the Speaker's statement but added that his caucus had already decided to "stop exerting pressure for our right as Members of Parliament." They had decided to leave it up to other caucuses to decide. — Political Staff.

Solidarity MPs turn on NNP and their own leader

Mr Amichand Rajbansi was scathingly attacked by one of the rebel opposition MPs in the House of Delegates yesterday.

Mr Mamoo Rajab (Solidarity, Springfield) said Mr Rajbansi's apparent inability to do anything about removing apartheid, in spite of being a Cabinet Minister, must make it difficult for him to sleep at night.

Mr Rajab is one of four Solidarity MPs who have brought an interdict against the leader of their party, Mr. Abdy Reddy, in a bid to prevent the proposed NNP-Solidarity coalition.

Mr Rajab said Mr Rajbansi should accept vicarious responsibility for the passing of apartheid laws. He (Mr Rajbansi) sat on the most powerful body in the country with the same Ministers who pushed through apartheid legislation, "carrying not who was demeaned and who was hurt."

He would be held responsible for the decisions of the Cabinet, and although this perception might be unfair, "we must remember history was never strong on fairness," Mr Rajab said.

Earlier, Mr Gopi Marussok (Solidarity, Nominate) went against Mr Reddy by lambasting the Federated Chamber of Industry (FCI). Mr Reddy had praised the FCI in his speech for its voice to the anti-apartheid lobby.

Mr Marussok denounced the FCI and Assacom as white capitalists who had never before worried about the plight of blacks. "Suddenly everyone who never lifted a finger is on the bandwagon shouting 'change!'," he said.

Theology document a call to murder — MP

The Kairos document on liberation theology, signed by general secretary of the South African Council of Churches (SACC) Dr Beyers Naudé was a call to revolution, murder and even high treason, Mr J W Meiring (NP, Paarl) said in the No-Confidence Debate yesterday.

Mr Meiring said the document, released last year, had been compiled by "seven nameless theologians" and financed by the SACC.

It was undoubtedly the most radical document from the hands of churchmen in South Africa. The problem was that many outside the country saw it as the official view of the church here.

Mr J W Meiring, National Party MP for Paarl.

South Africa by a higher hand and given a calling, so we do not have to care about others. There must always be a quid pro quo. Every citizen must do all he can to improve relations between races." — Sapa.

Plan to protect farm workers

PARLIAMENT — The Labour Party is to introduce legislation this session to protect farm workers and domestic servants who have no union protection.

The party announced this after the Minister of Manpower, Mr Piet du Plessis, said that no new legislation on this matter was planned for this session.

"The Minister of Manpower must make it clear that he is speaking of behalf of the National Party, and not of Parliament in general and the Labour Party in particular," a spokesman said in a statement.

Our farm workers have been continually overworked, underpaid and abused and the old system is still very much in use.

Mr Petrus Meyer (LP, Vredendal) told the House that in their farm workers nor domestic were defined as workers under the Manpower Act. — Political Staff.
Marketing Act essential, says farmers' union

Mercury Reporter

THE Marketing Act was regarded as essential by the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) and it was not prepared to negotiate its principles in this respect, the SAAU's senior economist, Mr Dries Savel, said yesterday.

Mr Savel was speaking at the 1966 annual meeting of the Natal Commerical Poultry Producers' Association (NCCPA), which was held at the Royal Hotel, Durban.

'Specific schemes can, however, be adjusted as circumstances may demand and according to the demands of the time, provided that it is done in consultation with the producers concerned,' Mr Savel continued.

He said the SAAU was in full agreement with the stand taken by the State President on the Marketing Act, which was that agriculture could be best developed if minimum Government involvement was used to bring about the necessary stability.

Promote

'In this respect the Marketing Act provides an excellent framework within which the various commodity branches can be given the necessary support with a minimum of regulations,' Mr Savel said the Marketing Act did not exist solely to promote the producer's interests, but also to promote and protect the interests of the consumer.

'Ammunition

The chairman of the NCCPA, Mr Warwick Barnsley, urged members to question the effectiveness of the pool scheme in stabilising Natal's market and pricing structures.

He said members should be aware that the new Competition Act would bring the pool structure under scrutiny at some stage and that the pooling agreements 'could be ultra vires of several of the Competition Act stipulations.'

'I urge you therefore to use the ammunition at your disposal, your inherent efficiency, your marketing ability, your production costs, your costs of production and distribution, get involved in the decision-making process of your industry,' Mr Barnsley said.

'These are your best assets together with the more volatile price structures which will ensure your continued existence in our industry.'

Mr Barnsley told the Mercury that there was a chance that the price of poultry and eggs should drop due to lower petrol costs caused by the lower petrol price.

'But it is not possible to say definitely if prices will drop because the lower petrol price was only announced on Wednesday,' Mr Barnsley said.
Worker dies after attack by ‘upset’ bull

Staff Reporter

A FARM worker died in Tygerberg Hospital after being trampled by a bull, police said today.

They believe the bull was being led into a paddock when it charged Mr Sezi Action Mayika, 39.

Major Frank Alton, Boland’s police liaison officer, said Mr Mayika died about 11am yesterday, 17 hours after he was trampled.

Major Alton said that Mr Mayika, who worked on Vredenburg Farm near Stellenbosch, was leading the bull into a paddock between 5pm and 6pm on Sunday.

He opened the gate and the bull “got upset”, Major Alton said. The animal charged Mr Mayika and knocked him over. “We believe the animal then stood on his head.”

After the incident Mr Mayika walked to the farmhouse and was taken to Stellenbosch Hospital. He was transferred to Tygerberg Hospital.
The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(a) On 31 December 1985 farmers were indebted to the Land Bank for the total amount of R 275 166 507 under long-, intermediate- and short-term loans.

(b) The foregoing total debt is in respect of 42 771 loans granted by the Land Bank to farmers. Loans were granted to two or more farmers, make up a large percentage of these loans.

Land and Agricultural Bank

635. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Finance:

How many loans were granted by the Land and Agricultural Bank to (a) Coloured and (b) Indian farmers in 1985?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(a) 6.

(b) 6.

Subsidies for fencing

22. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply:

What was the total amount paid out in subsidies for fencing in each province of the Republic in terms of the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, No 43 of 1983, in respect of each of the latest specified two years for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

R 1984/85 1985/86
R
R
13 208 27 457
105 394 77 819
8 379 15 459
38 226 50 104
152 271 173 453
55 439 66 146
14 064 17 148
Figures per province not available.

* Provisional figure.

White-owned farms

32. Mr M A DARR asked the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply:

Whether his Department keeps any statistics on the number of White-owned farms which are no longer occupied by White farmers; if so, how many such farms were there in each specified region of the Republic as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

No such statistics are being kept.

Agricultural Credit Board in the latest specified year, for which figures are available, in respect of (a) the electrification of houses for, (b) the provision of water for domestic consumption by, and (c) any other specified services in respect of, farm employees?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

The scheme for housing loans for farm labourers was temporarily suspended on 24 August 1984.

Drought relief: financial assistance

41. Mr H H SCHWARZ asked the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply:

What was the total amount of financial assistance rendered by his Department in the form of drought relief in 1985 or the latest specified 12-month period for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:


WEDNESDAY, 19 MARCH 1986

Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General affairs:

39. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) With regard to 1984 and 1985, respectively, (a) what total number of persons were detained under the Internal Security Act, No 74 of 1982, for reasons related to unrest, (b) in terms of what section of this Act was each detained and (c) for how long was each person held in detention;

(2) whether any persons so detained were (a) charged and (b) convicted; if so, how many in each case in respect of each of the above years?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) (a) 1984: 166
1985: 1 924

(b) Section 50(1) of the Internal Security Act, 1982 (Act 74 of 1982)
Govt accused of delaying farm report in fear of white backlash

Political Reporter

CAPE TOWN — The Government was sting on an important labour report on the plight of farm workers for fear of a right-wing backlash, it was suggested in the House of Delegates yesterday.

In a debate on a private member’s motion, the opposition Solidarity Party called on the Minister of Manpower to make public the recommendations of the National Manpower Commission before the end of the current parliamentary session.

Mr Somaroo Pachai (NPP, Natal Midlands) introduced a motion on behalf of Mr Ahmed Lambat (NPP, Actonville) calling for an investigation into the possibility of bringing farm workers within the ambit of existing labour legislation.

Mr Pachai said the exploitation of labour contributed to South Africa’s standing among the international community as a pariah and a polecot.

Solidarity Whip Mr Mohanlall Bandalalla (Havenside) pointed out that in 1982 the Minister of Manpower had appointed the National Manpower Commission to investigate the working and living conditions of farm workers.

He moved an amendment urging the Minister to reveal the findings of the report by the end of the current session.

This is a long time for an investigation, and I am told that the report of the commission is with the Minister.”

Replying to the debate, the Minister, Mr Pietie du Plessis, said the draft report of the commission had been handed to him in November 1984.

It had taken until May 1985 for the draft report to be translated from Afrikaans into English.

The report could not yet be released, however, as certain matters of principle still had to be discussed with representatives of the agricultural sector.

Mr Pachai asked the Minister if the reason for the delay in the release of the report was because the Government was worried about the effect the report could have on white farmers.

“[If] the Government’s fears of a right-wing backlash are more important than human suffering and degradation, then God help South Africa,” Mr Pachai said.

Mr du Plessis firmly rejected the suggestion. “I’m afraid of nobody and nothing — I follow my conscience. We look at merits, not at pressure groups,” he said.

The time for the debate expired and the motion lapsed.
President Brand over the Area in which the new mine is being developed. The conclusion of the agreement between Freegold and President Brand over the area is currently being drawn up.

The area has been demarcated for the mining of gold. The agreement is subject to the approval of the Freegold board of directors.

Dr. Plesis was speaking in a press conference at the House of Representatives today. He said that the government was determined to resolve the conflict between farm workers and black workers. The NPF and the ANC have called for the immediate implementation of the new farm workers' act.

The NPF said that the new act would make it easier for farm workers to form unions. The ANC said that the act would lead to a more equitable distribution of work.

The NPF and the ANC have agreed to work together to ensure the implementation of the new act. The government has also agreed to support the new act.
Mechanization ‘threat to farm labourers’

Political Reporter

HOUSE OF DELEGATES. — The Minister of Manpower, Mr Pietie du Plessis, said on Thursday he feared that mechanization in the agricultural sector would result in some one million farm workers losing their jobs.

He also said there was a danger that labour could price itself out of the market, which would result in a “disaster”.

Mr Du Plessis was speaking during a private member’s motion in the House of Delegates which called for farm workers to be brought under the ambit of existing legislation.

Indian MPs from both the ruling National People’s Party (NPP) and Solidarity Party highlighted the inequities farm workers faced in the workplace.

The NPP said farm workers should be given protection under the labour relations provisions, while Solidarity in its amendment demanded that the government release the National Manpower Commission’s report which focused primarily on the agricultural sector.

Mr Du Plessis blamed the “advocates of disinvestment and boycotts” for the growing unemployment which he said would result in regional destabilization as many of the workers in this country were from neighbouring black states.
Farm-housing loans are being reactivated from April 1, Mr De Klerk said. The loan scheme had been abolished in 1984 and this had led to a great backlog. The Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply, Mr Sarel Hayward, would give further details during debate on the Budget.
Govt provides R1.5 m for security of farmers

Parliamentary Correspondent

The Government is to provide a new subsidy and loans, totalling R1.5 m, during the current financial year for the security of farmers in 'designated areas'.

Provision for the new grants have been included in the estimates for expenditure for the House of Assembly which were tabled yesterday.

Agricultural loans of R900,000 as contributions to the agricultural credit accounts and subsidies of R600,000 for the security of inhabitants of designated areas have been budgeted.

A further R24.5 million has been budgeted for 'designated areas' compared with R12.5 million provided for this purpose during the 1965/6 financial year.

No details of the new amounts were provided in the estimates but they are expected to be devoted to improving the security of farmers living in areas such as the Northern Transvaal where a number of landmine explosions have taken place recently.

The subsidy has been included in the agriculture financing programme of the House of Assembly's Department of Agriculture and Water Supply.

Another new item in the vote is R550,000 for farmers' labourers' housing.
Four men die in violent Boland weekend

CAPE TOWN — Four men died in separate stabbing incidents in the Boland at the weekend.

A Boland police spokesman said yesterday that five people arrested in connection with the killings would appear in the Paarl Magistrate’s Court.

Mr Jacob Pietersen of the farm Uitkyk in the Wellington district was stabbed to death during an argument on Friday afternoon.

Mr Stemmet Brown (38), of the farm Boenderie, Paarl, died of stab wounds late on Friday night. A 16-year-old man has been arrested.

On Saturday morning, Mr Adam Appolis (25) died of stab wounds sustained in a fight on the farm Spioenkop in the Montagu district. A man has been been taken into custody.

Mr Johan Vleimooi (25) died in a similar incident on the farm Hoogland in the Zoerust district that night. A man and a woman are in police custody.

Two people died in the Zoerust district after drinking wine from a cool-drink bottle which had apparently previously contained poison.

A police spokesman said Mr Gerard Kalmeyer (44) and Mr Petrus Muller (50), of the farm Die Viakte, were given their usual quota of wine by the owner of the farm. The men apparently poured the wine into a cool-drink bottle. — Sapa.
MARITZBURG. — Thirty-four families due to be evicted from a farm adjoining the Hlobane mine near Vryheid today have no alternative place to live, according to the Association for Rural Advancement (AFRA).

AFRA organizer Miss Patti Henderson said the families, many of whom have men working on the Hlobane and Tseleleli mines, were legally bound to leave the farm Rietvlei 150, subsection 35, today in accordance with a magisterial eviction order passed on March 7. They have not been able to find another home.

According to AFRA the Rietvlei people have approached community leaders at the informal KwaBekumthetho settlement near Mondlo for accommodation, but have been turned away owing to extreme overcrowding and heavy unemployment in the area.

KwaBekumthetho already has a population of 30 000 evicted farmworkers in an area, and has no amenities.

At a meeting held on April 2, the families told AFRA that they were not refusing to move, but that there was no place for them to go.
‘Revolution’ on Karoo farm

LIFE on a farm in a dry stretch of the Karoo changed dramatically the day the farmer apologized to his staff.

A television film was made of the apology and shown in Britain, Japan, New Zealand and the United States. The video is now available in South Africa.

The farmer was Mr Roly Kingwill, now more than 80 years old, of Gordanville, about 60 km from Graaff-Reinet.

“Our greatest crisis is in human relations,” Mr Kingwill says in a video about the quiet revolution on his farm. “Schools are being burned by violent white people. Black and white seem to have lost touch with each other. I am deeply conscious that I am part of an unjust structure of privilege.”

Pay tribute

The 29-minute video, called Promise of the Veld, was made last year by former SABC-TV producer Rev Willem-Jan van der Laag.

Many people visited Mr Kingwill’s farm to see and pay tribute to what he and his workers had done. They include Salope Themba, first editor of the World newspaper, Soweto activist Philip Vundla and a founder and first president of the African National Congress Youth League, William Nyekomo.

The revolution on the farm began when Roly Kingwill began acting on certain clear thoughts.

“I realized that most of us live in the middle of three great crises. First is the loss of our soil in our recurring droughts, second is the crisis of human relations and race conflict and third is unemployment.

“All of us want the government to provide answers but I have learned over the years how much the ordinary man can do.”

His first “clear thought” was that if he continued to run his farm on conventional lines the earth would soon be barren. So he cut his sheep stocks and therefore his income by a third, and began to tend the land which he had been “exploiting for my own immediate gain”.

“I also began to glimpse a further truth. When man listens, God speaks.”

Mr Kingwill’s attitudes as a farmer and landowner were the next to change.

“Certainly my attitudes were part of the problem. I expected the workers to be up at the kraal gate at sunrise, ready for work. I gave the orders. I expected instant obedience, no arguments.”

The “clear thought” came that he had to apologize to his staff and work on a new basis – a thought he resisted and struggled against because it “cut at the root of my white arrogance”.

But after he had finally apologized, “suddenly everything began to grow.”

‘Dictatorial ways’

“My dictatorial ways had stifled initiative, my colour categories had put a ceiling on people. Now each individual became important. How they lived became important. We began to improve the housing. We began to think for the children.”

Many changes followed.

The Transvaal Education Department has added Promise of the Veld – minus a reference to the ANC – to its list of approved videos for schools.

It is worth seeing. Apart from the inspiring message it has both technical and artistic excellence.

MARIANNE THAMM
'These are SA's most exploited workers...'

ZB MOLEFE

THE plight of South Africa's farm and domestic workers has been highlighted by the International Union of Food and Allied Workers' Association.

The executive committee of the association, which has 214 trade unions affiliated to it and more than 2.2-million members worldwide, recently expressed concern about the workers after a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

"Farm workers and domestic workers are still unrecognised as workers in terms of South African labour legislation," said the IUUF. It demanded that these workers be protected by South African labour legislation.

The IUUF welcomed the creation of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, which it said "has brought into being the most representative national labour organisation in the history of South Africa".

The organisation slammed attempts to "combat the growth of representative, democratic and non-racial trade unionism in organisations such as the Intrans movement".

The IUUF accused South African president and Kwazulu Chief Minister Gadsa Buthelezi of "seeking to substitute loyalty to tribal politics and to his personal leadership for the loyalty each worker owes to his class and to the labour movement as a whole".

A TRADE union organisation with more than two-million members worldwide has called for an end to foreign investment in South Africa.

The International Union of Food and Allied Workers' Union, which met in Geneva recently, accused governments which were encouraging investment in SA of "complicity in the crisis facing South Africa".

The IUUF also condemned the "uneven response" from some South African trade unions to calls for international action against apartheid.

"There are no more than a handful of governments and trade union organisations that have acted against SA on their proclaimed principles," said the IUUF.

'Step up the pressure against SA'

The recent violence against trade unionists also came under fire from the IUUF. "We also note with anger and horror the reports of assassinations, torture and imprisonment of unionists and democratic activists in the so-called homelands of Transkei, Ciskei and Bophuthatswana," it said.
**Farmer killed children**

VANDERBIJLPARK. — A 73-year-old farmer was sentenced to five years imprisonment on each of two counts of murder after being convicted in the Supreme Court here yesterday of killing two children.

Gideon Benjamin van der Watt, of Vereeniging, ran the children down with his bakkie on his farm.

Mr Justice F C Kirk-Cohen ordered the sentences to run concurrently and suspended half of the sentence for five years because of Van der Watt's age and ill health. This means he will serve 2½ years.

An appeal against the sentence was made, and Van der Watt was released on R500 bail.

The court found that Van der Watt had been aware of the possible consequences and behaved negligently.

Van der Watt deliberately chased after a group of black children who had trespassed on his land with a large bakkie, with the intention of scaring them off, but ignoring the fact that he could hit them.

Van der Watt said 10 or more children were seen walking on his land. He admitted to the court that he became angry and chased after them. — Sapa
POWER DYNAMICS

Mr Trollip focused on the power dynamics involved in labour relations, stressing the need for labour lawyers to come to an understanding of the wider dynamics of power and labour law so that collective bargaining could be encouraged.

"Good lawyers concern themselves as much with power as the law," he said.

"Lesser lawyers, or perhaps lawyers badly instructed by clients, rush off to courts for ex parte interdicts to stop workers burning down factories or to evict sit-in strikers."

There has been a rash of cases lately in which employers have gone to the Supreme Court for interdicts against workers and have received such interdicts, ex parte, without the court's hearing any reply from the workers or unions concerned.

Mr Trollip was critical of the judiciary in granting such interdicts without hearing the other side of the case.

"I fear this pattern — (of ex parte orders) — it invites workers to flout the authority of the courts," he said.

"We are entering a time when in my view, the Supreme Court, and I speak as an officer of the Supreme Court and with the greatest respect for the Supreme Court, is going to have to enter the realm of collective bargaining and collectively bargain for its authority.

"Such authority may be bargained for, and achieved, if the Supreme Court steeps itself more deeply in an understanding of the dynamics of power and labour law, accords to labour and management interests, without fear or favour, their just desserts; and ceases so readily to afford umbrella relief ex parte."

"The majority of our present judges are, with respect, products of capitalism. Very few of them ever held a brief for a trade union while practising at the bar."

"For them the challenge must be to endeavour to understand issues from the perspective of labour and to come to impartial judgment," Mr Trollip said.
Man dies in fight with farm workers

JOHANNESBURG. — A construction company foreman based at Kriel, about 70km south of Johannesburg, has died in a clash with farm workers who attacked him and his sons.

Major Skippie Scheepers, CID officer for Standerton, said Mr. Johannes van Niekerk was killed on Wednesday night after a fight between Mr. van Niekerk, his teenaged sons and workers on Over-wacht Farm near Kriel.

The incident occurred after a fight earlier in the day between the brothers — aged 15 and 18 — and the workers.

The youths' mother, Mrs. Catherina van Niekerk, said the fighting broke out after her sons "reprimanded" two young blacks after they beat the brothers' dog.

Another fracas developed at the workers' houses and Mrs. van Niekerk said her sons fled after being assaulted, she said.

When Mr. van Niekerk returned home and heard the story he became enraged and, with a shotgun, stormed to the workers' houses accompanied by his sons.

Another fight developed, a shot was fired and Mr. van Niekerk was stabbed and beaten to death. — Sapa.
'Boost for rural development'  

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. — The government's White Paper on urbanization would propel South Africa into the 21st Century "within one generation", Mr Graham McIntosh (PFP Maritzburg North) said yesterday.

The plan would create opportunities and development "undreamed of in this country", he said during debate on the Agricultural Economics and Water Affairs budget vote.

Mr McIntosh said the Minister, Mr Greyling Wentzel, should give "absolute priority" to the White Paper and urgently appoint a commission to develop a strategy to exploit the "enormous opportunities for rural and agricultural development". The urbanization strategy would produce this development where accompanied by a demand for agricultural products.

Without influx control, farm labourers would be able to leave the land more easily and facilities such as schools, transport and health would have to be improved if these people were to stay.

Population pressure on the overcrowded but fertile homeland areas in the east of the country would decrease as people left for the towns. This would improve opportunities for agricultural development and advantage should be taken of this.

The colonial mentality toward black farmers should be abandoned and they should be drawn into the Western agricultural sphere to help produce the "enormously increased quantity of food" that would be needed. — Sapa
Hunt for farmworker

Crime Reporter

LAINGSBURG police are hunting a farmworker who allegedly threw two petrol bombs after an argument with his employer.

One of the bombs was thrown at a store and the other at the farmer's home. Slight damage was caused.

Colonel Eddie Snyman, police liaison officer for the South Western District, said there was an argument at Joubertskop, Laingsburg, about 5pm on Friday between the worker and Mr Andrew Erasmus.
now I no longer had any job nor could I find another," Lekala says.

He went back to the village at Zandfontein to join his family. But, after six months, he had to return to Johannesburg. There was no food for his family in the village and he felt he had to try something.

As to the reaction of black political activists, the death of the pass laws is, unsurprisingly, viewed as a case of too little, too late. For them "the issue" in SA concerns nothing less than the transfer of power.
Farm workers ‘defenceless’

Political Reporter

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. — Seven million South African farm workers had no legal protection against unfair labour practices, exploitation and victimization, the House of Representatives was told yesterday.

A private member’s motion tabled by Mr Edward Poole (LP Belhar) proposed that a parliamentary select committee be appointed to form a joint committee in a bid to ensure that farm workers were governed by existing labour laws.

**Strike**

He said farmers were the most protected entrepreneurs in the country but their workers were defenceless against exploitation.

Mr Poole said existing labour laws did not protect farm workers against victimization nor were they allowed to participate in a legal strike.

Although there was no prohibition against farm labourers from forming trade unions the necessary components for union activities in terms of law were absent specifically because of victimization.

Farm workers daily faced the harsh consequences of unfair labour practices against which they had no legal redress.

Mr Poole proposed amendments to the Wage Act, Labour Relations Act, Unemployment Insurance Act and the Basic Conditions of Employment Act so that it included farm workers.

The absence of legislation that protected farm workers resulted in “legalized exploitation”, Mr Poole said.

**Conventions**

He stated that the International Labour Organization (ILO), from which South Africa had been suspended, prescribed conventions providing certain special guarantees for the protection of farm workers.

Several LP and opposition MPs directed an urgent plea to the government to make the necessary amendments.

Mr Yusuf Rhoda, Democratic Workers’ Party (DWP), said that there were hundreds of cases of farm workers who after years of service were ordered by farmers to leave the farms with no pension or unemployment benefit when they could no longer work because of age.

Replying to the motion, Mr Pietie du Plessis, Minister of Manpower, was repeatedly booed, heckled and jeered as Labour Party MPs accused him of not answering their questions and evading the issue.

**Contract**

Mr Du Plessis said farm labourers could enter into a contract with farmers under existing common-law provisions.

He referred to a government White Paper which acknowledged that certain agricultural unions had to be involved with regard to farm labour legislation.

Mr Du Plessis said the government recognized that a large number of factors were involved in the formulation of a system regulating farm labourers and that very few countries had one.

The motion was carried by a majority vote.
Steelpoort farms cutting back on black labourers

By Hannes de Wet

White farmers in the Steelpoort valley on the Lebowa border are drastically reducing the number of workers on their farms to become less dependent on black labour after large-scale stayaways by labourers.

Mr Stoffel Muller, the first farmer to suffer damages because of a petrol-bomb attack, said he was going to reduce his workforce from 60 to six.

"I have already invested in machinery and made other arrangements to switch from farming peanuts and corn to cattle," he said.

"I am not going to be dependent on black labour any longer."

Mr Muller said it was true that black workers were being intimidated not to come to work "but I believe people who don't want to be intimidated will not bow before pressure".

Mrs Suzy van der Berg said her husband had decided to stop farming cotton in order not to be dependent on manual labour.

"We are going to switch to different kind of farming which will enable us to do most of the work with machinery."

She said the farm's cotton-pickers were now demanding two cents per kg more for picking cotton. The current rate is 8c/kg.

NO COMPLAINTS

"We are not going to pay them more because we know the extra two cents will just be going to the pockets of the 'comrades'."

"Our own workers told us that."

Mrs van der Berg also rejected assertions that the stayaways at Steelpoort were due to a wage dispute.

"Intimidation by the 'comrades' is behind this. Our workers never complained before and do not want to stay away."

"In any event, I know of other spots in the country where black workers are being paid much less than in Steelpoort," Mrs van der Berg said.
The picture shows a news article discussing a situation involving farmers and their work. The text is not completely legible due to the quality of the image, but it appears to be about the challenges faced by farmers, possibly related to climate change or economic factors. The article mentions the city of Farmers, and there is a mention of a picture of a woman, which might be relevant to the context.
The phasing-out of convict farm labour from September, recently announced by government, has plunged farmers in the Berg River Valley into crisis.

There are about 12 farm prisons — or prison outposts as they are officially known — in this area at present.

The outposts have provided hundreds of farms with about 4,000 labourers.

Tienie Malan, chairman of the Central Prison Outpost Committee in the Boland, has described the closing of these outposts and the withdrawal of convict labour as a disaster for the farming community, and said it could ruin a number of farmers.

It would cost many thousands of rand to replace these labourers, and the move comes on top of the poor crops harvested after unfavourable weather conditions.

A prominent farmer in the area, Willie Mostert, said farmers felt embittered by the decision which had been suddenly forced on them.

Gerhard van Vuuren, chairman of the Paarl Farmers' Association, said government's decision could not have come at a worse time.

Originally government felt that to employ convicts on farms would break the monotony for prisoners and assist in their rehabilitation.

Farmers had built the prison outposts and maintained them with their own funds, he said. — Sapa.
Prison labour on farms on way out

PRISON labour on farms is being phased out because of international pressure and boycotts on fruit and vegetable exports.

Boycotts are being imposed by Sweden, Denmark and Norway, while Ireland is to start one at the end of the year.

There are moves afoot at consumer level in Holland, Germany and Britain to institute similar boycotts.

A government spokesman says Australia and other Commonwealth nations, pending the outcome of the Eminent Persons Group report, are also threatening to boycott SA products in terms of a section of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The spokesman says only about 4% of farmers are still using prison labour.
Worker camps planned for rural areas

Prison labour on farms to stop

International pressure has forced the Government to stop using prison labour in its export production.

But a chain of labour camps is being planned to house the workers that will replace the gangs of prisoners who harvest some of the country's fruit and vegetable exports.

There are fears that these camps will give other farmers an excuse to drive their workers and families off the lands as a way of cutting costs and reducing security risks.

Farmers have been given less than six months to stop using prison gangs. More than 10,000 prisoners are used on farms.

In the Western Cape alone, there are 11 prison camps. There are six in the Paarl area and about 4,000 prisoners at a time work on farms.

Plans to phase out forced labour were first announced in 1972, but little was done.

The decision to act now was prompted by pressure from importers overseas.

Under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) rules prison labour is outlawed.

Norway and Sweden have already banned the imports and Ireland has announced that it will join the boycott in 1987.

But local farmers are bitter because they have not been given enough time or assistance to find other labour.

A spokesman for the South African Agricultural Union said this week it would be difficult for some farmers to manage without prison labour.

NO RIGHTS

"Where are they suddenly going to get the workers and where will they be housed?" he asked.

The Government has been asked to consider plans to build labour camps near "work intensive areas".

The Minister of Agriculture, Sarel Hayward, believes there are "many merits" in proposals that "areas be created where workers can live as a group to enable farmers 'to draw labour'.

The possibility of placing workers in these labour-intensive areas is being investigated.

Mr Hayward believes it is a good idea to house workers where there is the necessary infrastructure, such as electricity and water.

A spokesman for the National Committee Against Removals fears that the proposals might be part of a plan for the creation of a "rightless" labour force in rural areas.

"In South Africa, like Latin America, there is growing proletarianisation, not urbanisation, as more and more people find themselves landless, yet confined to the rural areas."

Farmers hope that the date for the scrapping of prison labour will be extended. If not, they want money from the Government to assist with the change.
Mr. Durnin: In 1927 the house discussed the use of tobacco in the buildings. The Hon. Mr. Mitchell asked Mr. Durnin if he knew of the report and if he thought the use of tobacco in the buildings was authorized by the standing orders. Mr. Durnin replied that it was not his understanding that the use of tobacco was authorized. He believed that the use of tobacco was not permitted in the buildings. He further stated that he had not been contacted regarding the use of tobacco in the buildings. He also stated that he was not aware of any complaints regarding the use of tobacco in the buildings.

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Farm worker electrocuted
Staff Reporter

A BOLAND farm worker was found dead in a farm dairy on Sunday after she was electrocuted.

A Boland police spokesman, Major Frank Alton, said yesterday that Ms Lena Janse van Rensburg, 28, who lived and worked on the farm De Groot, near Plettenberg, had been cleaning the dairy when she died.

"It is suspected that she touched an electrical wire and was electrocuted," he said.

Police are investigating.

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No. 51 0003
Lack of funds stops farm job scheme

GRAHAMSTOWN — The employment of additional farm labourers in terms of the job creation scheme will be halted at the end of July until further notice, the extension officer for the Department of Agriculture and Water Affairs, Mr J. A. S. Clacey, said yesterday.

He said about 40 farmers in Albany and Bathurst were involved.

Originally the scheme was to have continued until the end of December but, according to information received yesterday from his regional office, the scheme will now cease on July 31 until further notice, apparently because no funds are available.

Mr Clacey said that for this reason he would be accepting no new applications for additional labourers.

It is not known at this stage whether the scheme will be resumed. — DDC
MANY wine farmers in the Stellenbosch area still communicated with their labourers in the same manner as they did at the turn of the century, long after slavery was abolished, says a researcher at the University of Cape Town, Ms Pam Scully.

Ms Scully said this yesterday in a paper delivered at the Western Cape Roots and Realities conference held by the Centre for African Studies.

The paper titled "Whining Farmers: Stellenbosch District 1870-1900" dealt largely with the reassertion of power by the former master class over the newly created 'free' labour force in the post-emancipation period.

"After conducting oral investigations on farms, Ms Scully said she was "struck by the standard in discourse farmers used with labourers":

- Today farm labourers were still not protected by legislation governing industrial relations and were subjected to the Masters and Servants Act of 1858.
- Several papers dealing with the historical aspects of the Western Cape focused on the continuity of trends from the colonial to the post-colonial period.
- Mr V Bickford Smith of UCT's history department, in his paper "Cape Town's dominant class and the search for order 1891-1900", described this class as "ordering their society according to the criteria of race and respectability".

"Whiteness was the necessary attribute for social dominance in Cape Town," he said.

Statistical data for 1984-85 showed an "extremely large decline" in health services to combat the spread of tuberculosis in Cape Town, a researcher in lung diseases, Dr Derek Yach, told the conference at UCT.
UNIONS FOR FARM WORKERS — MP

Dispatch Reporter

GRAHAMSTOWN — Trade unions for black farm labourers would almost certainly become a reality, the PFP MP for Albany, Mr Eric Moorcroft, told members of the Bathurst West Farmers' Association at Southwell.

He said a commission of inquiry had been instituted by the Minister of Manpower, Mr Pietie du Plessis, on the employment conditions of farm labourers.

Mr Moorcroft said: "I believe the report is now before the South African Agricultural Union for comment."

He believed it was not favourable to farmers.

"The upshot, I think, is that there will be trade unions (for farm labourers). We're looking at a reality."

He said he wanted to alert farmers to preempting possible problems. "Don't resist these. Cooperation is probably the best way. Look at areas such as wages, leave, work conditions and housing such as businesses have had to do. And think about an employment code."

Mr Moorcroft suggested that farmers draw up a code in cooperation with responsible farm workers.
ECAU: farmers should prepare for trade unions

Dispatch Reporter
QUEENSTOWN — The East Cape Agricultural Union (ECAU) is preparing members for the imminent introduction of trade unions for farm workers.

A spokesman for the ECAU office here said yesterday that, apart from warning farmers to examine their service contracts with their labourers in anticipation of legislation which might come before Parliament next year, it was also recommending that farmers form workers' committees on their farms.

They could also form workers' associations or unions 'within farmers' unions,' because the norms could differ in the different areas.

"These norms will be determined by the relevant committees and organisations in that particular area."

He said the union was in the process of compiling draft service contracts, which would be assimilated by the farmers' associations in the near future.

The contracts will safeguard both the farmer and the labourer and will prevent any further influence from a union which might be established.

This was decided at an executive meeting of the East Cape Agricultural Union held in Cradock, the spokesman said.

He said it was also compiling a circular containing all the relevant information, to go with the draft service contract.

In contrast to the training and development programmes aimed at the farm worker, the non-formal and development programmes aimed at farmers were still disorganised, the general council of the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) reported after its meeting in Pretoria in June.

"Training does not always comply with the basic training requirements."

"The development, coordination and promotion of non-formal training projects is therefore regarded as an important priority, especially as regards financial and manpower management," a spokesman for the council said.

The council also noted a recent meeting between a delegation of the SAAU and representatives of institutions involved with the non-formal training of farmers.

The council supported the following decisions taken at the meeting:

○ That the SAAU should establish the extent and nature of the training and development needs of the South African farmer.

○ What the extent and nature of courses currently available to the agriculturist were, with specific reference to courses in farm management and financial management.

It was also felt that a catalogue listing the available courses be compiled and released and the various courses be introduced to the farmers.

It was also revealed at the meeting that the R15 million allocated for job creation for the period 1966-67 had been exhausted by the middle of May.

It appeared that a disparity existed between the amounts allocated to agriculture and to other sectors.
The Treaty of Louwensburg

FARMERS and black farmworkers in a conservative district — which is reported to be an ANC entry route into South Africa — have joined together in a rare pact which aims to settle grievances between the communities.

It was initialed after attempts by farmworkers to halt evictions from farms in the Ngqatho district north of Vryheid.

The Ngqatho cooperation agreement will be signed this week by the Louwensburg Farmers' Association members — mainly Inkatha-supporting workers.

A mass rally of all the people in the area and visiting dignitaries, including the Zulu Goodwill Zwelithini, will witness the official signing of the agreement in Louwensburg on Friday.

The new understanding between Akanazi and Zulu has brought a new attitude towards negotiating with each other in the two communities which are both conservative, traditional and God-fearing in their own ways.

It all began when black community leader David Masuku visited the chairman of the Louwensburg Farmers Association, Thami van Rensburg, early this year.

"I have been the emissary of the Louwensburg township since 1966. Last year, while I was working for a trade union in Durban, a group of men from the Ngqatho area came to me to ask if I would become their spokesman and take their grievances to the white farmers," said Mr Masuku.

Farmers and their black workers join hands in historic peace pact

By DENISE ARMOUR

Mr van Rensburg said the main aim of the pact was to ensure harmony between the different races living in the district and to get them to work together to develop the area as a whole so that all interests benefited.

"It's really a matter of communication. Although I grew up here, there are so many things I did not realize."

Mr Masuku was born and grew up in Louwensburg. "With the exception of my eldest brother, I was born in Louwensburg. I am a granddaughter of a local man who lived in the same area..."

Mr Masuku said Mr van Rensburg is happy about the arrangement and has put in a lot of hard work over the past three months persuading farmers to back the scheme. "We are a conservative community and it wasn't easy for us to agree on the scheme," he said.

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Farm workers are stranded

By LEN MASEKO
Labour Reporter

The workers also attacked and assaulted their supervisor during the strike. Mr. Smith claimed.

“I cannot tolerate this kind of behaviour because I was still negotiating with the workers’ trade union leaders on their grievances,” Mr. Smith said.

He evicted them because they were no longer in his employment. The workers had made arrangements for their children to attend school elsewhere and that did not affect the company, he said.

Most of the workers claimed they earned a minimum of R40 a week and worked under deplorable conditions. They also want their union to be recognised.

“I am feeling very uncomfortable since I came to this place. I long for my children who cannot go to school because we have no accommodation on the farm anymore,” one worker said.

Cusa’s Vaal region official, Mrs Magdelina Mathilare, said they intended taking the matter to court.

• Members of the Food & Allied Workers’ Union are on strike at Wynberg’s Farm Fare.

A spokesman for Farm Fare, Mr. Martin Fallon, said the dispute was an “internal matter”. He would not comment further.
Farmers in indaba-type pact with their workers

The Argus Correspondent
DURBAN. — A group of farmers in the Northern Natal Ngotshe district are to enter an indaba-type pact with their black labourers.

And observers in the area, which spans huge tracts of farmlands, between Vryheid and Magudu, are hailing it as a giant step in “human relations”.

The scheme, which is basically a goodwill pact between the predominantly Afrikaner farmers and Zulu labourers, is designed to promote mutual development and closer working and social relationships.

What is regarded as particularly surprising in some quarters is that such “progressive strides” have been made in an area described as “backwoods” when communities in more progressive areas have failed to reach similar agreement.

Although the Ngotshe agreement has been spearheaded by white farmers, the concept itself was the brainchild of a black former union worker and community leader, Mr David Masuku.

Mr Masuku has managed to persuade the traditionally right-wing white community to accept that blacks are not just a labour force, but an integral and cultural part of the community.

“There was a lot of misunderstanding between us”, said Mr Masuku. “If we had any grievances there was no one whom we could address them to.”

“For example, if a farmer fired a worker and ordered him off the land, he wasn’t just dismissing a man but depriving him of his home.”

“I realise there was a desperate need for us and the whites to sit down and discuss our mutual problems.”

Mr Masuku said he approached the chairman of the Louwsburg Farmers Association, Mr Tjaart van Rensburg, and from there the scheme was launched.

The pact, known as the Ngotshe Co-operation Agreement, will be officially launched on August 8 at a ceremony in Louwsburg.

Special guest will be King Goodwill Zwelithini and at least 10,000 Zulu workers are expected to attend.

“While the rest of the country is talking about negotiation, we are actually doing it,” said Mr van Rensburg.

The Ngotshe agreement has five main objectives:

- The recognition of the need for group inter-relations.
- The guaranteeing of security for all in the area which is a known ANC infiltration route.
- The improvement of labour relations and the safeguarding of the traditional way of life of the Zulus.
- The development of the area and the creation of jobs to cater for surplus labour.
- Improving morale in the general depressed economic and social climate.

Mr van Rensburg said they would also be addressing other social problems such as liquor abuse, teenage pregnancy, the soaring birthrate, crime and illiteracy in the area.

“One of our main priorities is to get a black high school here. It’s ridiculous that in a community of 35,000 there is no secondary education.”

He said that although the mechanics of the agreement had still to be finalised, they had formed a committee with Mr Masuku being employed as a middle man between the labourers and the farmers.

“It took me three months working non-stop to persuade the thousand or so whites here to accept the agreement but now almost to a man they are behind us”, said Mr van Rensburg.

He said the major problem as far as blacks were concerned was the eviction from land where they had lived for generations.

A dispute between a farmer and a worker invariably resulted in the worker’s dismissal.
CP rejects moves for 

farm 

labour union

Dispatch Correspondent

DURBAN — The Conservative Party has rejected recent moves in Natal to establish a trade union for black farm labourers and domestics, predicting that it would be used "purely for political ends" which would eventually lead to chaos.

An indaba-type pact between black workers and white farmers is due to be signed in the Ngothe district of Northern Natal this week.

According to Mr Caspar Uys, a sheep farmer and member of the CP executive, farmers are already hard pressed by the ailing economy.

"A union would only worsen matters," he said.

Another farmer, a member of the party and in the audience, warned that he would have his workers and replace them with readily available machinery if a union was formed.

"Unions become monsters," warned Mr Uys, using Australia as an example.

In South Africa the unions would be black, and used for political means, which would use any small incident as an excuse for action over so-called unfair labour practices.

The rejection of the union moves by the party was wholeheartedly supported by the members and it was voted that the CP congress look, in detail, to the party's labour policy and current legislation affecting labour practices.

A Natal farmer, Mr Adriaan Kriel, asked from the floor that CP leaders "look into" the recently-formulated peace pact between the farmers of Louwsberg, near Vryheid, and black workers.

"A representative of the Natal Agricultural Union had approached other farmers with the same proposal, which he claimed had been put forward by Inkatha.

In a bid to beat moves by Inkatha — believed to be aimed at beating the union plans of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) — Mr Kriel said farm owners were asked to sign up their farm workers as Inkatha members.

A similar offer was taken up with enthusiasm by the Louwsberg farmers, he said, and a meeting was now scheduled for Friday to formalise the agreement.

The pact would include negotiation on security matters, and an increase in black housing in the area.

"This," he said, "is the beginning of a union in disguise, without President Botha lifting a finger to prevent it."

He suggested that "workers' committees" be formed instead, to achieve the same purposes and urged his farm-owning colleagues to make conditions favourable for their workers so that there would be no need for either Cosatu or Inkatha plans.

"Our CP leaders must approach the Natal Provincial Administration for us, about these moves."

"Inkatha poses a very serious problem," he said.
CP rejects ‘Indaba’ union for farm workers

Own Correspondent
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'Sleep-in' called off

ABOUT 500 workers at Farm Fare in Wynberg, Johannesburg, are expected to report for work today after calling off their nine-day "sleep-in" action on Friday.

The workers, mostly members of the Food and Allied Workers' Union (FAWU), began the "sleep-in" about two weeks ago.

The union has been pressing for a 50-percent wage increase, but management stuck to a final offer of 7.5 percent.

By late Friday afternoon, the premises had been vacated.

Simultaneously, Farm Fare was granted an urgent interim order in the Rand Supreme Court to evict the workers from its premises.

[Signature]

4/8/79
Fruit sanctions
and the future

Staff Reporter

MORE than one million people in the Western Cape would be affected if South African fruit became the target of international sanctions, the Deciduous Fruit Board (DFB), said yesterday.

The DFB general manager, Mr Louis Kriel, announced that 2.5 percent of the board's business would be affected by the sanctions package proposed by six members of the Commonwealth group in London. The countries which favoured sanctions included frontline states and both Canada and Australia.

Estimate

Mr Fred Meintjes, the DFB's public relations manager, pointed out that the Western Cape fruit industry employed nearly 250,000 people in farming, canning and the dried fruits industries.

A conservative estimate of five persons in a family brought the total number of dependants on this labour force to about 1.25 million people, he said.

About 95 percent of this workforce were blacks and coloureds.

The fruit industry was primarily export-oriented and had been so for almost a century.

"At this stage about 70 percent of our fruit is exported to some 34 countries in the Far East and North America. This season alone could generate a gross turnover of R600 million. European Economic Community (EEC) countries receive 85 percent of all Western Cape fruit exports."

"Disappointed"

Advances in social development for workers on farms, such as schools, housing and recreational facilities which were unparalleled in the world, relied heavily on the profits generated from imports, Mr Meintjes added.

Mr Kriel said that he was not surprised that Britain was opposed to sanctions as the DFB was the largest employer of semi-skilled and unskilled labour and "possibly the most enlightened in the agricultural world."

He said that Australia's aim in supporting sanctions were "transparent" as it would only gain in the deciduous fruit world market while the poorer frontline states will have to pay the price for sanctions.

"We are disappointed in Canada's action as they are well aware of the real situation in our industry as well as the wishes of the vast majority of workers in the export fruit industry."

The SA Dried Fruit Co-operative is preparing for sanctions by speeding up shipments originally intended for later in the year and by looking for alternative markets.

But its assistant general manager (marketing), Mr L C Tolmay, said he hoped dried fruit exports would not be affected by sanctions since we are less visible than the Deciduous Fruit Board, which handles immense volumes.

Mr Tolmay said that dried fruit was exported throughout the year, but we have asked the packers to speed things up so that shipments originally intended for later in the year can be dispatched in September.

"We are trying to send off as much as we can before any crunch comes."
Govt urged to speed up recognition of farm labourers

Labour Reporter

The Government was yesterday urged to speed up the implementation of regulations governing wages and conditions of service for domestic workers and farm labourers.

The call was made by Mr Simon Conco, secretary-general of the United Workers' Union of South Africa (Uwusa) in the wake of an historic pact between farmers and labourers in the platteland.

The pact with Louwsberg farmers is to be signed formally at a ceremony at Nguvose, near Vryheid, on Friday. The King of the Zulus, King Goodwill Zwelithini, is to be guest of honour.

Mr Conco denied a claim by a Conservative Party member, Mr Adriaan Kriel, that Uwusa had been formed by Inkatha 'to beat the aims of the Congress of South African Trade Unions' (Cosatu).

In our quest for the recognition of farm workers and domestic servants Uwusa does not aim at beating anyone and most certainly not Cosatu. What we are after is the addressing of a problem that has not been addressed in the past, or where it has been addressed, it has been done in a most haphazard manner,' he said.

He appealed to employers of domestic servants throughout the country to take note of the Louwsberg pact and start negotiations with Uwusa and the South African Government on minimum wages and conditions of service for domestic and farm workers.

Sympathetic

'Uwusa convened a meeting of domestic workers in Durban recently at which minimum wages, pensions and living conditions were discussed and we were given a mandate to take up these issues with the Government as a matter of urgency.'

The historic peace pact between the farmers of Louwsberg and their workers clearly shows that people are sympathetic towards us and we have succeeded in breaking the ice.

'We urge the Government to take note of the new development at Louwsberg and expedite the implementation of the proposed legislation to protect the interest of domestic workers and farm labourers.'

At a meeting with Mr Eli Louw, Minister of Administration and Economic Advisory Services, last month we were assured that the matter is receiving the attention of the Government,' he added.

'While we note that according to a report the Louwsberg workers will cooperate on such matters as security, we like to make it clear that our contribution towards the security of this country will be through the channels of maintaining a viable economy which we believe will not necessitate armed security.'

Referring to a statement by Mr Kriel that certain favours had been offered by the Natal Agricultural Union to Inkatha, he said Uwusa could not comment on behalf of Inkatha, but Uwusa wished to point out to the Conservative Party that it should move with the times and 'recognise that we are dealing with the problems facing South Africa and not political groupings so that the cooperation between Inkatha and the N A U is irrelevant.'
R67 666 damages for loss of eye

By SHAUNA WESTCOTT

Supreme Court Reporter

DAMAGES of R67 666 were awarded yesterday to a farm labourer who lost his sight two years ago after a foreman pushed the barrel of a gun into his only good eye.

The Supreme Court heard that Mr Willem Johnson, 35, had earlier lost the sight of his left eye when he was stabbed in 1982. Medical evidence was that his right eye was completely ruptured and unsalvageable after the foreman's attack on March 31, 1984. He is now completely and irreversibly blind.

Mr Johnson told the court he had been drinking a glass of wine with his lover, Ms Maria Bayman, in his cottage on the farm Groenfontein, in Philadelphia, after finishing the evening's milking. It was twilight and he was playing a guitar.

He heard a tractor stop outside and suddenly foreman Jan Miussenheimer burst into the house with a gun with which he hit Ms Bayman over the head.

Mr Johnson protested. The foreman turned on him and pushed the gun barrel into his eye. Mr Johnson told the court he no longer lived with Ms Bayman.

"Every day I feel like working, but I can't see how."

Before awarding damages, including loss of income, and costs, Mr Justice Friedman noted that Mr Miussenheimer had sent a letter to his registrar explaining that he was not defending the action because he could not afford an attorney and he had been advised his case was poor.

The letter said Mr Miussenheimer could afford to pay only R50 a month to Mr Johnson. Mr Justice Friedman said Mr Johnson could take steps in terms of the court rules to effect payment.

The court record showed that, after the attack, Mr Miussenheimer was found guilty in June 1984 of two charges of assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm and one charge of assault.

Mr H A Albertus, instructed by C E MacDonald, appeared for Mr Johnson. The respondent was not represented.
Strike likely to affect milk deliveries again

Labour Reporter

MILK deliveries in many Natal towns, including Durban, are expected to be disrupted again today as the strike by more than 1,500 hourly-paid employees of Clover Dairies continues into its second day, according to a spokesman for the workers.

Miss Rene Roux, branch organiser of the Cosatu-affiliated Food and Allied Workers' Union, said Fawu members at all the affected Clover plants had indicated that they were still strong in their resolution to strike in support of their demand for the reinstatement of 230 workers dismissed from the Clover plant in Pietermaritzburg recently.

"During the next week Fawu will fight the extension of an interim Supreme Court order aimed at preventing union officials from doing various things that might result in a boycott of Clover products," she said.

Miss Roux added that yesterday morning, the management of Clover Dairies in Durban "put into operation a very rude contingency plan" to get their products delivered.

"Wholesale drivers who had voted in favour of strike action were intimidated into driving trucks with seafar van assistants. One driver was singled out and suspended for not working and this had the desired effect on the other drivers.

"The driver's shop steward was locked out of the premises and therefore unable to give guidance to his constituents about their rights. The union is preparing to get a court order to restrain the company from similar practices," she added.

Mr Ray Fayed, divisional manager of Clover Dairies in Durban, said they considered the strikers illegal and added that the figure of 1,600 workers Fawu claim are on strike at eight Natal plants was "nowhere near" correct.

Clover had met 90% of its delivery commitments yesterday and hoped to achieve at least the same figure today, he added.
Employers urged to help rural communities

A leading academic has appealed to major employers to examine their social responsibility towards rural communities supported by migrant labourers who were unlikely ever to opt for urbanisation.

Professor Lawrence Schlemmer made his appeal at the Gold 100 conference in Johannesburg yesterday.

There were about 700,000 migrant workers living on white farms and in non-independent homelands and a further 500,000 in the independent homelands.

Major users of migrant labour should realise that conditions in the rural areas were vital to morale and stress levels of employees, he said.

"The exercise of social responsibility by major employers within such rural communities should involve forms of assistance and development counselling in the communities."
STELLENBOSCH: Farmer accused of murder, told the Supreme Court yesterday that he shot a worker's brother because he was afraid the man was going to assault him with a knife and fork he had been using to eat.

Mr. Cornelius Beneke, 58, of the farm "Elaam," has pleaded not guilty. Mr. Beneke's son Pierre said the family was eating supper when a worker, Mr. Stephanus "Faans" Botha, said his brother Marthinus was at his house threatening to assault him. Marthinus had been banned from the farm because he had previously assaulted his brother.

Mr. Beneke fetched his pistol and his son took a torch and kierie and went to the workers' quarters, where they found Mr. Marthinus, Botha, with a plate of food in front of him and a knife and fork in his hands.

Mr. Beneke grabbed the plate of food away from him and again told him to leave. The man sat up and Mr. Beneke fired "a warning shot" into the bed.

After another order to leave, Mr. Botha stood up with his hands — still holding the knife and fork — raised. Mr. Beneke's son took half a step back and a second shot was fired. Mr. Botha staggered and fell on to the bed.

Mr. Beneke Sen told the court: "I got a fright and felt threatened because he moved straight towards me. I could have been seriously injured if he'd stabbed me with the knife or fork."

It was at this point that he fired the fatal shot, though he intended it as another warning shot.

The trial continues.

Mr. Justice H. A. van Heerden presided with two assessors, Mr. R. Lewin and Mr. C. H. van Gend. Mr. J. C. Gerber prosecuted. Mr. J. Slabbert, instructed by J. J. Swart and Co., appeared for Mr. Beneke.
380 farm tenants told to leave land

Pietermaritzburg Bureau

MORE than 380 people living on six farms in the Vryheid area are facing the threat of eviction after being ordered off the land by an absentee landlord from Pretoria, the Association for Rural Advancement (Afra) said yesterday.

Next week members of 32 of the farm families, many of whom are more than 60 years old, will appear in the Vryheid Magistrate’s Court on charges of illegally squatting on the farms Palmietfontein, Mahlomelana, Helpmekaar, Dipka, Nooligedacht and Alone, about 18 km from Vryheid.

Afra said the families — many of whom have lived and worked on the farms, owned by Dr H. Gertges of Pretoria, for two generations — have nowhere else to go.

Dr Gertges, who could not be reached for comment, allegedly gave no reason for the evictions.

The families were told by Chief Bazetheni Mhethwa, administrator of trust farms adjoining the six farms, that there was no room for them after they received the eviction notices ordering them to leave within three months and to remove all livestock within one month.

KwaBhekumbetho, the nearest resettlement area, about 100 km from Vryheid, is already hopelessly overcrowded.

The only other places available are the Qudeini (near Nqutu), Compensation (near Bulwer) and Waalboek (near Ladysmith) resettlement camps — all of which are between 100 km and 169 km from Vryheid — at which they will be allocated residential rights only and will not be allowed to keep livestock or grow crops.

As farmers for many generations, this will mean a complete disruption of their rural lifestyle, Afra said.

Frankland, a resettlement area at Port Shepstone, is the only place in which they could be resettled and maintain their agricultural lifestyle — but it is more than 400 km from Vryheid.

No legal right

The evictions will involve 387 people as well as a substantial amount of livestock, including more than 350 head of cattle and 400 goats.

At least 18 of the tenants were born on the land, but have no legal rights to stay there even though their families have been established on the farms for generations.

Palmietfontein tenant Mr Mpandu Mhembu, 77, said: ‘I was born on the farm. My father and grandfather were born, bred and died here. We know nothing else.’

According to statements made by the tenants, they were working on the farms without pay on the one-year or six months’ labour tenancy system in order to earn the right to live there, until the time of the eviction orders.
Farmers dig in against union for labourers

INCREASED pressure to form a farmworkers union to alleviate the poor working and living conditions of farm labourers is being strongly opposed by organised agriculture.

This was made clear at the annual congress of the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) in Bloemfontein this week where several farmers argued that the formation of such a union would "harm" the agricultural sector.

While white farmers are vehemently opposed to any union activities and are pinning their hopes on Government intervention, various organisations, including the Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) and the NG Sendingkerr, have appealed for the formation of a union for farm labourers.

"There is a strong resolution that Cosatu will spearhead a national farmworkers union," a Cosatu spokesman said in Cape Town this week. "While we are not yet ready to launch such a union, the formation of it has always been a priority for Cosatu."

Said Mr. Okkie Bosman, president of the Rural Foundation in Stellenbosch: "We are aware of recruitment on farms by certain unions. But it is not a concerted drive."

The problems facing farmers and workers were highlighted by delegates at the SAAU congress.

A call to appoint an expert in labour matters to establish investigation and advisory services was made by the president of the SAAU, Mr. Koos Jooste.

"It is important for the SAAU to take a long hard look at farm labour conditions and policies," he said.

The desirability of including farmworkers under labour legislation was considered. Amendments needed to make the legislation acceptable to agriculture were also discussed.

So far farmworkers have been excluded from the Labour Relations Act, and long-awaited report — initiated in 1982—on domestics and farmworkers from the National Manpower Commission has yet to be made public.

Reason
It is generally believed that a reason for the delay is the anticipation of opposition from farmers to certain recommendations in the report.

Farmers said any forced legislation for minimum wages and prescribed work conditions would be opposed.

The NG Sendingkerr synod recently decided to enter into negotiations with the Government to determine a minimum wage.

The below-the-breadline wages and poor working and living conditions which still exist on many farms, were highlighted in a report put before the synod.

Evidence of the "extreme poverty" was contained in study conducted by the combined NGK congregations of Stellenbosch.
Maputo to 'resist' ban on workers

MAPUTO. — Mozambique says South Africa's decision to ban employment of its nationals and repatriate tens of thousands already employed is blackmail and will be resisted.

This response came yesterday as the Director-General of Manpower, Dr Piet van der Merwe, confirmed that Mozambican farm workers would, like the miners, have to return home once their contracts and work permits expire.

A commentary on state-run Radio Maputo said Pretoria's action, announced on Wednesday by several government departments, "is another in a series of sanctions".

'Destabilizing'

"The measure is a continuation of destabilizing actions which Pretoria has carried out against our young republic and against our still fragile economy.

"But Mozambique will know how to find ways of resisting the latest South African blackmail, particularly now that the international community realizes that the apartheid regime is the destabilizing factor in Southern Africa," the broadcast said.

Dr Van der Merwe said in Pretoria that the ban had been implemented because South Africa was faced with unemployment and security problems.

The president of the SA Agricultural Union, Mr Kobus Jooste, said in a statement in Pretoria yesterday that farmers had to register their Mozambican workers by November 30 or face prosecution.

The SAU noted with concern that the deteriorating security situation on the Mozambique border had "compelled" the South African Government to halt the recruitment of Mozambican workers.

Meanwhile, the ban brought angry reaction from trade unions.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) said the decision was callous and demonstrated the government's incompetence.

'Arrogant action'

The newly amalgamated Council of Unions of SA/Asian Congress of Trade Unions grouping condemned the "arbitrary and arrogant action" of the government. It said it would take up the issue in Lusaka later this month when a meeting of unions in Southern Africa would be held from October 20.

There are about 55,000 Mozambicans currently employed in South Africa, Mozambique's official news agency, Aim, reported yesterday.

Sapa-Reuter
Vast new locust plague threatens E Cape farmers

Teams of workers are fighting the hoppers which are hatching out in the Cape Midlands and Karoo following good rains. Spraying is aimed at destroying the hoppers on the ground before they fly out to invade grazing and crops.

If the swarms fly out, we are in trouble," he said.

"If the swarms fly out, we are in trouble," he said. Swarms on the wing devastate crops and grazing.

Farmers are obliged by law to report swarms to their district locust officer, who then sends in a combat team. Destruction units use fenitrothion, the insecticide used world-wide on locusts.

This year the more controversial gamma-BHC is not being used, according to Mr Vosloo.

Workers spraying swarms have to wear overalls and masks and those handling the undiluted concentrate must wear gloves.

Locusts become airborne 42 days after hatching and one of the department's fears is of swarms that hatch in mountainous areas such as those around Bedford, where they may not be detected at an early stage.

The Karoo or brown locust is the culprit in South Africa and last year millions of hectares of grazing and crops were laid bare by the destructive swarms.

Four species of migratory locusts are threatening the African continent this year and experts are predicting a serious outbreak in at least nine heavily affected countries of the Sahel, including Niger, Mali, Chad and Senegal.

Unless the young locusts are eliminated, what may be the Sahel's first bumper crop of sorghum, millet and other cereals for many years, could be destroyed.

Millions of dollars are needed for a prevention campaign in the Sahel, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).
Board, union clash

The Rand Water Board was "misinterpreting" labour legislation in preventing its agricultural workers from joining a union, it is claimed.

This issue, of whether the board's farm employees can belong to a union or not, has led to the collapse of talks between the Orange Vaal General Workers Union (OVGWU) and the Water Board management.

OVGWU General Secretary Mr. Philip Masia said that the board, in barring its farm employees from joining the union, had misinterpreted the Labour Relations Act. This law did not prohibit union membership for farm workers, he said.

Farm workers employed by the RWB — some of whom had worked there for nine years — earned "starvation wages" of between R95 and R140 a month, Mr. Masia said.

In a reply to the letter, the board said: "We wish to reiterate that the board will have no dealings with your union; will not allow the union to hold meetings on its premises; none of our employees will be allowed to do any union work during working hours."
Farmers may keep their Mozambicans

Own Correspondent
Johannesburg. — The government appears to have backed down on threats against Mozambican workers—at least as far as Eastern Transvaal farmers are concerned.

The Department of Home Affairs has told the farmers that their 17,000 odd Mozambican labour force, at present considered illegal under the Aliens Act, may remain on the farms.

On the eve of a possible meeting between mining house representatives and government on the repatriation of Mozambican miners, mining sources said yesterday they welcomed any concessions government is prepared to make, saying it would not be easy to replace the Mozambicans at short notice.

However, the director-general of Home Affairs, Mr Gerrie Van Zyl, said the 65,000 mine labourers from Mozambique would be phased out gradually, according to government decree. Most of the existing permits will have been revoked by the end of next year.

"That is the political and security position remains as it is now. The door is still open to Mozambique. It's up to them to rectify the position, particularly concerning ANC activities," Mr Van Zyl said.

Eastern Transvaal farmers are being given until November 30 to legalize their labour by obtaining six-month permits from the Department of Home Affairs, with the option of renewal for a further six months.

Mr Van Zyl said yesterday that this decision was taken earlier this year, three months before the government's decision to repatriate Mozambicans.

This follows reports yesterday that immigration offices in Komatipoort were still giving visas to Mozambican workers with contracts to work in SA.

On the question of the thousands of Mozambican refugees pouring into SA, Mr Van Zyl said SA does not regard them as refugees, according to the United Nations definition, but as "displaced persons with family ties within SA borders."

The public relations division of the SA Police said yesterday that no operations, with the specific purpose of tracing illegal immigrants, were being undertaken by the police.

Samora the survivor under siege — page 14
a police station.

If such a station is not already
located in the area, one may be
constructed at a later date.

The police station will be
located in the area.

The police station will be
constructed as soon as possible.

The police station will be
constructed within the next year.

The police station will be
constructed within the next two years.

The police station will be
constructed within the next three years.

The police station will be
constructed within the next four years.

The police station will be
constructed within the next five years.

The police station will be
constructed within the next six years.

The police station will be
constructed within the next seven years.

The police station will be
constructed within the next eight years.

The police station will be
constructed within the next nine years.

The police station will be
constructed within the next ten years.

The police station will be
constructed within the next eleven years.

The police station will be
constructed within the next twelve years.
Farm labour comes under the spotlight

Labour Reporter

THE South African Agricultural Union is taking a hard look at farm labour conditions and policies.

Labour relations and conditions of service were discussed at the union’s annual congress in Bloemfontein, according to a union statement.

The desirability of including farm workers under labour legislation was considered, as well as amendments needed to make the legislation acceptable to agriculture.

The president, Mr Kobus Jooste, said it had become necessary to appoint an expert in labour matters to establish investigation and advisory services.

“There is a growing need among farmers and agricultural organisations for guidance about developments in this field,” he said.

“In spite of the measure of labour peace in agriculture and satisfactory relations between farmers and farm workers, activities in this regard must be kept up in order to further raise the level of manpower management in agriculture.”

Farm workers have been excluded so far from the Labour Relations Act and a long-awaited report on domestic and farm workers from the National Manpower Commission has yet to be made public.

The commission was instructed in 1982 to begin an inquiry into employment conditions for the two groups.

It is understood that one reason for the delay in publication was opposition to certain recommendations from organised agriculture.

End group areas tension in Cape

Political Correspondent

THE New Republic Party has called on the Government not to create any further group areas in the Cape.

Mr R K Hallack, Peninsula chairman of the party, said at the weekend Cape congress of the party that there was tension in Woodstock following recent remarks by President PW Botha and an announcement that a group area investigation was being launched.

He said no further group areas determinations should be made in the Peninsula.

Reserve Bank probe of ‘irregularities’

PRETORIA. — The Reserve Bank is investigating alleged exchange control irregularities.

The bank's governor, Dr Gerhard de Kock, said yesterday that an investigation of allegations in a newspaper yesterday would be held in close cooperation with the Department of Finance.

And, “at the insistence of Dr JA Lombard, it will also cover the insinuation that he, as a deputy-governor of the Reserve Bank, was involved in the alleged irregularities, which he strongly denies.” — Sapa.
DIANNA GAMES

MORE than 4,000 illegal workers employed by Transvaal Lowveld farmers — part of an estimated workforce of 17,000 Mozambicans working in the area — have been registered by the Department of Home Affairs since July.

Farmers have until November 30 to register their workers, most of whom are Mozambican refugees.

Although the response generally has been slow, 2,000 workers were registered during last week alone, the Department of Home Affairs has said.

The Department is to look at the merits of each case in deciding how to deal with those it finds are in SA illegally.

Its drive is countrywide and it is also sending inspectors to work premises.

Department Director-General Gerrie van Zyl said considerations to be taken into account included the length of time a person had lived in SA illegally and whether they had married a South African in that time.

He said the crackdown on illegals was not aimed at any particular race group and included whites.

The tracing of illegals through their workplace had been in operation for 18 months and had been found to be the most effective means.

Van Zyl said the 1.3m illegals which it was estimated still lived in SA did not include the 65,000 Mozambican miners mentioned in Business Day yesterday, as they had valid contracts.

The decision to phase out those workers was not based on the question of illegality, he said.

Citizens of TBVC countries did not require work permits to work in SA.
Fisherman 4 lost overboard off Saldanha

Staff Reporter

A HOUT BAY fisherman is believed drowned in heavy seas after falling overboard as he and his father helped another boat in trouble off Saldanha Bay.

Mr George Hendriks, 31, of Block MM4, was on board the crayfish boat Ouma with his father, Mr Solly Prins, early yesterday.

WENT TO HELP

The Ouma went to help another crayfish boat, the Archer, which was in difficulty in swells of up to 4m and with wind gusting at 35 knots, a Saldanha Bay harbour spokesman said.

Mr Hendriks fell overboard near Fondsling Island, about three miles from the mainland.

A National Sea Rescue Institute boat searched without success.
Buthelezi should rather turn wine into water

A FEW weeks ago KwaZulu Chief Minister MG Buthelezi opened the Stellenbosch Connoisseurs Guild Food and Wine Festival – a lavish occasion for wealthy food-lovers, rich farmers and marketers.

Every year Buthelezi also attends the annual Nederburg wine auctions, where wine farmers make massive profits.

I wonder if he is aware of the suffering, starvation and death on Western Cape wine farms?

According to a Stellenbosch academic, the average farmworker gets R23.50 a month. One wonders what Buthelezi lives on in one week!

On many farms, farmers spread alcoholism by paying workers by tots of wine. This continues today even though it has been made illegal.

This tot-system destroys the lives of many rural South Africans. Farm-workers are often victimised. They have no permanent rights to housing because farmers give them houses only while they work on the farms. If they lose their jobs, they lose their houses.

According to research by the London-based Anti-Slavery Society, during the harvesting season from December to April, one can find many children employed as cheap labour. The families of these children are too scared of losing their only meagre source of money to demand their children’s rights.

These workers are unprotected by law, exploited by an industry that caters for the expensive tastes of the South African rich.

Buthelezi should help these workers win their right for a living wage and decent working and living conditions. – PIETER MALGAS of Stellenbosch.
Farmer says he's feeding unpaid workers

By Adele Baleta

More than 60 migrant workers have been left without food or pay for the past six weeks by their employer at a Kroonstad construction site, claims a Free State farmer who says he is now supporting them.

The migrant workers are living in a compound on the farm "Mizpah" owned by Mr Lucas van der Merwe, who rented out a caravan site and the compound to the construction company.

Their employer, Mr James Potgieter, the owner of J J Construction, was contracted by the Post Office to lay down 280 km of piping for a new telephone cable system from Bloemfontein to Parys.

Mr Potgieter said he contacted Mr van der Merwe yesterday and he agreed to feed the workers until they were paid.

Mr van der Merwe said: "I have had to feed the men on mealie meal for the past two weeks so I may as well carry on. I can't leave them to starve. You can't live on maize alone and so in exchange for some showel work around the farm, I am supplying the men with three solid meals a day"."

Mr van der Merwe's stepson, Mr Casper Labuschagne said: "We have a major catastrophe on our hands. The workers, who were given UIF cards on Saturday, are enraged and have threatened to burn cars, caravans and the J J construction office on the farm if they are not paid."

Mr Potgieter denied that he had abandoned his employees: "I have had a cash flow problem and attempted to get a loan from the bank failed."

"I was told to liquidate my assets but I refuse to do this. I have property which I will not give up. I am penniless and if I give up everything I will walk out with nothing except the pants I've got on," he said. "I have not paid my men and I will not leave them unpaid," he said.

Mr van der Merwe said he would continue to help the workers as long as the matter was settled soon. "It must be," he said.
US firms want to help farm schools

By Glenda S. Ye

Several United States companies have pledged to take over government responsibilities to upgrade farm schools in South Africa.

They are concerned at the lack of teachers, classrooms and educational facilities. An investigation by representatives of the companies has laid the blame for the state of the schools on the Department of Education and Training (DET).

But a DET spokesman said most of the rural schools were originally established through private concerns and built on land belonging to farmers.

The DET's role, he said, was to register the schools and subsidise them, as well as appoint and pay the teachers.

But the situation has sparked government inquiries, results and recommendations of which were announced at a Press conference in Pretoria yesterday.

When The Saturday Star visited the Philema Farm School, north of Johannesburg, headmaster Mr N Mphiwe pointed out some of the problems it faced.

Pupils from Std 3 and Std 4 shared one teacher and one classroom and were taught simultaneously.

Some classrooms were so dark that children sitting in the back five rows could hardly see their exercise books.

There was no electricity.

There was a shortage of classrooms.

On an actual ratio there was one teacher to 45 pupils.

Libraries and laboratories were urgently required.

Most farm schools only have classes up to Std 6.

At Philema, as often the case, the farmer whose land the school is situated on is the manager of the school.

Mr Tom Melly, administration manager of United States firm Sigma Insurance, which forms part of the committee, said he was shocked when he saw the state of some farm schools in the Sandton/Midrand area.

The reason his company has become involved, he says, is because its labour force is drawn from the community in these areas and it is trying to help contribute to the upliftment of black societies.
Register Mozambican workers, farmers urged

President of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, Mr Nico Kotze, has made an urgent appeal to Lowveld farmers to register Mozambican citizens in their employ without delay.

According to a statement from the Agricultural Union, workers who have not been registered by November 30 will be considered illegal immigrants.

Only 6,000 of a total of 17,000 Mozambican workers have been registered and the deadline will not be extended.

More details on registration procedures and venues are available from Mrs Rika Human of the Southern Lowveld Farmers' Union at Nelspruit 22680.
Farm soccer ‘plan’ upsets residents

By PETER DENNEHY
Municipal Reporter

TOKAI residents complained yesterday about what they believe to be a plan to allow Constantia farm workers to play soccer regularly on an unused field on Steenberg Farm, off Zwaanswyk Road.

An objector, who declined to be named, said she had noticed fencing going up around the field recently, and she had heard of a plan to provide soccer and other recreation facilities for Constantia workers.

“They have not applied for permission from the Divisional Council,” she said. A Divco spokesman said he had heard of the controversy, and complaints had been received. An inspection had been held in response to the complaints, but no sign of soccer facilities had been found, he said.

The objector said she lived in a rural area without crime or vagrants, and she felt that farmworkers’ soccer, with its inevitable spectators and toilets and changerooms, did not fit into the area.

Mr André Badenhorst, manager of Buitenverwagting Wine Farm and chairman of the Constantia Association for Community Development, said the six major farms in the area had formed the association to uplift the quality of life of their 90 families of workers, partly through providing sports facilities.

“Steenberg Farm is owned by the Louw family, who are members of our association. We have made no arrangement to use the farm, but if we do so we will go through the right channels,” Mr Badenhorst said.

“There are no neighbours in the immediate vicinity of this field. People who do live in the area have the advantage of looking out over these beautiful farms, but they must realize that there are people living and working on them.”
These workers commute for 5 hours each day

By MIKE MABUSELA

ALICEDALE commuters to Port Elizabeth spend nearly five hours in trains every day, travelling a total of 226 kilometres.

Most workers wake at about 2.30am and catch the 3.30am train at Alicedale station after a walk of about 20 minutes.

They have little time to eat, but early morning tea and sandwiches are available on the train, as I discovered when I did the trip last Monday.

The afternoon train passing through Alicedale to Johannesburg leaves PE station at 5pm and arrives at Alicedale at 6.40pm.

I spent the night with a friend in Alicedale, to be on time for the 3.30am train used by commuters, which arrives at the PE station at 6.30am.

Alicedale commuters interviewed in the train refused to be photographed for reasons they did not disclose.

Mr Mitwandle Nndoda, 40 — the only man who gave his name — said he supported his wife and seven children. His salary is R800 a month and he travels on a R148 monthly train ticket — the cheapest way to reach his place of employment.

He said he preferred to live with his family in Alicedale, his home town, and work in PE because there were no good paying jobs in the village.

Commuters said they preferred to live in Alicedale because it was a quiet country town “with no riots and no stayaways”.

They were a small community living like a big family and their children were able to attend school.

Those with cars chose not to use them as the train was cheaper. They said the R148 cost of a monthly ticket was much cheaper than the R10 people spent on petrol for each return trip.

SATS employees received concessions which gave them a fair discount, they said.

Although commuters can travel in the first, second or third class carriages, they preferred the economy class (third class), which was cheaper.

I found the water fresh when I sipped a glass, although the train had started its journey in Johannesburg.

There was no problem of any kind when I sat down in the dining saloon to have a cup of tea.

I was told that the saloon, which has a bar, is open to all races and orders are also taken from all the compartments.

The compartments needed sweeping, but then of course it was the last leg of the long run from the Rand.

A spokesman for SATS in PE said its employees in the Cape Midlands, as in all other regions, obviously had a free choice of residence.

Those who preferred to live in the rural areas had to organise their own transport.

If they chose to use the local train service, a choice open to any member of the public, they qualified for a reasonable concessionary travel allowance. The did not give figures.
Farmers told of trade unions

Dispatch Reporter
GRAHAMSTOWN — To meet the challenge of trade unions, guidelines based on decency were urged by Mr E. A. "Tommy" Thomson, a dairy farmer and agricultural economist, at this week's meeting of the Belton-Salem Farmers' Association.

"There may be difficulties formulating guidelines in this area because of the diversity of farming, but we must accept that the effects of trade unions will spill over. To counteract these we need to promote sound inter-group relations," he said.

Quoting the Wiehahn report, Mr Thomson said those who did not fully understand proper relations would be swept along inevitably by the process of change.

He said labour was the most important single ingredient as to agricultural input costs. Training and productivity went hand in hand.

Terms of service must include defined working hours, a minimum wage, annual leave, protective clothing, job description, training, worker involvement, the potential for developing a supervisor class, remuneration, housing, recreation, medical aid, education, pensions and retirement arrangements.

"It embraces the whole aspect of rural development," he said.

Aspects farmers should consider were:

- A workload of not more than 12 continuous hours with reimbursement for overtime.
- Meal intervals and public holidays.
- Certificates of employment and termination of services.
- Sick leave.
- Job security.

Farmers would have to develop better management techniques. They should also make certain that the farming community could bargain together as a group.

Mr Thomson said: "There is no need for farmers to go through the total agony of industry. You can learn from their problems and mistakes and put together an acceptable package."

He said farmers should get together and formulate minimum conditions and guidelines.
Call for drastic switch to improve lives of labourers

Subsidies for farm workers not farmers?

AGRICULTURAL experts in the academic world are urging the Government to restructure the country's agriculture by switching subsidies from land, crops, machinery and fertilisers to labour — to give farm labourers better wages, pensions, education, housing and living conditions.

Farm workers represent 26% of the South Africa's labour force.

One of the prime movers at top advisory level is Prof W L Nieuwoudt of Natal University in Pietermaritzburg, who says: 'I prefer to research controversial issues.'

He says bluntly: 'Subsidies are going to farmers who don't need them; 75% of agricultural subsidies go to farmers who earn more than $400 000 a year.

Better package

'There is nothing wrong with being big and efficient, but it is wrong to subsidise land purchase by loans with low interest rates, because you can't make more land. By offering subsidies for farm labourers' housing one would create something new as well as improving the quality of life.

'We must make it more attractive to farmers to employ labour and to improve their quality of life. They must be encouraged to want to participate, and this can only be done by redirecting subsidy funds,' said Prof Nieuwoudt.

He referred to a recent Reader's Digest article, which criticised South African farmers for inhuma labour conditions.

'What is not altogether fair to blame the farmers for the current situation. The system creates the environment and it is necessary to create the environment from the top down; it does not spring from grass-roots level.'

Prof Nieuwoudt is convinced that agriculture should be able to stand on its own feet without entrenched subsidies on land, crops and fertilisers, directly through credit subsidies and debt consolidation, and tax write-offs on land and machinery.

He concedes, however, that assistance should be given for circumstances outside farmers' control, such as freak weather conditions.

Support for views

'Taxes from agriculture,' he says, 'total R100 million a year, but subsidies amount to several times that figure. Take 1981, for instance: it was a very good farming year, but debt increased because farmers were buying more machinery, to bring down their income tax. Tractor purchases were four times the normal.'

In the past couple of years, said Prof Nieuwoudt, there had been a reduction in farm labour, but with the present tremendous price of machinery he was certain the trend would be reversed.

'Now is the time to shift more direct assistance to the labourers, so that farmers could attract better quality labour by offering improved housing, schooling and living conditions, as well as wages.'

'Surveys should be undertaken to determine the labourers' needs.'

Prof Nieuwoudt points out that professors from other universities are very much in support of his views, as is the Agricultural Union, but all we academics can do is to show the policymakers the directions of desirable change.

'But fortunately the Government is listening to academics more than ever before.'

A member of Prof Nieuwoudt's Agricultural Policy Research Unit in Pietermaritzburg is Bruce Robertson, a postgraduate student and president of the S R U. He will spend the coming vacation with assistants on a field survey of farm labour in the Lion's River, Lower Tugela and Eastern Cape regions.

The team will try to identify factors necessary to improve the quality of life — in a mixed farming area, in the cane belt and in the Akwele North-Elliot area, where the sheep and beef farmers have a more conservative attitude.

Somewhat cynically he says: 'It is one thing to pay farmers a subsidy to increase labourers' wages, but another thing to make sure it is reaching the target. Perhaps it might be better to get the money directly into black education.'
SAAU to see govt on housing scheme

THE SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) is to make representation to government to improve the housing scheme for farm workers.

The move comes after successful SAAU negotiations with the Department of Agriculture which secured funds for the scheme for the current financial year.

The union has appealed to farmers to use the scheme to enable the utilisation of funds that have been set aside.

"The union believes that good worker housing is a prerequisite for sound community development," said a spokesman.

"Farmers with inadequate housing facilities for their labourers are urged to apply as soon as possible so that they can participate in the scheme," he added.

Outlining the scheme, he said that, subject to certain conditions, all owners of land on which farming activities were practised could apply for a loan — at a 3% interest rate — to erect workers' homes.

"Two loans are available. One of R4 000 for a three-roomed house and one of R5 000 for a four-roomed house. Loans for extensions come to half these amounts.

"Further loans of R300 each are available for water and electricity supplies per living unit."

He said terms of repayment must not exceed 20 years and loans must be secured through a mortgage on the applicant's fixed property.

"Under the scheme, an applicant is authorised to erect or upgrade a maximum of 10 houses." Application forms are available at the nearest magistrate's office or from the Department of Agriculture, Pravil Ee Bag X118, Pretoria, 0001.
Farm workers wages average R32 a week
UNION ORGANISATION HAMPERED BY THE FARMER

LAST year farm workers in the Western Cape earned an average of R32 a week.

This was revealed at a gathering of welfare, community and trade union organisations earlier this year, Natal University’s Indicator SA says in its latest edition.

Grievances aired at the meeting include:

- Wages of between R15 and R30 a week.

“Last year farm workers in the Western Cape earned R32 a week on average. Sometimes wine is regarded as part of the wage, although payment in the form of alcohol is illegal. However, there is no law against freely dispensing liquor to workers.”

SPECIFICALLY excluded from most labour legislation, living on the breadline and almost totally dependant on their employer, black workers on South Africa’s white farms have come under the spotlight.

Housing is tied to employment and “is used to control workers.”

“The farmer pays lower wages on the grounds that he provides housing. Yet members of workers’ families living on the farm but working elsewhere usually have to pay rent. At harvest time they are usually expected to help on the farm, and sometimes lose their town jobs in the process.”

- Worker organisation is hampered by the farmer.

“The farmer’s readiness to invoke trespass laws makes it difficult for unionists to get on to farms to recruit members. Workers may face dismissal or victimisation for attending meetings off the farm or for seeking legal advice.”

- Child care is not available.

“But employers expect all young women to work on the farm if needed. The male head of the family contracts verbally with the farmer for the entire family. Females are on 12-hour standby at the harvest time.”

- Working conditions are not controlled by law.

“Farm workers are specifically excluded from most labour legislations which means there is no legislated minimum wage, paid leave provision, hours of work, sick leave, unemployment insurance fund, etc.”

- Education is below standard.

“Schools are few, and children must walk long distances to get to them. Teachers are often not properly qualified and children are frequently expected to work on the farm instead of going to school.”

A vicious circle of debts controls the worker.

“Workers often have no option but to buy at farm shops where goods are more expensive. They then run up substantial debts and are unable to leave the farm, or must have their debts transferred to the new farmer employer.

“Focusing on the specific problems of farm labour, the grievances aired at the meeting have an authenticity born from the experience of working closely with these people over a long period,” the Indicator SA report says.
ESCOM is to spend an additional R25-million on rural electrification this year to supply about 78,800 customers by 1987.

Escom chairman John Maree says the extra capital has become available as a result of savings made in both operating and capital expenditures.

Maree says the additional amount made available is desirable to meet the rapid increase in the demand for electricity on the platteland. This demand is a direct result of the changes in the tariff structure from January 1986 which either abolished the payment of extension charges or reduced them significantly.

Escom received over 9,000 applications for power from people in the rural areas in 1985, 10,000 in 1986 to date and expects a similar number in 1987.
Plan for rural education is presented to Minister

By Susan Fleming

A report outlining plans to improve black education in the rural areas has been presented to the Minister of Education and Development Aid, Dr Gerrit Viljoen.

A statement released by the Department of Education and Training announced that an education working party, which included DET officials and representatives of various organisations, had completed the report.

The seven fields investigated included: the state of rural education, a demographic analysis of the situation, teacher education and physical accommodation.

Recommendations included:

• A group of schools in one area be organised jointly and administered by a capable principal.
• Individualised teaching methods receive greater emphasis.
• The subject "skills and techniques" be introduced into rural schools.
• The syllabuses for agriculture-related subjects be revised in terms of an ecological approach.
• Farm school facilities be used as community/cultural centres to encourage parental involvement and community development.
• Higher standards, including secondary standards, be introduced in existing farm schools.
• Boarding school facilities be thoroughly investigated.
• Innovations with respect to teacher training and recruitment and utilisation.
AGRICULTURE - LABOUR

1987

JAN - DECEMBER
There is only one high school in Natal to cater for the province’s 300,000 farm labourers and their families, says Natal University’s quarterly publication, The Indicator.

Writing in the latest edition of the magazine, Natal University’s Development Studies Unit research fellow Libby Ardington said most administrative, legislative, educational, social and other facilities provided by the State in farming areas were for the exclusive use of white communities, despite the fact that black people constituted 90% of the farm population.

It was not only that the government provided no schools or clinics for blacks living in white rural areas, in some areas it did not even provide the basic administrative machinery that would enable a retired farm worker to claim the old age pension to which all blacks in South Africa were entitled, she said.

Ardington added that possibly the clearest illustration of the government’s abdication from its social responsibilities towards farm workers and their families was seen in the area of education.

In South Africa, problems were magnified by racial attitudes, legislation and linguistic differences.

It was unlikely that there was a commercial farm in South Africa which, for the education of all its youth, could legally make use of only one school.

The fact that all facilities had to be duplicated for various racial groups widened the area from which children were drawn, thus further increasing educational and travelling costs, said Ardington.

There was no system for educating black youths on farms; there was merely a method for the government to subsidise education, if farmers chose to provide facilities.

The DET did not, and could not, take any steps to initiate the provision of education for the children of farm workers.

The education the farmer may provide, tended to be restricted to primary education and indeed, until recently, it was impossible to get permission for a farm school to go beyond Std Five.

Today, a few “special farm schools” offered Std Six and Seven, she said.

Ardington said there was only one high school in Natal to cater for black children from the province’s 7,500 farms. Few farm workers were able to afford the boarding fees or were prepared to send their children so far away.

Where the farm was situated closely to a part of KwaZulu and there was no nearby farm school, a farm worker might send his children to school “across the border.”

For most black farm children in Natal, this provided the only opportunity for a high school education. This, in turn, placed financial burdens upon already overloaded resources of KwaZulu’s Educational Department for which it was not compensated, she said.

Ardington added that there was no doubt that black children on commercial farms were “educational Cinderellas.”

They came from homes which historically were educationally deprived, where salaries were low and where there were few resources to take advantage of the few boarding schools that existed.

Yet to achieve an education, farm youths were required to overcome these hurdles.

A Catch 22 situation existed in that there was little hope of these children being absorbed into their farms’ workforce, yet “frequently denied them the education that would enable them to get employment elsewhere.”
Kalk Bay fishermen can catch, sell squid

Staff Reporter

REGISTERED Kalk Bay fishermen will be permitted to catch and sell squid, Mr John Wiley, Minister of Environment and Water Affairs, said yesterday.

However, the establishment of a squid industry in False Bay would not be permitted.

Mr Wiley said in a statement issued yesterday that a squid industry in False Bay could not be considered, because squid was an important food source for many fish species.

Sport fishermen would still be allowed to catch 20 squid per person per day, but they would not be allowed to sell them.

Mr Wiley said Hout Bay fishermen would not be allowed to catch squid on a commercial basis (more than is needed for personal use), and would have to apply to the Department of Marine Development for such a special licence.

Land-locked sea

Asked why this was so, Mr Wiley said False Bay was an enormous, virtually land-locked stretch of sea, whereas Hout Bay fishermen could sail straight out of the harbour into deep sea.

Hout Bay fishermen already had licences to catch kreef, pelagic and tunny quotas, he added.
Boost for farmers

CAPE TOWN—The government is to provide R237 million to assist in the reconstruction of the agricultural sector, the Minister of Finance, Mr. Breyten du Plessis, announced yesterday.

He said the recommendations of the State President's Economic Advisory Committee had been handed to the Jacobs Committee after the completion of its investigation into the problems facing farmers.

The Jacobs Committee had now completed its task in assessing the practicalities of these proposals. "It affords me much pleasure to announce that an amount of R117 million will be included in the main estimates as the first instalment in a five-year programme for the reconstruction of the agricultural sector in the drought-stricken areas.

"A further amount of some R120 million will also be made available for various other assistance programmes to the agricultural sector." — Sapa
In a major boost to the Western Cape deciduous fruit industry, the government yesterday proposed R0.38 million in extensions to the waterworks for irrigation in the Greenland Irrigation District near Grabouw.

The scheme, which is expected to create 800 new job opportunities on farms as well as a "considerable number" of seasonal job opportunities, has an estimated construction time of 12 months.

The proposed extensions, outlined in a Department of Agriculture and Water Supply report tabled in Parliament yesterday, will entail increasing the capacity of Eikenhof Dam by 3.8 million cubic metres, raising the output of the pump system and upgrading and extending pipelines.

The report describes the extensions as "technically acceptable and economically justifiable" and recommends that they be improved in spite of "the doubts that may exist about South Africa's export market".
Missing fisherman presumed dead

A FISHERMAN who "disappeared" in a small inflatable dinghy 60 miles off the Plettenberg Bay coast in June last year was presumed dead by order of the Supreme Court yesterday.

Deckhand Mr Griffith Williams, 34, of St Helena Bay, was last seen on the afternoon of June 28 by the captain of the trawler Harvest Orion. He was in the dinghy picking up loose fish about a kilometre from the trawler.

He was not visible at 5pm and searches by air and sea failed. His dinghy had no supplies.

His wife, Geraldine, who last saw him on June 16 before the trawler left Saldanha Bay, will receive a lump sum of about R18,772 in pension, UIF, accident fund and life insurance payments.

She will also receive R7,102 a year in workmen's compensation for herself and two small children.

Mr Justice E L King presided. Mr J Marais, instructed by Field and Sims, appeared for Mrs Williams.
‘Farmer shot pastor’ claim

By CHRIS STEYN.

A NORTH-WESTERN Cape community yesterday mourned the death of a young pastor and father-of-two who was allegedly shot dead by a local farmer during a prayer meeting on a farm near Victoria-West on Tuesday night.

Mr Tobias Plaatjies, 32, died of a head wound in the Kimberley Hospital — hours after the farmer allegedly disrupted the meeting by firing several shots into the congregation.

**Farmer questioned**

Police yesterday confirmed that the farmer had been questioned and that a murder charge was being investigated. But he was not under arrest and no formal charge had been laid.

According to police, the drama started when the farmer went to the servants' quarters where the prayer meeting was being held at about 9.30pm.

He allegedly fired a shot against the outside wall of the house, before firing two shots into the building.

Police said that he then ordered the congregation — about 15 men and women — outside.

He fired another shot into the group as they were filing out of the building. This was the shot which hit Mr Plaatjies behind the right ear and ultimately resulted in his death.

When the Cape Times phoned his home yesterday, the farmer's wife said that he was in consultation with his lawyer.

Meanwhile dozens of members of the Pentecostal minister's congregation had gathered at his home to commiserate with his wife, Floorie, and his children Olga, aged nine, and Clinton, aged seven.

In an interview with the Cape Times, Mr Plaatjies' eldest sister, Mita, said: "The whole community loved him very much. He was well-liked by all — black, white and coloured."

**Tragic loss**

Speaking from the family's Beaufort West home, she said that his death was regarded as "a tragedy and a great loss" by the entire community. "We are all very sad," she said.

Mr Plaatjies, who worked as a pastor in the district for nearly five years, had conducted regular prayer meetings and church services on farms in the area. "He was a deeply spiritual person, Beaufort has suffered a great loss," his sister said.
Farmer may be charged today

By CHRIS STEYN

A WELL-KNOWN Western Cape farmer who allegedly shot dead a pastor, Mr Tobias Plaatjies, at a prayer meeting on a farm near Victoria West this week, may be formally charged today, police said yesterday.

Police confirmed on Wednesday that they were investigating a charge of murder against the farmer, and said he had been questioned.

Yesterday the farmer’s wife said her husband was “out in the fields” when the Cape Times telephoned the farmhouse.

According to police, the farmer went to the servants’ quarters, where the prayer meeting was being held, about 9.30 on Tuesday night.

He allegedly fired a shot against the outside wall of the house, before firing two shots into the building.

Police said he then ordered the congregation outside.

He fired another shot into the group as they were filing out of the building. This was the shot which hit Mr Plaatjies behind the ear and ultimately resulted in his death, police said.
Cape group up to eyeballs in debt — Bloom

By TOM HOOD, Business Editor

STARTLING statements about the finances of the Ovsten group, one of the Cape's oldest fishing companies, have been made at a marathon meeting of shareholders in Cape Town.

"This company is up to its eyeballs in debt," said the new chairman, Mr Tony Bloom, who yesterday pacified more than 150 shareholders angered by heavy losses in the value of their shares.

"It is no use pretending there was not serious mismanagement — in my opinion, there certainly was."

Mr Bloom also said: "If there is any practical possibility of recovering any amounts which may be found to be due, steps will be taken to achieve this."

He told a questioner later: "Non-disclosure is being investigated by the company's attorneys. If any action needs to be taken, then it will be taken to the ultimate.

Former chairman Mr Andrew Ovsten, who resigned in December, said he accepted absolute responsibility for the state of the company.

Mr Bloom said he had been "distinctly unhappy" about aspects of Ovsten's fishing operations in Chile and it took 12 months before he uncovered the extent of borrowings and losses.

Investigations

After his investigations the board disclosed Chilean borrowings of R69-million — a figure that rocked shareholders and showed the group's debt had mounted to R161-million, the repayment of which was unmanageable.

Among other statements made by Mr Bloom, who is also chief executive of the giant Premier Group, were:

- Debts piling up to R163-million were discovered after he and other Premier directors on Ovsten's board questioned the high level of borrowings for three years;

- Borrowings of R27-million reported to a directors' meeting on February 14, 1980, "were actually at a level of R52-million";

- The company's bankers had been "extremely nervous" and might have called up R13-million in overdrafts if they had known the full extent of the group's borrowings;

- A "significant loss" will be posted by Ovsten for the current financial year;

- No ordinary dividend will be paid and the group does not have the cash to pay preference shareholders either;

- If Ovsten's property interests are not sold to reduce borrowings, "we could have been faced with a creditors' meeting and not a meeting of shareholders"; and,

- A major investigation was launched into Ovsten subsidiary Premier Wire after an optimistic chairman's statement about financial problems turned out to be "cloud cuckoo-land" and R3.5-million had to be written off.

The meeting approved by a large majority the sale of property interests Ovedco Holdings for R23-million — 17 percent below the book value — to Ovel, a new company headed by former chairman Mr Andrew Ovsten.
Debt Trauma for Ovgroup

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1987

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were operating in a depressed market.

Fishing was originally Oyvog's core business and he believed it had "better prospects than property and construction".

None of the shareholders objected to the price offered, although it was an effective discount of R14.3 million on the book value of assets, after Bloom said the original offer had been "very considerably lower" and no other buyer had shown any interest.

He said he had tried to interest a leading institution and another prospective buyer, without success.

Bloom disclosed that the Board of Executors had difficulty in the private placement of sales in Ovibel, the company formed to take over the property and construction interests, and members of management "were brought in and topped it up".

Discussing future prospects, Bloom said there was "still a great deal of cleaning up to be done and a long haul before the group is restored to reasonable profitability".

He thought this would take five or six years.

The trading operations themselves were in reasonable shape and those in South Africa would be strengthened by the acquisition of Southern Seas Fishing Enterprises (SSFE) for R12 million.

Premier had held 10% of this company for 10 years and the Dutch controlling shareholders decided to sell in August last year.

Bloom said SSFE ended the 12 months to December with taxed profits of R1.5 million. The current value of its assets was far higher than the book value of R7.5 million.

The Ovenstone fishing interests in South Africa were budgeting for a reasonable profit in the current year provided quotas could be maintained.

"On the international side, the group has a modern and well-equipped factory in an area where the resource is reasonable and well managed. "Its profitability depends on world fishmeal prices and, of course, the presence of fish.

"In a normal year profits should also be produced in Chile."

Bloom continued: "Both in South Africa and Chile we have well-motivated, experienced and competent line management.

"The group's problem, therefore, does not lie in the operations themselves but in the level of borrowings which, even after the Ovibel sale, is much too high.

"There is also an imbalance between domestic debt and foreign debt, the latter being preponderant.

"The offshore debt has to be serviced from the Chilean cash flow and even if there are reasonable earnings shareholders must appreciate that dividends from Chile will probably not flow for five or six years.

"The available cash flow must be used to pay off the banks."

He said a rights issue might help to finance the acquisition of SSFE, but could not be used to repay the overseas borrowings.

"No one in their right minds would take a rights issue knowing the cash would flow out of the country in financial rands."

Bloom warned that if a significant loss will be posted for the current financial year, no ordinary dividend will be paid and the group does not have sufficient distributable reserves to pay the preferred dividend either.

"Net asset value could be below 10c by the year end."

Andrew Ovenstone, who sat among shareholders, told them that as former chairman he accepted full responsibility.

Serious losses made by Premier Wire in Cape Town had been "as big a shock to me" as to Bloom.

He had not consolidated overseas borrowings with those in South Africa because the debt standstill had made this difficult.

The Chilean operation had been carried on "in a hostile environment with the world price of fishmeal dropping and had become a matter of survival.

The sudden weakening of the rand meant that "$10 million became $30 million".
tions had been granted as at the latest specified date for which figures are available;

(2) whether the figures in respect of each such area represent an increase or decrease in comparison with the relevant figures for 1983?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

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Total: 26,191

Note: These figures are as at 31 December 1986.

Firearm licences

332. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) Whether the requirements for obtaining a firearm licence are identical for members of all race groups; if not, (a) why not and (b) what are the points of difference;

(2) whether any applicants for firearm licences are required to pass a test or demonstrate their skill in some other way; if not, why not; if so, (a) the nature of the test or demonstration required and (b) since when has this procedure been followed;

(3) whether any such test or demonstration is uniformly applied; if not, (a) why not and (b) what are the variations applicable in respect of (i) the age of the applicant, (ii) the race of the applicant, (iii) the geographical area and (iv) any other specified aspects of the test or demonstration required?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) Yes. (a) and (b) Fall away.

(2) No, formal testing or demonstration is required at this stage.
BLOEMFONTEIN. — Robert Maarsman and Piet Kruger have been granted leave by the Appeal Court to appeal to a full Bench of the Cape Supreme Court against convictions for culpable homicide. Their convictions arose from the death of a farm labourer, Mr Hans Jacobs, at Rawsonville, on February 1, 1896. Each was sentenced to five years' imprisonment, of which half was suspended for Maarsman and three and a half years suspended for Mr Kruger.
Unions carry on

TRADE unions organising farmworkers say they will continue their work despite a call from the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) not to give farmworkers rights in terms of the Labour Relations Act (LRA).

The SAAU said recently it “does not recommend the implementation of the LRA in agriculture” at this stage, adding that the Act was designed for conditions in trade and industry and it was not satisfied it would contribute to good labour relations in agriculture.

The Manpower Department has been in possession of a National Manpower Commission (NMC) report on the issue for about three years, but has failed to comment on it.

Food and Allied Workers’ Union (Fawu) president Chris Dlamini says the Manpower Department would be “foolish” to heed the SAAU’s recommendation.

“Agricultural workers want to belong to unions. And we have already begun to organise in the Cape, Natal and northern Transvaal,” he says.

Cusa/Azactu assistant general secretary Masemola Skosana, who has been responsible for establishing the National Union of Farmworkers, says the union will “resist any delay in the inclusion of farmworkers in the LRA”.

Reports
Fisherman severs foot, airlifted from trawler

From KEN VERSTRAETE
Argus Bureau
PORT ELIZABETH. - A National Sea Rescue Institute paramedic was airlifted on to the deck of a trawler in rough seas off Cape St Francis to treat a Cape Town fisherman whose foot had been severed.

The fisherman, Mr Thomas Logan, of the Cape Town-based Southern Avenger, was winched to the helicopter from the trawler when it reached calmer water yesterday and is reported to be in a satisfactory condition at Greenacres Polyclinic.

Mr Logan's foot was torn off when it became entangled in a rope as he was laying crayfish pots yesterday afternoon.

The NSRI paramedic, Mr Peter Roux, was flown to the trawler by a South African Air Force helicopter and winched to the deck of the Southern Avenger with a stretcher and medical supplies.

NEARLY IN FUNNEL

Mr Roux said the trawler deck was tossing wildly in rough seas as he was being lowered. At one stage he "nearly fell into the ship's funnel."

Mr Logan was severely shocked, with the stump of his leg covered with a blood-soaked cloth.

"I gave him liquid to treat the shock and, later, morphine for the pain," he said.

As he worked on Mr Logan the trawler raced for the sheltered waters of St Francis Bay, where the seaman was airlifted from the trawler to hospital.

○ Picture, Page 3.
Arm caught in conveyor machine on farm

Hopes dashed

Schoolboy's dream of being doctor shattered

A POTGIETERSRUS schoolboy (14) recruited to work at a West Rand Farm about 400 kilometres from home, is now permanently disabled after his arm got stuck in a conveyor machine while working there.

Form Three pupil Godfrey Mabaso was injured last month while employed as a casual worker at a Randfontein farm owned by a Mr "Jose" Gonzalves.

Godfrey told the Sowetoan this week that he, together with about 50 other boys and girls aged between 14 and 20, were recruited by Mr Gonzalves during December holidays to work at a "nearby farm".

But, he said, he was shocked to discover that "instead, we were being recruited to work in a farm situated hundreds of kilometres from home".

The schoolboy is now the subject of a legal wrangle between his parents, assisted by the Industrial Aid Society and the farmer. The Mabasos want compensation for their son whose dream to become a doctor may now never be realised.

An Industrial Aid Society counsellor, Mr Martin Monyela, said Godfrey — like thousands of other casual farm labourers — was not covered by the Workman's Compensation Act (WCA). The society, therefore, intends to take Godfrey's case to court.

Mr Gonzalves could not be reached for comment this week. But his brother, Mr David Gonzalves, said they were proceeding with the WCA claim for Godfrey.

Told the WCA did not cover casual workers, Mr Gonzalves said: "We do not expect to have problems with this claim. We have claimed for our casual workers before and experienced no problems".

The schoolboy told the Sowetoan that a local headman, "who acted as Mr Gonzalves' agent", had told them they were going to work at a farm "just on the outskirts of Potgietersrus".

GODFREY (left) points to his injured hand while his mother, Maria Mabaso, and his uncle, Mr Norman Mabaso, look on.
Power sharing works on some wine farms

WHILE South Africa's white political leaders bitterly debate the idea of sharing power with blacks, a group of wine farmers have started their own multi-racial grassroots scheme.

On a growing number of vineyards in South Africa's R262-million wine industry, black workers are electing committees which run the farms with the owners.

The first power-sharing scheme in the winelands is believed to have been started by Nicky Krone, 40, owner of Twee Jongegezellen. His labour practices are based on the philosophy that "everyone has the right to get the best from life".

Changes in race relations actually began some 15 years ago when Krone's wife, Mary, suggested they train the farm's rugby team, which became highly successful.

A committee to involve workers in decision-making grew out of those contacts. Productivity rose and land use trebled.

The committee, elected by the farm's 150 workers, decides who gets hired and fired. "There is a waiting line for jobs," said coloured farm labourer Mr Jonas Arendse.

It also helps run the farm school, creche, clinic and a community hall which it can hire out for weddings and use for weekend dances. Profits are used to further upgrade farm facilities.

Another wine farmer, Sidney Back, said he felt farmers had "an obligation that stretches beyond that of merely paying wages".

Workers on Backsberg Estate have a video and television hall, a creche, a social worker, sporting facilities and a shop whose prices are lower than others in the area.

"Our committee attends to the social needs of the workers but it also has some teeth by having a role in hiring. The benefits are huge," Back said.

The power-sharing schemes were bitterly attacked by more conservative farmers when first introduced.

"We were called a bunch of communists," Mary Krone said. -- Sapa-Reuters.
Dispute over dismissed labourer

By Inga Molzen

A 54-year-old labourer and former tractor driver who has nine dependants, was dismissed from the Rand Water Board’s farm 25 km west of Johannes- burg at the end of last year and served with eviction papers. He had been employed for two years at the farm.

It was alleged the man, Mr Jackson Siboiano, a farm union shop steward, had assaulted a fellow employee, but he was not charged in court for the alleged offence.

Although dismissed on December 30 and asked to leave his premises, he is still living at the farm.

The board has applied through the courts to have him evicted, but he will not have to leave the farm until there is a ruling.

The Orange Vaal General Workers’ Union, which is representing Mr Siboiano, said they had asked for other workers retrenched on January 15 to be reinstated without loss of pay.

The board said they would file legal papers on the labour dispute, but the farm workers have not been informed of any new developments.

The board’s principle administrator, Mr C Heyberg, said: “I can’t see what is newsworthy about employees dismissed from the farm.

“I can give you no comment. Whatever we do with our employees is our business. We are not going to reply to allegations in the newspaper. It’s a staff matter.”

The board’s general secretary, Mr van der Westhuizen, said: “I cannot comment on the dismissal, for the whole matter is sub judice. There is going to be litigation.”

He said it was up to the court to decide whether dismissed workers could be evicted from their homes on the farm.

Questioned about the board’s attitude on the unionisation of their farm labour, Mr van der Westhuizen replied: “As you know, the legislation at the moment does not permit that. Until this is the case, it does not concern us.

“If the farm labourers wish to be union members, that is not our concern.”

Farmers wooed while workers are ignored

Farm workers have little or no recourse to legal action when faced by unfair labour conditions, their pay is low and their real wages have dropped, a unionist said.

The general secretary of the Orange Vaal General Workers’ Union, Mr P Masiya, said that while farmers had been placated with R25 million in govern- ment compensation, the findings of the National Manpower Commission (NMC) had been frozen.

The Department of Manpower was instructed in May 1972 to investigate and report on conditions affecting domestic and farm workers.

The NMC report was completed and handed to the then Minister of Manpower, Mr Fred Botha, in October 1974.

“No one cares that farm workers are exploited,” said Mr Masiya.

Mr Masiya said researchers and labour representatives had worked hard to produce the Farm Labour Report, and recommendations were submitted to the NMC.

They referred to the need to correct abuses such as the use of child labour on farms, eviction of families, low wages and poor working conditions, lack of bargaining rights and a lack of compensation for injuries.

When workers were dismissed with one month’s pay they struggled to find other employment, he said.

“Farming is seasonal. Dismissed workers may wait at up to a year or more before farmers again hire labour. And meanwhile they are evicted,” said Mr Masiya.

They were unable to enter legal agreements except under common law, which was “outmoded and affords little protection”, he said.

This view was reinforced by the Cosatu-affiliated South African Domestic Workers’ Union which last year referred 1 954 cases of alleged exploitation to the Small Claims Court. But in most cases the employers failed to appear.

The Minister of Manpower, Mr PTC du Plessis, was questioned in Parliament during the recent session about the delay in publishing the NMC report.

He said ongoing nationwide consultations with organisations were “intensive and wide-ranging and the ‘diversity’ of the agricultural sector had also delayed negotiations, he said.”
VERULAM INDIAN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Head Office: P.O.Box 238, Verulam. 4348

Registered for: Indians employed in the Local Authority
undertaking as undertaken by the Municipality of Verulam in the
Municipal area of Verulam.

Labourers at work on the Rand Water Board's farm, 25 km west of Johannesburg. © Picture by Karen Sandison.
Frederiks honoured by Wits

Wits University will confer an honorary doctorate next month on Mr Wayne Frederiks, an American businessman who has worked closely with organisations promoting black education and civil rights in South Africa.

The university said Mr Frederiks has been on missions to South Africa “more than any other American of international stature”.

He has been a member of the American National Advisory Council of the South African Education Programme, which administers grants from Congress for black education in South Africa.

Mr Frederiks, who worked closely with the Institute of Race Relations and Funda Centre, was US Deputy Assistant Secretary for African Affairs. — Sapa.

R10-m ‘allocated for black farming’

The Government will spend more than R10 million on the improvement of black farming in the up-and-coming farms in Natal, the Minister of Development Aid, Dr Gerrit Viljoen said yesterday.

About R9 million has already been used to develop the Makatini Flats near kwaZulu where black farmers are producing rice, cotton, dry beans and mealies.

Dr Viljoen said his department was also promoting new farming methods in other national states as well.

“I am very impressed by the changing methods of black farmers from their individual subsistence farming to the more productive and economic commercial farming,” said Dr Viljoen at the Makatini Flats yesterday after a tour of the farms.

He said there was a lot of potential in black farmers if additional funds could be made available to them for development.

This would be possible in the next financial year when more than R10 million will be pumped into the project.

‘Liberals will influence events’

The Star Bureau

LONDON — South Africa’s “liberals” will have their moment to influence events in the country “when the new National Party Government resumes its reforms”, the Independent newspaper said today.

The Nationalists will win the election, it says, but adds: “...the liberal agonising... signifies the possibility of changes after the election”.

“Sexual relations are no longer a matter for the police. Job discrimination is eroding. What remains are random economic inequalities and injustices and residential segregation.”

FOC

At the U. Citizens. We now go some way. We believe your inco... United Bra...
Farmer workers 'trapped'

By SAHIM WENTER

FARM workers are trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty and debt, according to a new report by the Western Cape Research Project (WCUP), which has been compiling research on the issue for the past six months.

The report, titled 'Farmer Workers in the Western Cape', highlights the plight of farm workers who are forced to work long hours for low wages and often face exploitation and abuse.

The report found that many farm workers are unable to support their families due to low wages and lack of access to affordable housing and education. It also raises concerns about the use of child labor on farms.

The report calls for government action to address the issue and for better conditions for farm workers, including better wages, improved living conditions, and access to education and healthcare.

Mary lives with a bottle a day

M A R Y is 11 years old. Her parents are farm workers. She lives in a house that has three rooms, and she sleeps in one of them. Her mother works in the fields from 6am to 6pm every day.

Her mother said that Mary lives in poverty and is hungry most of the time. She doesn't have enough to eat and she doesn't have enough clothes to wear.

Mary says that she wants to be a doctor when she grows up. She dreams of becoming a doctor and helping other people. She wants to have a good job and be able to take care of her family.

Church is one of the only forms of relief for weary farm workers who walk for miles to get to their places of work. Religion plays a large part in their lives.
Dop system OK 'at times'

SOUTH REPORTER

Farmers providing wine in limited quantities to labourers for enjoyment with food, particularly after work, are participating in "a normal, civilised, centuries-old practice whereby wine farm labourers share in the fruit of their toil," a KWV executive said this week.

Mr T Pegel, chief personnel and communications executive of KWV in Suider Paarl, said the dop system was "obsolete."

"We believe this system is and sometimes dug up and drawn out of context by critics to create misconceptions."

Many farmers in the Stellenbosch-Paarl area have stopped the dop system according to the Rural Foundation.

But the system on the farms in areas surveyed by SOUTH was "very disappointing," Mr H Bailey, public relations manager for the Rural Foundation, said.

A survey last year by the Rural Foundation showed that 25% of farms still practise the dop system.

Meanwhile MOIRA LEVY reports that farmworkers are for the first time being organised into a trade union, in spite of legal constraints.

The Food and Allied Workers Union (FAWU) has started organising on farms.

The Labour Relations Act bans farmworkers from joining unions, but according to an organiser, the workers are ignoring that ruling.

Labourers on farms in the Groot Drakenstein, Stellenbosch and Grabouw, are joining the union. A union organiser said at Groot Drakenstein alone there were about 400 members out of a workforce of between 500 and 600 workers.

FAWU is negotiating recognition agreements at the Anglo American farms in Groot Drakenstein and with the bosses at Farm Fair in Stellenbosch.

A union organiser said FAWU already had majority membership at these farms.

It was the formation of Cosatu and the launch of FAWU in the Western Cape that opened the way for organising farm workers, the union organiser said.

FAWU was encountering obstacles at other farms.

"At Grabouw we are not allowed on the farms. Farmers tell us their workers don't need trade unions. They claim they provide their workers with houses, and that the conditions are good."
The ‘place of weeping’ still has some tears

A LAW 30 years old has been dusted off to ensure farm labourers remain among South Africa’s most vulnerable of workers, following the abolition of rural influx control.

According to the Association for Rural Advancement (Afra), at least 130 000 people are threatened with eviction from their homes on white-owned farms in the Weenen, Vryheid, Hibiscus and Richmond districts of Natal.

The section of the Development and Trust Act of 1936 which was used to regulate the rights of black people to live and work in white rural areas was scrapped last year. But, Afra argues, the restrictions have been replaced by those of the Illegal Squatting Act of 1951.

The government White Paper on Urbanisation which spells out post-influx control policy stated that this act would be “suitably adapted to protect the ownership rights of landowners”.

The Illegal Squatting Act makes provision for the eviction of farm workers and labour tenants after court convictions for squatting or an enquiry and directive by a magistrate. A policeman, local authority official or representative of the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning can also order their summary eviction.

Afra says labour tenants are particularly vulnerable, as the system is illegal. Labour tenancy continues to operate, however, as small private labour reserves. White absentee landlords use their farms solely to house tenants and give them access to grazing and ploughing; in return, the tenants are required to work away from these homes on their landlords’ commercial farms, for little or no wages.

Afra says in Weenen — featured in the film Place of Weeping — a number of families have been evicted after disputes with landlords over livestock reduction.

The farmers see conservation authorities as ordering them to reduce their tenants’ livestock because of the severe erosion on the farms. Afra says the tenants are fighting threats of reduction. As they receive no wages, their stock is a major source of social security and a vital source of income.

The report cites the example of Toto Mlambo, who has received no wages throughout the nine years he has worked on a commercial farm in Weenen. His five children are also expected to work without pay on weekends and holidays. In return, he has been given some land on a labour farm for a home and to graze his cattle, but has no ploughing rights.

In December, Afra says, Mlambo and seven other Weenen families were told to reduce their stock. They said they would agree only if they received wages or a ration allowance as a substitute. The farmer refused to listen to their grievances and gave them two weeks ot get off the farm. In Vryheid, 26 labour tenant families on six farms have until next month to leave their homes. Afra says although they have been given no reasons, all six farms are owned by one man who apparently wishes to join them into a single management block and streamline the labour force.

Consolidation has been a general trend in the country’s agriculture, Afra states. Between 1970 and 1982 the size of farms in South Africa increased by 47 percent, while the number of farm units decreased by 54 percent.

In the Richmond area, six families of labour tenants have been evicted by a new owner who wishes to convert the farm into a private game reserve. Afra said changes of farm ownership were often accompanied by farm labour removals. “New ownership often means increased capitalisation and mechanisation; and new owners feel less inclined to deal with the welfare and control of a large labour force. Relationships with families, that have often been built up over a number of generations, are disregarded.”

In the Hibiscus coal mining area, 400 people facing eviction include labour tenants and rent-paying families who have moved there to be close to the breadwinners working in the collieries.

Linha Mwalolo, 56, has been living on a farm in the area for 17 years. A widow, she has three children who attend school there. Her fourth son was working on the mine at Hibiscus until he lost his job during a strike. She had been paying R30 a month, but is classified as a squatter and has no legal protection against eviction.

According to Afra, between 1948 and 1982, at least 300 000 farm workers and labour tenants were evicted from white farms in the Natal region.

Farm workers are still expressly excluded from the provisions of the following acts:

- Labour Relations Act of 1956, which controls trade unions and employer relations and all machinery for settling disputes.
- Wage Act no 5 of 1957 which regulates wages and conditions of service in industries outside the Labour Relations Act.
- Unemployment Insurance Act.
- Basic Conditions of Employment Act which provides minimum standards for working hours, leave and notice.

Afra says while the Food and Allied Workers’ Union has started a farm-worker project, “problems of access to farm workers and their vulnerability to victimisation and discrimination are formidable.”
Tot system report not factually correct

From DIRK MARAIS (Montague):

WITH reference to the report in the Cape Times on April 4, in which the name of Montagu & Ashton Gemeenskapdiens (MAG) was mentioned, the organization's executive would like to make the following statement.

The MAG bears no responsibility for the placing of the article as the organization had no knowledge of its existence.

The particular people (namely Dawie Bosch and Lala Steyn) who were referred to as being personnel members of the MAG, have since the end of 1986 not been on the staff. They didn't have permission to speak or give interviews on behalf of the organization, as a decision was made two years ago in which it was decided that press statements could only be released by the Management Board.

Although the Management Board of the MAG is itself very strongly in favour, and advocates the abolition of the system in which farm workers receive drink (tot-system), the executive distances itself from the contents of the report, in that it is the opinion of one person and further, is not factually correct.

The executive offers its apology to the numerous farmers in the Montague and Ashton area that are working for better conditions for workers on farms, and trust that it is clear that the MAG was neither responsible nor gave its approval to the article.

The executive would further like to bring it to the reader's attention that Mr Flip Jooste (Oom Flip) was unaware that the interview would be published in the Cape Times and did definitely not give his approval for that purpose.

(The article was reprinted from the Black Sash magazine of February, 1986, with the permission of the Black Sash, whose field worker Philip van Rynveld, conducted the interview with Mr Flip Jooste (Oom Flip). — Editor, Cape Times.)
Taking keenness a little too far

CP Correspondent

A FARM labourer has been given a suspended sentence for looking after his employer's property so well that he killed someone who apparently tried to steal the farmer's vegetables.

Isaac Zungu, 36, was convicted of culpable homicide in the Durban Supreme Court this week and sentenced to four years in jail, suspended for five years.

During October last year, Zungu, was working as a labourer on a farm outside Durban when he discovered a group of farm people stealing vegetables.

He managed to catch one of the group, Matshotoswani Wilson Ngqadh. He hit him on the head and attacked him with a grass slasher.

Zungu then took the would-be vegetable thief back to the farm, tied him up and told the story to his employer.

Judge Friedman said Zungu had not intended to kill. Needy and, in fact, it seemed he did not think he had done anything he would not have tied him up.

Zungu had a number of previous convictions, but the judge said it was ironic that, after being convicted of matters relating to dishonesty, Zungu was now faced with culpable homicide charges for trying to protect his farmer employer from the dishonesty of others.
Tot report did not reflect facts

From PIERRE VENTER (Montagu):
I refer to the article in (Cape Times, April 4) under the heading "Oom Flip and the Tot System". On my behalf and that of the Montagu farming community I wish to take the strongest possible exception against the inaccuracies contained in and the downright false impression created by this report.

The following statements are completely false:
1. That all the farmers in Montagu practise the tot system, especially six dops per day, as alleged by the farm worker. In fact, there is today a relatively small percentage of farmers who give any wine at all.
2. That a farm worker looking for work first asks: "How much mos the baas gives". This is such obvious nonsense that it deserves no comment at all.
3. The labourer alleges that he was paid R2 per day and your report ends with the following: "n Goegie-boer is 'n boer wat met betal. En hulle betal almal diezelfde."

This creates the impression that not only Baas Pierre, but all farmers are paying R2 per day. I challenge Miss Stuyt and Mr Bosch to name the "baas Pierre" or any farmer in Montagu who is paying R2 per day.

I find it unbelievable that a report like this could be published without the facts having been verified before hand.
Fawu denies scab allegations

THE Food and Allied Workers' Union has dismissed allegations that it sent its members to a fruit canning factory in East London to replace dismissed workers as "utterly false."

Fawu was reacting to National Union of Food Workers' allegations that Fawu sent members to work at Langeberg in East London while workers were locked out.

Workers at Langeberg were locked out and dismissed on April 7 following a wage dispute and the company was accused of using coloured as "scab workers."

NUFW general secretary Lulamile Mati said that the coloured operators were members of Fawu who were brought in from Mossel Bay.

"As a trade union, Fawu has no right to send workers to Langeberg," Mati said.

Fawu general-secretary in Cape Town, Jan Theron, said in a statement this week: "Fawu deplores scabbing and will not allow its members to be used to train scabs, whatever union was involved."

Theron said the NUFW alleged that 700 scab workers had been hired and that operators were brought in from Mossel Bay.

He said he immediately undertook an investigation into the matter and it was established that no Fawu members had left Mossel Bay for East London.

"I was then informed that the operators concerned were from Langeberg's parent factory, which turned out not to be the case," he said.
Wine farms remain hooked on dop system

By WILFRED SCHÄRF

THE tot system on the wine farms of the Western Cape remains a widespread labour practice and has resulted in a dependent, dole and disorganised rural labour force.

In spite of the 1963 prohibition on paying labourers, the majority of farm workers have continued to violate the law. Although the farmers pretend that the tot is given to labourers as a gift, it is understood by most of the labourers I interviewed to be part of their rightful reward for labour.

The few who do not partake in the tot (usually the “bekeerders” — i.e. devout Christians) are usually paid a little more than the drinkers. Two points that underscore this perception are that overtime and weekend work is often “paid for” in liquor and that punishment of labourers who break the farmer’s rules frequently involves a choice between pay deductions or the withdrawal of rights.

Many workers augment the tot by purchasing wine. This absorbs between 10% and 40% of their weekly wages. It has a profound impact not only on the labourers themselves, but also on their women, children and unborn children.

The daily intake of high amounts of liquor is virtually certain to have rendered a very high percentage of the rural working class dependent on or addicted to it for more than a century! This dependence virtually pre-determines the level of mental and emotional support the men or women can give their families. This should constitute a searing indictment of the tot system. But it is often accompanied by below-poverty wages, coercive management and poor housing.

Strait-jacket

Farm labourers are virtually locked into a farm-related residential and employment strait-jacket. This has considerable implications for the degree of control that farmers can exercise over their behaviour.

There is a substantial difference between the wages of farm labourers and those of town or city workers. In 1984 the average wage paid on 18 farms surveyed in the Somerset West/Stellenbosch area was R10 a week for ordinary labourers compared with the R45 minimum urban wage in the building industry (the most common alternative to farm labour). Farmers correctly argue that most farm labourers receive free housing, services such as water and occasional farm produce, in addition to wages.

It should be borne in mind, however, that other factors also influence the comparison. As is well known, farm labourers have barely any legislative protection. Service organizations are still waiting on the publication of a Manpower Commission report into labour legislation for farm workers, which was completed in 1984.

The monetary value of unemployment insurance, pension benefits, bonus payments and the lack of leave benefits all detract from the position of farm workers in comparison to city workers.

For the labourers themselves, the tot serves to mask the boredom of a dead-end working life. On most farms the scope for upward mobility is extremely limited. There is little training, little

The case with which free liquor is obtainable and the absence of other forms of recreation or seduction, merely facilitate the slide into hopelessness and escapism.

The tot system does not need to be a central feature of labour relations. The changes in wine-forming techniques since the late 1970s demand a more skilled labour force, leading some of the more business-minded and liberal-minded inclined farmers (currently estimated to constitute 15% to 20% of wine farmers) to move, or attempt to move, away from the tot system.

It deserves mention that over the years, even during the phase of labour shortages, there were some farmers (even wine farmers) who did not administer the tot, yet had no labour-supply problems.

Research over the past 10 years has shown a substantial diminishing of the amount of liquor dispensed, from the average of five tots a day and a bottle a day to a single “dop” during the day and a bottle at night. This lesser amount is still habit-forming, however, and is prolonging the destructive social effect of the tot on the farms. The number of farmers hedging recommendations from the Agricultural Union and the Rural Foundation to abolish the tot altogether seems to be growing. Not all of them have succeeded. One of the problems experienced during attempts to abolish the tot has been the labourers’ refusal to work without it or leaving the farm when it isn’t reintroduced.

‘Upgrading’

Looking back over the history of the tot system from the perspective of the mid-1980s, one may be lulled into thinking that it is a mere rural aberration, rapidly disappearing. Yet a closer look shows that its impact on both the rural and urban population of the Western Cape is not limited to the past and present, but will continue to exert its influence for the foreseeable future.

Labourers on a Western Cape farm.

The tot system has contributed to shaping a substantial percentage of the farm workers and their families. Many workers who drink would be shed from the farms by the process of mechanisation and “upgrading”. They will probably continue their drinking lifestyle in the townships and squatter areas of the cities.

Farmers who tried to abolish the tot system have been disillusioned by the workers’ response. They are, however, realising now that it requires a comprehensive change of basic assumptions as well as a broadening of the climate on the farms. Most importantly, it requires a revised attitude and approach to the labourers, an acknowledgement of their humanity and their potential ability to take responsibility in the work situation and their lives.

Farmers who have succeeded in de-totting the labour force have done so by a broad spectrum of changes including:

- The establishment of worker committees;
- Improving the physical environment, notably housing;
- Paying higher wages and no tot;
- Establishing recreational alternatives to drinking;
- Allowing social workers to perform their services among the labourer families;
- Arranging pension schemes, unemployment insurance and life insurance for the labourers and introducing a written labour contract;
- Encouraging acquisition of formal skills.

The achievement of these objectives may well be a considerable way off, and dependent on the fortunes of the liquor industry in the difficult economic conditions of the late 1980s. They require considerable capital investment, time and energy.

Wilfred Schärf is a lecturer at the Institute for Criminology, UCT. This is an extract from a chapter which has been prepared as part of the study "The tot system and its consequences in the South African farming community".
Farm workers unite

By MOIRA LEVY

LESS than 18 months after the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) announced its intention to organise farm workers, an affiliate has made several major strides in the field.

Critics were sceptical when the Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu) started organizing farm workers.

Some of the challenges Fawu faced was the exclusion of labourers from the protection of the Labour Relations Act. Farm workers are also denied trade union rights and have not been systematically organised before.

Often the most vulnerable and exploited sector of the labour force, they are being squeezed off the land by growing mechanisation and by the move towards farming monopolies that employ less labour, moving their smaller workforce from one farm to the next within the conglomerate.

The workers risk losing not only their jobs, but the roof over their heads and the little subsistence they can get from the small plots they are sometimes allowed to till.

All of which makes the overwhelming response to Cosatu's efforts at organising among farm workers all the more significant.

The Western Cape region of Fawu took up the challenge less than a year ago.

They have a recognition agreement signed with Farm workers, and another pending with the giant Anglo American Farms at Groot Drakenstein.

At the Anglo American farms membership among the fulltime workers was virtually 100 percent, a union organiser said. About 400 farm workers have joined the union.

Ms Mona Petersen, a local shop steward, said Anglo American was at the moment determining whether Fawu had majority support, a routine step towards official recognition.

Contact had also been made with individual farmers, where the response had ranged from sympathy to downright hostility, she said.

But Petersen and veteran trade union organiser Mrs Lizzie Abrahams, agreed the task of organising farm workers in 1997 was a duty from the old days when the Congress

Alliance affiliated South African Congress of Trade Unions (Sactu) unions were chased from the farms by 'boere with shotguns'.

Today giant monopolies like Anglo American have experience of trade unionism, she says, and the farm workers understand as they never did before the strength they will gain "as bulte saamstaan".

Petersen says the farm labourers were first approached by Fawu through their wives who are employed at the fruit canning and bottling factories in the area where the union has a long history.

"We asked them to let their husbands know that we wanted to speak to them. Then we went to visit the farms after hours.

"The response was very good from the start. They all filled in membership forms. All the men working on the Groot Drakenstein farms have joined the union," Petersen said.

SOUTH spoke to several men living and working on the farms in the Groot Drakenstein and Paarl area.

All had joined the union, and all agreed Fawu could do more to better their working conditions than any of them could achieve on their own.

"If the workers come together in the union, we can fight for better conditions and a better future," Jan Visser, a farm supervisor, said.

Their grievances are many. Top of the list was the fact that the workers often have to work in the rain.

They are given protective clothing, "but you have to wear two or three layers of these plastic overalls, and even then the rain gets through," Jan Muller said.

A fellow worker, Ivan Sias, explained: "You don't feel it so much when you are young. But when you get old you feel all the years of damp that never left your bones.

And they protest about their paltry salaries. Weekly pay ranges from R35 to R53 for labourers.

Other grievances include that they do not get bonuses, or overtime pay during the season when they work longer hours, or proper holidays, or more than 10 days paid sick leave each year.

And they resent having to call the farmers' bas, they said, "as if he is the Father. We could just as well call him Meneer".

Mrs Dinah Groenewald had just joined the union, and she was not afraid to say so, she said.

She works every day, seven days a week, from 7:30 or 8 in the morning until 5pm, with only one and a half hour break.

"We are given no food, no break for the duration."

All day Mrs Groenewald tends the pigs, feeding them, cleaning out their stalls and attends to the sows in labour.

For this she earns R76 a week. She complained that she was trained to perform castrations, but her salary was not increased to include her new skills.

But what does belonging to the union mean? Mrs Groenewald sums it up: "It has given us pride."
Years of damp "never leave your bones"

MRS KATRINA JAARS laughs with embarrassment when she tells what school children employed on the farms during their vacations earn, for it is almost as much as she gets each week.

The children of the farm labourers who are 15 years or older sometimes tend the fields or assist the men with the heavy labour when they are not at school.

For that they get R30 a week to add to their family's coffers. "It's a lot, me," Mrs Jaars, 43, said.

She works from eight in the morning—breaking only for one hour for lunch—watering, weeding and clearing the land until five each day, as she has done for four years.

For this she earns R37 a week.

But she is not really complaining. Her troubles really start during the off-season, when for six months of the year she has no work at all.

Then her husband has to support her and their four children on his salary of R53 a week.

The Jaars family live in a "very old house made of stone". In the winter it's freezing, Mrs Jaars said. But she doesn't like to light a fire because it makes the children cough.

Health

She worries about her family's health. Worst of all are the winter months when her husband works day after day out in the rain.

"It bothers me to see my man working in the rain like that. That kind of damp stays in the body."

Her friend Mrs Ann Alexander is concerned about the fumes that her husband, a tractor driver, inhales on the job. "It is the poison (in the pesticides). He feels it in his chest."

Both women said their husbands have joined the union, and they back their decision. Already they have seen the difference, they say.

If the men stand together, they are not afraid to ask for something. "The women must also stand together," Mrs Jaars said.
‘Arm broken by policeman’

Tygerberg Bureau

KUILS River farm worker Mr Johannes Alkaster, who claims to have seen two policemen dragging his friend, Mr Dawid Morris, behind a tractor, told the Regional Court, Parow, that one of the policemen broke his arm with a "heavy blunt weapon".

Mr Alkaster was giving evidence yesterday at the trial of Detective-Sergeant Gert Johannes Jacobs, 30, of Rusthof Farm, Kuits River, and Sergeant Hermias Cornelius Rossouw, 35, of Dorric Street, Kraaifontein.

They have pleaded not guilty to charges of culpable homicide following the death of Mr Morris on November 2 last year, and have also pleaded not guilty to charges of assaulting Mr Alkaster.

Their defence counsel, Mr H C Trosos, said Sergeant Jacobs, of the Brackenfell police, would acknowledge there was a fight between himself and Mr Morris after Mr Morris allegedly attacked him with a panga.

The policemen would also say they tied Mr Morris to the tractor's tow hitch by his hands in order to transport him, "as he was not in a fit state to walk", and that Mr Morris fell off.

Multiple injuries

Medical evidence from Tygerberg Hospital was that Mr Morris died of multiple injuries. He had a lacerated liver and kidneys, heart damage, a ruptured colon, two fractured ribs, a fractured thorax and other injuries.

Mr Alkaster said that about 10pm that Saturday night he left his room to investigate shouting and saw two men assaulting Mr Morris.

He identified Sergeant Jacobs as one of the two men striking Mr Morris with large, heavy sticks. Mr Morris was lying on the ground and did not fight back.

Mr Alkaster was then also assaulted with a "heavy, blunt weapon" by Sergeant Jacobs, who warned him to "take your foot off this farm at once".

Mr Alkaster said he worked on the farm for eight years, had a right to be there and paid rent for his labourer's cottage. However, the assault frightened him so much he fled to a chicken coop.

The hearing continues today.

Heavy rope

From the chicken coop he saw the policemen tie Mr Morris to the towbar of a tractor with a heavy rope.

Mr Morris was "lying quietly, not making a sound". Even though it was dark, and he did not see details of his face, he knew it was Mr Morris as he saw his watch gleaming. The farm also had lights outside.

He saw Sergeant Jacobs driving the tractor with Mr Morris being dragged behind it. Mr Morris was attached to the tractor by his feet and was dragged face down for 200 to 300 paces to the adjacent farm, Bela Vista. Sergeant Rossouw was walking behind, he said.

During cross-examination by Mr Trosos, Mr Alkaster denied Mr Morris could have attacked the two policemen with a panga.
Man dragged face down by tractor — witness

Court Reporter

A WITNESS told Parow Regional Court yesterday that he had fled and hid in a chicken coop after two policemen had broken his arm.

He said that while hiding he had seen the same policemen tie another man to a tractor and drag him face down, along the ground.

Mr Johannes Alkastre was giving evidence in the trial of Detective-Sergeant Gert Johannes Jacobs, 30, of Raphof Farm, Kuils River, and Sergeant Hermias Rossouw, 35, Hert Street, Krasfontein.

The policemen have pleaded not guilty to culpable homicide.

They are accused of causing the death of Mr Dawid Morris by hitting him, tying him to a tractor and dragging him.

They also denied assaulting Mr Alkastre with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

Mr Alkastre said he had heard a noise outside his house. He saw the two policemen hitting Mr Morris with sticks. He had approached them.

The witness said Sergeant Jacobs had hit Mr Alkastre with a stick, breaking his left arm.

"I ran to a chicken coop and I saw the two accused passing the coop carrying Mr Morris. His feet were dragging and they put him by the gate."

Sergeant Jacobs fetched a tractor and the two tied Mr Morris's hands to it. They dragged him face down, to an adjoining farm, Mr Alkastre said.

Defence counsel Mr H C Trisos, for both the policemen, said Sergeant Jacobs would say that he tried to subdue Mr Morris, who attacked him with a panga.

Because Mr Morris could not walk at that point, they had tied him to the tow bar of a tractor, in a sitting position.

Sergeant Jacobs continued driving and did not see that Mr Morris had fallen from the tractor but Sergeant Rossouw had jumped off when he noticed this; Mr Trisos said.

Mr Nielas Bekers, 18, told the court that he, Mr Morris, Ms Mary Williams and Ms Sara Hendricks had walked to the neighbouring farm to fetch Ms Williams's son.

While he and Mr Morris waited at the fence, two people came out of the bushes with torches and hit Mr Morris. It was too dark for Mr Bekers to identify the assailants or their weapons. After hearing a shot, he ran away, he said.

Ms Williams, Mr Morris's common-law wife, said she had gone to fetch her 12-year-old son with the group and as she walked through the fence she heard hitting noises and ran to hide.

Her husband had been all right when she left him at the fence and she denied that he owned a panga.

She denied that the group had gone to the farm to take care of "pimpers" (police informers) who had caused a friend's arrest for trespassing.

Ms Hendricks, one of the group, said she had watched from behind bushes as two men assaulted Mr Morris with sticks.

The hearing continues today.

Mr J C Botha was the magistrate. Mr J Luckhoff prosecuted.
Tractor death: Court told of injuries

Court Reporter

The findings of a pathologist who performed a post-mortem on a man who was allegedly dragged behind a tractor by two policemen, was consistent with allegations that he had been dragged and beaten, Parow Regional Court heard yesterday.

Dr Sario, a State pathologist at Tygerberg Hospital, was giving evidence in the trial of Detective Sergeant Gert Johannes Jacobs, 30, of Rusthof Farm, Kuils River, and Sergeant Hermias Rossouw, 35, of Hert Street, Kraaifontein.

They have pleaded not guilty to culpable homicide in that on November 19 they caused the death of Mr Dawid Morris, 35, by hitting him, tying him to a tractor and dragging him for a distance on farm ground.

They also denied assaulting Mr Johannes Alkaster with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

Fractures

Dr Sario found that Mr Morris died of multiple injuries which included a fractured sternum, two fractured ribs, deep-seated lacerations of the liver, lacerated kidneys, bleeding to the right side of the scalp, a ruptured colon, and fresh lacerations to the upper abdomen, the back, upper arm, the right shoulder and the right hand.

She said that blunt force was used on Mr Morris, but she could not say how much.

The marks on his back could have been caused by scraping along a rough or sharp surface.

Cross-examined by counsel for the defence, Mr H C Trius, she said the wounds could have been inflicted by a blunt or sharp instrument. She said that if the man had been dragged face down, she would have expected abrasions on his face.

In a statement handed in to the court, Sergeant Rossouw said he and Detective Sergeant Jacobs had gone to the farm Rotterdam to investigate some "trouble". He had seen a man stealthily approaching Detective Sergeant Jacobs with a "panga" and he had "boered" him.

Panga

Detective Sergeant Jacobs then grabbed the man and took the "panga" away from him. "The youngster (Mr Morris) was lying on the ground and I told him to get up and he said he would try," Detective Sergeant Jacobs said. He jumped off and later ran after Detective Sergeant Jacobs, shouting at him to stop.

Sergeant Rossouw denied that he had helped Detective Sergeant Jacobs tie Mr Morris to the tractor.

At a previous hearing, Mr Alkaster said he saw the two policemen hitting Mr Morris with sticks. He said he approached them and asked them what they were doing.

Detective Sergeant Jacobs hit Mr Alkaster with a stick, breaking his left arm.

"I ran to a chicken coop to hide and I saw the two accused passing the coop carrying Mr Morris."

Beaten

Detective Sergeant Jacobs fetched a tractor and the two tied Mr Morris's hands to it with a rope. They dragged him face down, to an adjoining farm, Belle Vision, he said.

Three other witnesses said they saw Mr Morris being beaten.

Warrant Officer Johannes Thiert said he had been called to the farm just after midnight and Detective Sergeant Jacobs had come out of a narrow alley with two other men, dragging Mr Morris.

He said Mr Morris had smelled of stale alcohol. He later realized Mr Morris was unconscious and called an ambulance.

The hearing was adjourned to July 20.

Mr J C Bois was the magistrate. Mr J Luckhoff prosecuted.
Seven unions evicted from EL offices

SEVEN trade unions in East London affiliated to Cosatu will take legal action contesting the legality of their eviction from their offices in the city.

The unions were served with notices on May 26 to vacate the offices in Fleetwell House in East London by June 20.

The notice, served by a firm of attorneys acting for the owners, Fleetwell Company, said: "Our clients have been compelled to take this step because of the recurring fires in the building, as a result whereof the property is no longer insurable and our clients face a considerable risk in the event of a conflagration."

Last year the offices were destroyed by fire. This year, during the Cosatu protest against the whites-only elections, fire broke out in the building damaging the offices of the union and the South African College for Higher Education (Sached) offices.

A spokesperson for Cosatu in East London said: "The notice given by the owners clearly shows their stand that they do not care even if the workers could not operate from the offices. This is unwarranted and clearly shows collaboration of the ruling forces."

— Enews.

Union member can't resign

A SOUTH African Transport Services (Sats) worker has claimed that despite his efforts to resign from the in-house Black Trade Union (Blatu) his resignation forms are returned to him over and over again.

Mr M Mrawusi said in a letter to SOUTH that he and his colleagues have repeatedly tried to resign to join SARHWU, but "each time we send in our resignation forms, Blatu sends them back".

He said workers employed by Sats have no choice but to join the company union. Most workers sign membership forms because they "think its all got to do with employment. You only realise that you have become a member of Blatu when you see the 50c deducted from your pay every month".

Mrawusi challenged the union and Sats to hold a secret ballot to determine the extent of worker support.

Anglo workers 'still waiting'

By MOIRA LEVY

FARMWORKERS at Anglo American Groot Drakenstein farms, who have joined the Food and Allied Workers Union (FAWU), have been waiting more than two months to hear if management has agreed to recognise their union.

And they are starting to get worried about the delay.

A union organiser said management at Anglo American farms was counting the number of signed-up FAWU members at the Groot Drakenstein farms as a prelude to possible recognition.

Talks between management and the union began more than two months ago where workers put forward their demands: a 40-hour working week; a shed where workers can eat their lunch on rainy days; a basic wage of between R80 and R90 a week; fair advance warning of disciplinary action; overtime pay when workers have to be on standby during weekends; improved relations between foremen and labourers; May Day as a public holiday; holiday pay in separate envelopes; ten days sick leave; holiday bonuses for 10 days a year; pensioners who have been employed at the farms to be allowed to keep their homes.

A spokesperson for Anglo American said the company was involved in negotiations with the union and had "no comment at this stage".

Inkatha 'undermines' Cosatu

TWO academics from Natal have argued in a paper presented to a recent conference at the University of the Witwatersrand that Inkatha is trying to boost its campaign to undermine the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) by organising farmworkers in rural Natal.

Gerry Mars and Georgina Hamilton write in the paper that one of the aims of the Nogothe Corporation agreement, signed by Inkatha's Uwusa and white farmers in northern Natal last August, was to undermine Cosatu's plans for a union of farmworkers.

The press hailed the agreement to negotiate issues like intergroup relations, security and labour relations as being in the same co-operative spirit as those in KwaZulu.

But the researchers quote Inkatha Secretary General, Oscar Dhlomo as saying that the Nogothe agreement would obviate the need for unions in the area and that "If a union did move in he would rather it be Uwusa".

Mars and Hamilton say Inkatha stands to gain in the short term from the chance to recruit "the notoriously inaccessible African population on white farms". — Agenda Press Services.
Wine worker drowned in fermenting must.

Staff Reporter.

A wine-cellar worker at Robertson Cellars, Robertson, drowned when he lost his balance and fell face downwards into a cistern of fermenting must. His identity is being withheld until his family has been notified.
A POLICE docket charging a Kuils River farm worker, Mr David Morris — who died the following day from multiple injuries — with trespassing and possessing a dangerous weapon, was never entered into the police station logbook, a police desk sergeant told the Parow Regional Court.

Sergeant Bertus Hendrik Sertera was ordered by another Kuils River policeman, Warrant-Officer Christiaan Tharta, not to register the arrested man’s docket.

Warrant-Officer Tharta said in evidence yesterday that he fetched the arrested man labourer from Rotterdam Farm, Kuils River, on November 1 last year.

He gave the order not to enter the new docket — which did not bear Mr Morris’s name — “until I could discuss this case with the station commander.”

Sergeant Sertera and Warrant-Officer Tharta testified yesterday at the trial of Detective-Sergeant Gerf Johannes Jacobs, 30, of Roshof Farm, Kuils River, and Sergeant Hermanus Cornelius Rossouw, 35, of Herte Street, Kraaifontein.

Not guilty plea

The two have pleaded not guilty to culpable homicide following Mr Morris’s death on November 2 last year. They have also pleaded not guilty to assaulting another farm worker, Mr Johannes Alkaster, on November 1.

The two policemen, who were off-duty at the time of the incident, are accused of causing Mr Morris’s death by “hitting him and dragging him behind a tractor.”

Sergeant Sertera said yesterday that when the “arrested” Mr Morris was carried into the police station from the police van about 12.30am on November 2, he “appeared to be unconscious.”

“I noticed blood and dirt on his clothing and head, and also on his chest, and saw sand in his hair,” he said. The man had “smelt slightly of stale alcohol.”

An ambulance ordered from Tijgerberg Hospital arrived about 15 minutes later, he said.

A new docket, which was completed and sent with the arrested man from the farm by Detective-Sergeant Jacobs of the Brackenfell cattle-theft unit, was not entered into the police station logbook but was kept in the charge office, with a panga brought along with Mr Morris, “until the station commander was informed of the case.”

Wounds described

Dr S A Siroka of the State pathology department told the court yesterday that Mr Morris had died of multiple injuries, including a “deeply lacerated” liver and torn kidneys, heart damage, a ruptured colon, fractured ribs, a fractured thorax, and two broken bones in his lower left leg.

She also said the “fresh lacerations” and extensive scraping marks on Mr Morris’s upper torso and shoulder “could have been caused by scraping along a rough or sharp surface.”

Some of the other injuries to Mr Morris could also have been caused by a blunt instrument “with a rough surface,” and his swollen left eye could have been caused by dragging over a rough surface, she said.

Dr Siroka agreed with the defence counsel’s contention that a rough-surfaced panga, handed in as evidence to the court, could also have caused the injuries.

She had not found any marks on the legs which could have been caused by ropes. However, if Mr Morris had been shod, the rope marks might not have shown up, she said.

The hearing was postponed to June 22.

Mr J C C Botha was on the Bench. Mr J W Lichhoff appeared for the State and Mr H Tlice for the two accused.
Down on the farms, Inkatha in union drive

By EDDIE KOCH

INKATHA has boosted its campaign against the Congress of South African Trade Unions with a recruiting drive among farmworkers in parts of rural Natal, say two Durban-based researchers in a paper presented at a Wits University conference.

Gerry Mare and Georgina Hamilton argue that one of the aims of the Ngotshe Co-operation Agreement, signed by Inkatha and white farmers in northern Natal in August last year, was to undermine plans by Cosatu to build a union for farmworkers.

The press hailed the signing ceremony at the Louwsburg rugby field as an occasion in which rugged farmers and bare-breasted Zulu maidens rubbed shoulders in the same cooperative spirit as the KwaNatal Indaba. But the researchers say the real motivation of both parties was to contain signs of growing militancy among farmworkers in the region.

The NCA's published aim was to set up a forum to negotiate issues such as improved inter-group relations; security in an area known to be an ANC infiltration route; job creation and improved labour relations.

A less public intention emerged six weeks later when Inkatha secretary general Oscar Dlhomo met the newly-elected chairman of the Ngotshe Cooperation Committee, Tjaart van Rensburg.

The paper reports him as saying Inkatha had never been interested in trade unions, but that members' dissatisfaction with Cosatu had led to the formation of the Inkatha-backed United Workers' Union of South Africa a few months earlier.

"He felt that the agreement would obviate the need for a trade union, but if a union did move he would rather it be Uwusa."

Then early this year farmers in the Richmond district of Natal visited Louwsburg to discuss "some form of accord which would prevent the influx of irresponsible trade union movements that would break down the present predominately good relations which exist on most farms ..."

Such attempts to replicate the NCA are in line with South African Agricultural Union policy to oppose Cosatu's plans to unionise farmworkers, say Mare and Hamilton.

"In some ways the Ngotshe Co-operation Agreement is not far removed from what agricultural capital generally feels to be its major concern: To prevent the expansion of trade unionism (of any description, but especially the Cosatu variety) into farming areas."

The paper also examines fears by Inkatha and white farmers that impoverishment of farm labourers and the breakdown of chiefly authority could strengthen the UDF and provide ANC insurgents with support.

Mare and Hamilton say Inkatha stands to gain in the short term from the chance to recruit "the notoriously inaccessible African population on white farms."

But Inkatha's alliance with white farmers could restrict the organisation's ability to challenge poor conditions farmworkers labour under and could lead to the kind of rebuff that many organised industrial workers in Natal appear to have given Uwusa.

"The short term gain of access to farm labour for recruiting purposes may in the longer term lead to massive disillusionment from yet another constituency." — Agenda
DURBAN — Hundreds of Tongaat sugar farm labourers are expected to take part in a 45km protest march from Tongaat to Durban on Monday to highlight grievances over working conditions.

The demonstration is being organised by the Sugar and Allied Workers' Union, an affiliate of the SA Allied Workers' Union, SAawu, which organised a similar protest in the North Coast town last week.

SAawu's Natal chairman Isaac Ngcobo said the workers would hand a letter to Archbishop Denis Hurley asking him to intervene in their dispute with Tongaat-Hulett over pay and conditions.

However, a final decision on whether to go ahead with the protest would be taken at a meeting of workers in Tongaat on Sunday.

The workers wanted Hurley to intervene because, Ngcobo alleged, earlier attempts to seek a meeting with Tongaat-Hulett's PRO chief Ron Phillips had been blocked.

Tongaat/Hulett's PRO chief Ron Phillips said he was surprised a protest was being contemplated when negotiations were still under way.
Workers turn to unions for change on the farms

A QUIET revolution is taking place in the SA countryside. Despite government and farmer antipathy, farmworkers are increasingly turning to trade unions to spearhead their demands for higher wages and better working conditions.

An announcement by Premier subsidiary Farm Fare that it was signing a recognition agreement with the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) is seen as proof that farmworkers are at last coming in from the cold.

**Breakthrough**

"It is an important breakthrough for farmworkers and we will be looking ahead to signing more agreements," Fawu president Chris Dlamini said.

"We hope to cover more of the farms. The reason we decided to organise workers is that they have been exploited for years and have worked under disgraceful conditions — wages are far below the standard of living. That is deliberate because the farmers want to own workers to exploit them."

**PATRICK BULGER**

Yet Dlamini stresses that much of the impetus for trade union organisation has come from workers themselves, and not union leadership.

Farm labourer organisation is not new to SA. In the 1920s, the Industrial and Commercial Union, and later the ANC, gained huge farmworker backing, especially in the eastern Transvaal.

In the case of the Farm Fare agreement, Fawu has a strong following in that company's processing plants.

"We believe that workers in firms dealing with farms would serve as a legal lever to help farmworkers," Dlamini said.

In other words, while farmworkers are not covered by the Labour Relations Act which accommodates the collective bargaining process, their counterparts in allied sectors are.

This puts them in a position to compensate for the lack of legal protection offered farmworkers.

This legal protection has been a long time coming. A National Manpower Commission report on farmworkers completed in 1984 has been put firmly on the shelf.

And the SA Agricultural Union remains adamant that the structure of the agricultural sector does not lend itself to trade unionism.

"We have lost any hope that the farmworkers' lot will be improved through new laws. The strength of the farmworkers themselves will achieve that," Dlamini said.

**Militancy**

Rising farmworker militancy has not only been reflected in Fawu's efforts to organise workers. Farming implement companies have jumped on the social upliftment bandwagon.

Government has indicated it is looking at ways of improving the lot of labourers with housing subsidies.

In Natal, the Inkatha-backed United Workers Union of SA has been organising farmworkers, and the SA Allied Workers' Union has established a strong presence on sugar estates.
Philippi
children
underfed
study

Staff Reporter

ALMOST half the children studied in the vegetable farming areas in and around Philippi suffer from malnutrition.

According to a study delivered at the recent conference of the Epidemiological Society of Southern Africa by Dr S Whittaker, 41% of the children surveyed were found to be malnourished on a weight-for-age scale, the accepted South African medical means of measurement.

Of the 156 children in the study, 28% had had cases of diarrhoea in the first year of their lives sufficient badly to warrant hospitalisation, while 28% had been underweight at birth.

The study, which looked at the prevalence of malnutrition and associated socio-economic ills of the farm workers' children, also found that more than a third of the families surveyed had recently had a case of tuberculosis.

Dr Whittaker found that the average wine consumption of the 129 families surveyed on 23 of the 90 vegetable farms in and around Philippi was 48 litres a month. Half the parents of the children in the survey had no higher than a Syl 1 level of education and only 19% were legally married.
Getting organised

Labour strife on Tongaat-Hulett's north coast canefields underlines an important development: union-backed demands for labour reform have reached SA's farms.

Countrywide, farmers have reluctantly accepted the need for some reforms to working conditions. But the prospects of organised agriculture willingly conceding the looming issue of formal recognition of unions and the procedures regulated by the Labour Relations Act (LRA) are remote.

The sound and fury of the Tongaat-Hulett dispute extends to such smokescreens as an attack by the SA Allied Workers' Union (Saanwu) on the KwaNatal Indaba, and threats of protest marches to Archbishop Hulley's house in Durban.

But stripped of rhetoric, the issue central to Saanwu's representations on behalf of 800 seasonal cane cutters is formal recognition of the Farm Workers Union, an affiliate of Saanwu.

Talks on grievances raised by workers are taking place, and Tongaat-Hulett's Ron Phillips says while these talks are on the company will have no statement. However, Phillips emphasises the talks relate to working conditions.

Isaac Ngebo, Natal chairman of Saanwu, told the FM this week the talks were leading nowhere and unless union demands for recognition were accepted by July 5 the threatened march was likely to take place.

Workers, he said, wished Archbishop Hulley to intervene and argue their case with Tongaat-Hulett management.

Currently farmworkers are excluded from the provisions of the LRA, which means they cannot use the collective bargaining or dispute resolution machinery provided by the Act. Belonging to a union is not prohibited but is an academic exercise anyway since the union would not formally have access to the machinery of the Act.

Farmworkers are also currently excluded from protection afforded under the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, which means their conditions of employment are governed only by common law. The huge wage differential between urban and rural workers is attributed in major part by unionists to this lack of protection.

The SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) admits that reform of agriculture's employment practice is inevitable and is negotiating with government amendments to the Basic Conditions of Employment Act. However, it believes farmers are not ready to accept the LRA in any form.

Since the enactment of the Industrial Conciliation Act in 1924, agriculture has been excluded from most labour statutes, with the exception of the Workmen's Compensation Act, the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act, and the Manpower Training Act.

The historical explanation, according to SAAU Deputy Director Hans van der Merwe, is that agriculture's production demands differ fundamentally from those of industry and commerce.

However, the cautious view now expressed by the SAAU is that the situation is "dynamic."

No doubt contributing to this change of heart was the inquiry by the National Manpower Commission (NMC) into the merits of extending labour legislation to farmworkers (and domestics). Organised agriculture was a major lobbyist during the NMC's two-year inquiry. Its report was presented to government in December 1985 but to date remains unpublished.

At the SAOU congress which followed the NMC report its general council was mandated to "investigate certain adaptations" to labour practices. A report-back is expected at this year's congress in Durban and is likely to focus on amendments sought to the Basic Conditions of Employment Act to make it acceptable to agriculture.

Key issues, says Van der Merwe, involve changes to provisions dealing with maximum working hours, sick leave and leave arrangements to accommodate the seasonal production demands of farmers.

But the LRA, which institutionalises rights of trade unions and negotiation and dispute procedures is "not acceptable in its present form and at this point in time." It would introduce "mechanisms of communication that agriculture is not familiar with and will not fit in," says Van der Merwe.
By GEORGE HILL

PHILIPPI farmworker Arthur, 44, has long ago given up the fight in the workers' battle.

Even though he now works in a toy factory on a Randfontein farm where he lives, he has not changed. Wages are still low and he and his fellow workers are still on the "stop" system.

The worker got a bottle of wine. If they work on a Saturday they get two bottles of wine and no money. There are more than 200 people in his family who work or work for one-seventh of the national minimum wages.

One of Arthur's children, who was the son of the factory manager, goes to the Uitgeer High School. Working hours start from 8am to 5pm.

On a second farm we meet Martha, who was visiting friends. She worked on the farm for 10 years and earns R37 a week.

Mr William Nonyukel, 57, a worker on a farm in Philippi, once owned his own farm in Transkei.

He does not complain about the R35 he gets a week because he has no place to go. He is not satisfied with his work because he has four children at school.

At this factory they get a four-weekly wage payment. It is a typical case of the workers not being able to survive.

Mr Nonyukel, who is a worker on the farm, was one of the first to sign the petition. He works on the farm for 10 years and earns R37 a week.

On the farm, the workers are paid R35 a week, while the minimum wage is R30.

The owner of the farm, Mr P. E. Johnson, claimed: "Nobody talks to me, and when I try to make a complaint, they don't listen."
Tot system at Cape factory

By GEORGE HILL

WORKERS at a toy factory in Philippi are on the tot system, a SOUTH investiga-tion this week found.

The factory, situated on a farm, manufacture toys for many educational institutions.

The workers are recruited from farms in the surrounding area where the outlawed tot system is still a common practice.

Five workers employed by the firm confirmed they received a bottle of wine each night as payment.

One worker interviewed, a former farmer, said he earned about R35 a week. Others said they earned between R25 and R30 a week.

They said they were given two bottles if they worked on a Saturday but no extra pay.

The factory is situated in a brick and corrugated iron structures.

The manager of the firm, Mr. H. B Connolly, when contacted by telephone, said the wine was given to the workers at their request.

He later denied this was a practice at his factory.

An attempt was later made to interview him at the factory where he denied the firm employed anybody but himself, his daughter and his brother-in-law.

Clearly visible, however, was a receptionist and some of the workers inside one of the buildings. He also refused to divulge wage details and insisted SOUTH disclose the names of the workers interviewed.

A spokesman for the Department of Manpower said strict regulations applied when any building was used as a factory.

Corrugated iron buildings were considered a fire hazard and specific rules applied.

He said the toy factory described would be subject to the Furniture Industry Council agreement which stipulated, among other things, a wage structure and made provision for benefits such as pension and medical aid.

* Philippi farmworkers are giving up, page 6.

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Man blinded in kitSCOPO shooting

BOTH eyes of a Beaufort West man were removed at Tygerberg Hospital after he was allegedly shot by a "kitsonkostabal".

The shooting incident involving the blind man, Sidney Yabo, 22, is said to have taken place between 8 and 9pm on Saturday, June 20.

Said Yabo: "I was coming home from the dance hall. I saw some children throwing stones. As I rounded the corner, I felt my eyes burning. I don't know what happened to the children."

He was also shot in the mouth, nose and ear.

Yabo, training at a college in Beaufort West to be a carpenter, said his mother was very sad and disappointed.

The police said: "A special constable in the Beaufort West black township was attacked by black males. Bricks and stones were allegedly thrown during the attack."

"The special constable fired three shots with a shot gun in defence of himself and his property. One person was wounded and taken to Beaufort West hospital."

* Attacks on Karoo kitscopes, page 2

SOUTH CORRESPONDENT

JOHANNESBURG. — The South African Council of Churches (SACC), representing 4.5-million Christians, looks set to declare the Botha government "morally illegitimate and constitutionally illegal."

The SACC's national conference was asked in Bosmont, Johannesburg, in the report of outgoing general secretary Dr Beyers Naude its views on the government’s legitimacy and legality - and to "indicate the steps to be taken" if this decision were approved.

The decision would have major consequences for churches in South Africa if approved.

The debate followed a decision by the World Council of Churches in Lusaka last month – backed by an SACC delegation – that the use of force to overthrow apartheid is morally justified.

And in his report to this week’s conference, Naude says the growing political, social and economic crisis in South Africa is to intensify.

"All these developments as
Trespassing' labourer ordered to leave farm

JOHANNESBURG. - A 60-year-old farm labourer and father of eight children, Mr Witbooi Kubheka, was found guilty last week of trespassing on a farm in the Eastern Transvaal. He was born and raised on the farm.

Mr Kubheka was also ordered to leave the farm, City Press reported yesterday.

Mr Kubheka appeared last week before magistrate Mr M J Prinsloo at the Diekiesdorp police station.

The station commander of the police station, Sergeant Dawid Buckle, prosecuted. The case was adjourned to the following day and later transferred to Wakkerstroom Magistrate's Court, where Mr Prinsloo found him guilty.

The temporary owner of the farm, Mr Pieter Pienaar, told the court he had ordered Mr Kubheka to leave his farm on three occasions, but that he had refused, City Press reported.

Mr Pienaar said he wanted Mr Kubheka to leave the farm because he refused to work for him. Mr Kubheka told the court that he was old and sick and had sent his three sons to work for Mr Pienaar.

Mr Pienaar said he sent the three away because they often visited Soweto and he did not trust them.

Lesotho, SA
swap reps

MASERU. — Lesotho and South Africa have agreed to exchange resident representatives, opening a new chapter in relations strained by mutual hostility before the 1986 military takeover in Maseru.

Pretoria opened a trade mission in the Lesotho capital, Maseru, on June 1 after the two states signed a pact last April to normalize relations and exchange envoys.

"I can say without hesitation that this represents an improved relationship between our countries," South Africa's trade representative, Mr Ghemus J J Geldenhuyz, told reporters.

— Sapa-Reuters
Johannesburg. — A 60-year-old farm labourer and father of eight children, Mr. Witbooi Kubheka, was found guilty last week of trespassing on a farm in the Eastern Transvaal. He was born and raised on the farm.

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Mr. Pienaar said he sent the three away because they often visited Soweto and he did not trust them.
Man hurt in fall at Cape Town docks

A Khayelitsha man is making good progress in Groote Schuur Hospital after being seriously injured in a four-metre fall at Cape Town docks.

Mr. Jackson Tholisa fell from his perch above a jetty on Monday while working with crayfish traps being unloaded from a trawler.
Fishermen see no future for their sons

Report by SAHM VENTER
Pictures by BIEN KARLIE

THE age-old tradition of Cape Town's hand-line fishermen is in deep water. Men whose families have fished in False Bay for generations no longer encourage their sons to become fishermen.

In fact, they actively dissuade them. "There is no future in it anymore," said a fifth-generation False Bay fisherman.

Being a fisherman means making barely enough to meet your expenses, let alone making a living.

- Cape Town's fishermen are caught in an endless battle against the soaring costs of living and a scarcity of fish.

Almost 50 percent of False Bay fishermen have let the area for what work it accords to a living fisherman in the area, Mr. Vincent Cloete.

"Fishing gut in your blood, you inherit certain qualities," said Cloete, whose boat's name is Dusk. Mentioning first, then his boat's name was named after his grandfather's grandfather fished in False Bay. But we have had a tremendous drizzle of our young people being sent to school by their parents so that they can earn a better living.

There used to be so many fish in False Bay that a boat's propeller would chop them up in the water, fisherman say. But fish have become so scarce that fishermen have been known to go by bar to Port Elizabeth in search of a catch. They often fish in St. Helena Bay, Saldanha Bay and Dassen Island.

"When there were no fish we used to say the fish have gone to school," one fisherman said. "Now we say they have gone to university."

'It just doesn't seem worth it anymore.'

There is no regular wage. Fisherman have to content with a daily price for their fish. Often a day's wage pays for cigarettes and tackle. Much of the essential fishing tackle is imported.

My husband often comes home with $10 a day," a fisherman's wife said. Most fishermen don't own their own boats. They have to give the owners a 5 percent fee, or "kickback" - $5 cans out of each can they earn in a day.

The supply of fish in False Bay has been dwindling for many years, due to trawlers now banned from the area, climatic changes and heliophyllums and others fishing from the boats as well as the government's encouragement to foreign countries.

"The government buys its image at the expense of the fishermen," said Cloete. "We have been left at the mercy of hawks. They operate on a daily basis, the same as we do," Cloete said.

Hawks buy fish for about $4 to $5 each and sell them for between $8 and $9 each.

Fishermen are also restrained by the Department of Sea Fisheries permit system, which makes it difficult to catch different types of fish.

Now we just depend on what comes and it is a gamble," Mr. Cameron Enslin said. "They put the miles and we have to carry them out. They don't consider us," he said.

The price of fish is much higher than it used to be, but we are struggling against the cost of living, Enslin said.

A fisherman who fished from 15 hours a week for three years said he caught 150 fish which he would sell for $40 50 each. After paying his "kickback" to the boat owner, $1 for a can of beer and $2 for the levy on fish and from False Bay, he was left with $15 50.

Rentals in the Kalk Bay flats for fishermen is going up. "We can't just go out into the town," Mr. William Cloete, who lives in Grassy Park, said. "The flats have been rented to foreign countries. We know they are going to fish every day except Sundays.

Cloete, who has been fishing for 10 years, still talks in pounds. One of the main problems is that the government has made it difficult for fishermen to work abroad.

Bitterness about boat owners and the "big boys" problem is "like dog is not the dog out." People who don't live at the sea to service the fish owners get $7 or $8 before they even start fishing. And when they don't catch anything.

Even boat owners are struggling. The latest fuel price adjustments have meant that the price of diesel has soared from $100 to $150 per liter of diesel instead of the old 100.

Hawk owners are not surprised. A crew who wants to go out and work on one of the boats that he has guarantees a crew if another boat is going out to where there may be fish, says he does not want to go. Then his crew will join another boat.

There are so many reasons for the lack of fish that nobody understands. Fishermen echo each other.

- everybody is in it. "When the bigger one comes, the West Coast Derby is a small fry. Then the bigger one comes."

Mr. Albert Alhaha, who has been fishing for 35 years, says "It seems we are being squeezed out."

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The crew of the Taj Mahal return to Hout Bay after an early-morning run.

Gordon Menezen takes the hook from a snoek.

Sunrise over the Atlantic Ocean and Mr Molan Fortune hopes for an early catch with R19.83. Fears in the Kalk Bay fishers for fishermen are growing up. "What we catch just goes into the house," Mr William Cloete, who lives in Greystones, says. "Some days you have 3.60 or 3.80, and some days nothing. It's a struggle because they see fish every day, except Sundays. Cloete, who has been fishing for 30 years, still lives in ponds. One of our sow...

Bitterness about boat owners and the 'big boys' problem in Scotland. It is not the day yet, he says. People who don't dive at the sea in 3,000 before they own a boat. And often they don't catch anything. Even boat owners are struggling. The latest fuel price adjustments have meant that the price of diesel has jumped. One boat now pays over R70 for 100 litres of diesel instead of the old R50. Boat owners are not guaranteed a crew. If another boat is out there may be fish and he does not want to go when his crew will join another boat.

There are so many reasons for the lack of fish that everybody can pinpoint. Fishermen often cut the day when they say "everybody is up to here."

When the bigger boats leave to go up the West Coast there's a mad rush to get on them. Then the small trawlers don't get enough crew. Cloete says.

Mr Ahmed Attarcha of the Recruit has to pay V.4 for 100 litres of diesel and R100 for a boat. "It's not worth it," he said.

Fishermen who have been a fisherman for nearly 30 years are still catching because he has not used to working on the land. So disillusioned are some fishermen that they are talking about forming a union — but they don't know where to start.

"Everything has changed in modern times," said Mr Sophio Ferrera whose father fished in Kalk Bay about 40 years ago. "Even the fish have become modern in the sea."

The fish has been so bad that a local church has set up a feeding scheme for fishermen's children. "But they are too proud to go there," a fisherman's wife, Mrs Emily Jacobs said.

There used to be Elif nou and Kabijou. Now you hardly hear of that anymore," she said.

Her family only survives because her husband is a nurse in communications equipment firm. "You can't have a husband who is a fisherman if you sit on your beckside all the time."

"Tuna are tough. You can't see what they're doing."

When you catch a lot, you're not the favourite. You are buying for R100 anymore," she said.

"You can't buy anything on hire purchase because you don't know if you'll earn the money to pay it back," she said.

There is no high school in Kalk Bay. The children have to go to Onze Vrou or Stellenberg. "There's a train fare and bus fare, and that's always going up," she said. Her sons won't become fishermen... "If I can help it!

"When the fishermen are doing nothing it means they have to do their own future."

"I don't see them becoming fishermen and raising a family — not on my tummy's money."

Mr Peter Jacobs whose father and grandfather fished in Kalk Bay, said he would teach his sons the finer points of fishing, so they will have something to fall back on — but not in the permanent way.

In the 1960s and 1970s "even nurses gave up their jobs to go fishing.""Especially in the late 1970s everybody lived on the harrow-wagon and the fish became less again."

"What has really hit the fishermen hard is the skinhead," Mr Jacobs said.

"When there are holidays they come and the steaks are on and they don't even do it for a living. They can catch the same amount of fish as we do and they can sell it.

Some fishermen are bitter about boat owners and the 'big boys' who they believe to be manipulating the fishing quotas. But the situation is so desperate that they don't talk much about it.

"The old fishermen used to say that it was their living. But now its becoming a business," Jacobs said.

"Like the tradition of passing the skills down from father to son, the old traditions are being lost. Only some of the fishermen from older fishing families still refuse to sell back to by taking egg sandwiches to one.

When a fisherman's line got tangled he used to say 'he's had enough.' He used to say his wife hadn't combined her hair. And when the fish fell, all the fish they used to say his wife was still sleeping.

"Now they just say they're having bad luck."

"When a man didn't get a catch, his wife hadn't got up to wash her face."

"Now they just say they're having bad luck." Mrs Jacobs said.

"The fish are so scarce that petty fish, anyway have become fishermen."

"When a man didn't catch, you are not the fisherman."

"There's no money in fishing anymore. It's only when there's no fish. A family can't cope like that," Jacobs said.

"One can say that the fishing may improve again — but I doubt it very much."
R208 for farm school pupils

AN average subsidy of R208 per pupil had been budgeted for pupils at farm schools for the 1986/87 financial year, the Minister of Education and Development Aid, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, said yesterday.

A total of R99 245 000 had been budgeted for the 477 260 pupils registered at the 5 484 farm schools falling under his department, Dr Viljoen said in reply to a written question by Mr Ken Andrew (PFP Gardens).

Each farm school would receive an average of R18 007,42 for the next financial year, he said.
Farm worker 'beaten'

By VUYO BAVUMA

A FORMER Philippi farm labourer claimed he was beaten and two dogs were set on him for eating bread on the job without permission.

Mr Tabiso Mhlomi of Transkei said he suffered leg, head and facial wounds.

He said he planned to institute a civil action against the farmer. The incident happened on May 21.

In an affidavit, Mhlomi said: "I felt hungry one day about 11am after working for six hours. I ate a piece of bread. My employer saw me and beat me with a stick. I suffered head and legs wounds. He said I should be careful about eating without being told to do so."

Mhlomi resumed working but was limping and bleeding.

"Later my employer said he could not tolerate having a limping man on his farm and fired me. I took some time to collect my belongings at my sleeping place as it was dark," he said.

"My employer arrived and started again to beat me with a stick. I tried to run but he set his two dogs on me. They bit me in the stomach, legs and in the back," said Mhlomi.

His R30 wages fell out of his pocket but was stopped by his employer from picking it up, he said.

"I bled profusely from my wounds. I was later picked up by a white lady who took me to Wynberg police station, where I lay a charge."

He was taken to Victoria Hospital, he said, and police took him to the farm where he collected his belongings.

His legal adviser showed SOUTH a copy of a letter sent to the Transkei Consulate saying that Mhlomi's case had been withdrawn.

"I will ask the police why they withdrew the charges against the farm-owner. We are also trying to get hold of Mhlomi's medical report which was sent to the police."
Tractor death:
Colonel tells of statement

A STATEMENT that a policeman, charged with culpable homicide, had dragged a farm labourer behind a tractor was taken down "word for word", the Parow Regional Court heard yesterday.

Lieutenant-Colonel George Potgieter was giving evidence in the trial of Detective-Sergeant Gert Jacobs, of Rusthof Farm, Kuils River, and Sergeant Hermias Rossouw, 35, of Herte Street, Kraaifontein, who pleaded not guilty to causing the death of Mr Dawid Morris, 35, by hitting him, tying him to a tractor and dragging him on farm land.

They also pleaded not guilty to assaulting Mr Johannes Alkaster with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

Fight over 'panga'

Detective-Sergeant Jacobs admitted hitting the dead man but said it was in self-defence. Both policemen denied dragging Mr Morris behind the tractor. They said he was tied to the tow bar in a sitting position to be transported and fell off.

Detective-Sergeant Jacobs said he and Sergeant Rossouw went to the farm Rotterdam to investigate a disturbance. There Sergeant Rossouw had attacked Mr Morris who was stealthily approaching D/S Jacobs with a "panga".

Detective-Sergeant Jacobs wrestled the panga from Mr Morris's grip, and handed it to Sergeant Rossouw who moved off.

Later, Mr Morris attacked him again with the "panga" and a fight ensued. Eventually Detective-Sergeant Jacobs brought Mr Morris under control and fetched the tractor to transport him.

Chicken coop

Colonel Potgieter said he took Detective-Sergeant Jacobs's statement down "word for word". The statement said Mr Morris was dragged behind the tractor for 30 to 40 metres.

Mr Alkaster, the complainant in the assault matter, said he was hiding in a chicken coop after being assaulted by Detective-Sergeant Jacobs.

He saw the two policemen hitting Mr Morris, tying his hands to the tractor and dragging him face down to an adjoining farm, where he worked.

The hearing continues today.

Mr J C Botha was the magistrate. Mr J Luckhoff prosecuted. Mr H C Trips appeared for the policemen.
‘Attacked me like madman’

Detective

Tygerberg Bureau

Detective-Sergeant Gert Johannes Jacobs of Brackenfell described to the Regional Court, Parow, how he had seated and tied a farm worker to a tractor’s towbar but failed to notice he had fallen off.

The Brackenfell policeman and a colleague, Sergeant Hermias Cornelius Rossouw, 35, of Herte Street, Kraaifontein, have pleaded not guilty to charges of culpable homicide following the death of Mr David Morris, who was allegedly dragged behind a tractor, and to assaulting Mr Johannes Alkaster on November 2 last year.

Mr Morris died in Tygerberg Hospital of multiple injuries including a damaged heart, lacerated liver and ruptured colon.

Detective-Sergeant Jacobs said in evidence he had transported Mr Morris by tractor as he had been “too tired to carry the man” after a fight with Mr Morris when he had arrested him.

The off-duty policeman, who had been keeping an eye on the Rotterdam farm, near Kuils River, in its owner’s absence, had been investigating a row between a group of squatters and farm labourers when he was allegedly attacked by Mr Morris with a panga.

He believed Mr Morris had been “out to kill me” and he had been defending himself and also tried to arrest him.

“He seemed like a madman, or someone under the influence of something, as my blows with my stick and fists seemed to have no effect on him. He kept coming at me, howling that he would kill me,” he said.

“I tried to get the panga away from him, hitting him with my stick on his hands, and also hit him with my fists to try and knock him out.”

Feet tied

He said Mr Morris, had refused to stand on the tractor to be transported to the farmhouse. Detective-Sergeant Jacobs tied Mr Morris to the tractor’s towbar by his feet.

The policeman drove towards the farmhouse to call the Kuils River police, with Sergeant Rossouw standing on the tractor as a passenger.

Detective-Sergeant Jacobs said he had not heard Mr Morris fall off or Sergeant Ros- souw shouting at him to stop.

Detective-Sergeant Jacobs yesterday denied having assaulted Mr Alkaster and also denied breaking his arm with a “heavy, blunt weapon”.

The hearing continues today.
I was denied rights — policeman in death case

Tygerberg Bureau
A POLICEMAN accused of culpable homicide after allegedly dragging a farm worker behind a tractor has claimed that police did not allow him to make a statement to a magistrate before his arrest.

Detective-Sergeant Gert Johannes "Jakes" Jacobs and a colleague, Sergeant Hermias Cornelius Rossouw, have pleaded not guilty in Parow Regional Court to charges of culpable homicide following the death of Mr Dawid Morris.

They have also pleaded not guilty to charges of assaulting farm labourer Mr Johannes Alkaster.

Sergeant Jacobs said he had been off duty but keeping an eye on Rotterdam dairy farm, near Kuils River, in its owner's absence.

Statement “inaccurate”
He claimed he had to defend himself against an enraged, pangawielding Mr Morris while investigating a row between squatters and farm labourers on November 2 last year.

He claimed that his pre-arrest statement to police was inaccurate in many places because Lieutenant-Colonel George Potgieter of the CID in Bellville — who "denied my request to make a statement to a magistrate" — had not taken his statement down word for word.

His superior officer, he alleged, did not read it back to him and did not warn that the document could be used as evidence against him.

Colonel Potgieter has denied these allegations.

Drastic change
During cross-examination yesterday public prosecutor Mr Johan Lickhoff accused Sergeant Jacobs of being the aggressor.

He said: "How do you explain that the deceased underwent such a drastic physical change from the time of your fight and the subsequent transporting by tractor?"

"The medical evidence was that he suffered two broken leg bones, a torn heart, lacerated liver and kidneys and many other injuries, including facial and body lacerations possibly caused by dragging."

Sergeant Jacobs said: "Someone else must have assaulted him after I had left him."

The hearing continues today.

SHAPING UP: Fitness fanatics will be out in force during a four-hour aerobics marathon organised by the Cape branch of the South African National Aerobics Association at the Gardens Centre on Saturday. Testing their muscles for the event are, from left, Clive Sussman, Susan Holzer, Harry Casper, Heather Wallace and Alicia Trimmer.

Sea Point to get its own free hopper bus service

Municipal Reporter
THE city's second free hopper bus service is to be introduced in Sea Point next month.

Sponsored by the five main supermarkets in the area — Checkers, Pick 'n Pay, Woolworths, Grand Bazaars and Shopping Spar (Green Point) — the service will run every Friday between 10am and 3pm.

The first trip is on August 7. "The idea is to assist the elderly, young mothers and domestics to get down to the Main Road, do their shopping and return home with their parcels," said Mrs Lydia Abel, convener of amenities of the Green and Sea Point Ratepayers Associations, which is organising the service.

The trips will be at 10am and noon from Stop 5068 in Ocean View Drive, along Fresnaye Avenue, Kloof Road and Queens Road into Main Road, and at 11am and 1pm from the corner of Kloof Road and Fresnaye Avenue along Ocean View Drive, Buttrengacht, Somerset Road and Main Road.

The return journeys will be at 11.30am, 1.30pm and 3.30pm from the Sea Point bus terminus and at 12.30pm from the Spar supermarket.
A WORK stoppage at the Saldanha Sea Harvest factory was called off yesterday after the Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu) concluded wage talks with management.

However, many workers did not report for duty yesterday, after they left the premises on Thursday, unaware that negotiations had been concluded.

Workers said about 700 day-shift and 300 night-shift workers struck over pay and other grievances.

The general manager of Sea Harvest, Mr Louis Penzhorn, said only about 180 workers were involved.

Workers had said they were unhappy with their wages, with "smear pamphlets" distributed by management aimed at discrediting Fawu, with the fact that their wages were meant to increase from July 1 and because they were working a three-day week.
31.7.87

Real risk of violence

JENNY BOBERG

Coffee producer TW Beckett and Company Ltd yesterday brought an urgent Rand Supreme Court application to prevent its 284 striking workers from chasing "scab" labour away.

TW Beckett security manager M Redelinghuys said after the company had reached deadlock in wage talks with Food and Allied Workers Union representatives, the workers went on strike yesterday.

He said workers had gathered at the company's entrance and prevented casual labourers from entering. The workers had disrupted security and there was a real risk of violence.

The matter was stood down until today.
Worker 'dragged behind tractor'

TWO policemen, Detective-Sergeant Gert Jacobs and Sergeant Hermia Lousouw, have pleaded not guilty in the Parow Regional Court to a charge of culpable homicide and assault.

The charges arose from the death of a farm worker, Dawid Morris, and the alleged assault of another labourer, Johannes Alkaster.

Morris died after allegedly being tied and dragged behind a tractor.

In a previous hearing Jacobs claimed he had to defend himself against a pangawielding Morris while investigating a row between squatters and farm labourers on November 2 last year at the Rotterman dairy farm.

The case was postponed to August 27 in the Wynberg Magistrates Court.
Mystery spade killing

By AYESHA ISMAIL

MYSTERY surrounds the death of a Towns River farm worker. Johannes Verhoog, 30, who died in the Eben Donges hospital at Worcester, of severe head injuries allegedly sustained after he was hit on the head with a spade by his employer, a farmer.

The incident happened on July 17. Verhoog died in hospital the next day.

Verhoog had worked for the farmer for only a week.

The farmer, interviewed on his farm this week, said he had hit Verhoog in self-defence.

"Verhoog stole some tools, copper wire and cables, and was about to leave the farm, when I caught him red-handed.

"He wanted to attack me with a spade, and I hit him in self defence."

"According to Verhoog's wife, Frances Anne, she was notified of the incident only the day after it happened."

She said a car came to her work on Saturday July 18. He told her that he was taking her husband to hospital and that she had to go with.

She said she found her husband lying on a stretcher in the ambulance and his condition was "so good as dead."

"I thought the only place where I would hear the right information would be at the police station," she said.

She said a white policeman told her "Hulle beweer Hansie het gesteel. Hy staan eers vir Hansie, toe roep hy eers vir ons."

A spokesperson for the Boland police confirmed that Verhoog was only admitted the next morning at 10.40 am and died at 10 pm that night.

Mrs Frances Anne Verhoog with her three children. She was only told of her husband's injuries the day after.

Farmer kills labourer with spade

From page 1

She said an ambulance driver came to her work on Saturday July 18. He told her that he was taking her husband to hospital and that she had to go with.

She said she found her husband lying on a stretcher in the ambulance and his condition was "so good as dead."

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She said a white policeman told her "Hulle beweer Hansie het gesteel. Hy staan eers vir Hansie, toe roep hy eers vir ons."

A spokesperson for the Boland police confirmed that Verhoog was only admitted the next morning at 10.40 am and died at 10 pm that night.

The spokesperson said Verhoog died of severe head injuries.

A spokesman for the Boland police, Lieutenant Nell Bouwer, said Verhoog's death was still under investigation and so far no one had been charged.

Verhoog leaves his wife and three minor children. He was buried on Sunday from the NG Sendingerkkerk.
By Jo-Anne Collinge

The year-long struggle of a disabled labourer tenant against eviction from the farm where his family has lived for generations ended in defeat this week, when he and all his belongings were cleared off the property in the space of an hour.

The eviction of Mr Witbooi Khubeka from the farm St Helena in the Wackerstrom district was carried out on Tuesday morning by the owner and police from Dinkledorp.

A spokesman for the police at Dinkledorp confirmed that they had accompanied the owner during the eviction and said the action was taken in terms of a court order made a month ago, when Mr Khubeka (58) was convicted of illegal squatting.

Mr Khubeka’s home was also partly dismantled and the his stuff left at the entrance to a nearby farm, kwaNjema, which is owned by black farmers.

He has spent the last three nights out in the open, sheltered from behind by an upended mattress and warmed from the front by a wood fire. He gets little sleep because of the cold.

“What do I think now? There is nothing to think... nothing to do,” he says.

Mr Khubeka was given notice to leave St Helena last year when he and his family were no longer able to provide satisfactory labour to the farmer, Mr Pieter Pieterse.

Since then Mr Khubeka has been arrested and taken to court several times, both of trespass and squatting charges.

Mr Khubeka, a frail man with hand, leg and arm injuries, was alone at home when the eviction squad arrived, he said. His wife had gone to the doctor and his children were at school.

He thinks his family has heard of the eviction.

But he believes the priority is that the children’s schooling must continue undisturbed. “I don’t know where the children are but they must stay where they can go to school. If necessary I’ll see them only next year.”

The school they attend is about 15 km from the farm where Mr Khubeka has been dumped. His livestock, his dogs, and his chickens have all been left behind at St Helena.

Will the people of kwaNjema take him in? The matter has not yet been decided. Residents are sympathetic to the frail man dumped in their midst. They provide him with food and hot drinks.

But kwaNjema is itself in a difficult position. It successfully resisted the Government’s plans to remove the entire community to various homelands.

kwaNjema’s leaders are painfully aware that they are one of the few “black spots” to be repressed and are anxious not to let their property become overcrowded, thus risking it being declared a rural rium and health hazard demanding clearance.

Even if kwaNjema does give him shelter, it will never be “home”, he insists. That feeling is reserved for St Helena, where his parents worked and died and were buried.

It is understood that Mr Khubeka’s lawyers are considering taking the squatting case against him on review.
Tea farm workers teargassed, court told

MARITZBURG. - An application restraining a State owned farm from evicting more than 900 workers has been filed in the Natal Supreme Court.

This followed after police teargassed the Food and Allied Workers Union (FAWU) members at the Saapekoe Tea Estate in Richmond.

In an affidavit Aaron Sithole said on July 15 they protested against the poor living conditions and low wages at the farm.

"We staged three work stoppages against these conditions. The police gave us five minutes to leave the premises. Then we were bundled into trucks and dumped at Richmond railway station," he said.

They worked an average of 12 hours a day and earn an average of R55 a month.

He said the next day union lawyers advised them to return to the farm.

"At the farm we were asked to write down the names of the workers who stopped us from going to work. After that 35 workers were dismissed," Sithole said.

The court gave Saapekoe until August 14 to respond.

—Concord
Witbooi Khubeka and his wife, Edda, move some of their possessions into the field where he lived for a week.

Evicted old man leaves field for temporary shelter

The evicted 60-year-old Wakkerstroom man, Witbooi Khubeka, this week moved to a temporary shelter in the area after spending a week living in the open veld.

Khubeka was evicted last week from the farm St Helena, owned by Pieter Pienaar.

Pienaar said he was born and bred on the farm and that he had worked for the previous owners.

Meanwhile, the Police directorate in Pretoria confirmed that Khubeka was evicted in accordance with a court order.

The police said the court also ordered police to supervise the removal in order to prevent damage to Khubeka's property and to possible violence against the parties concerned.

"In compliance with the court order, Sergeant Buckle and a black constable attended the removal.

"Pienaar supplied a truck and employed several farm workers to assist with the loading and removal."
Empty farm becomes centre of big wrangle

By SELLO SERIFE

THE farm Holgat has been on the market for several years and the government's recent announcement to expropriate it is due to pressure from local white farmers.

This was said this week by the Transvaal Rural Action Committee which is currently involved in a wrangle with the government over the farm.

At the centre is the Mogopa community, for whom Trac and the SACC's Botshabelo Trust are trying to secure the farm.

They were removed from Mogopa in 1984 because the area was labelled a "black spot".

Alternative accommodation was provided by the government at Bethany, but residents refused to be resettled.

They feared they would be incorporated into Boophuthatswana.

Recently, the Trac and the Botshabelo Trust had been trying to purchase Holgat, but the State indicated that the farm was earmarked to be developed as an agricultural college.

In its statement, the Trac charged that the government's intention was to avert the immediate occupation of the farm by the Mogopa community.

"We are sceptical whether an agricultural college will indeed materialise and whether the government will leave the land empty, as it has done with Mogopa and many other 'black spot' farms."

"Around Mogopa there are empty farm lands, with ruined houses as the only testimony that thriving black communities once lived there."

"Ironically, one of the ruins near Mogopa is of a demolished mission high school," said the Trac statement.

Referring to the submission by Dr Gerrit Viljoen, Minister of Development Aid, that Holgat was not suitable, Trac said:

"This exposes the nature of the government's reform policy."

"On the one hand, the government reprieves black spots in the white platteland and on the other hand it says it cannot allow such black settlements to exist."

In his statement, the Minister had also said negotiations between his department and the Mogopa delegation were proceeding, but Trac said it presumed he was referring to the deadlocked negotiations which were initiated last December.
Workers challenge tea estate

THE court action by two Sapekoe Tea Estate workers, challenging their eviction from the estate, was this week adjourned for the hearing of oral evidence.

The applicants, Aaron Sithole and Gilbert Mankinyana, claimed in the Maritzburg Supreme Court that they had been unlawfully evicted from their accommodation on the estate without a court order.

The application, which is being opposed by Sapekoe, is being brought as a test case on behalf of other workers evicted after a work stoppage last month.

Judge Page said he was unable to settle the dispute on the papers put before the court and ruled that the cases should be adjourned until September 2.

In an affidavit, Sithole said the dispute had arisen over the workers' dissatisfaction with low wages and because of management's attitude towards the workers since they had become members of the Food and Allied Workers' Union.

Sithole, a shop steward, said Sapekoe management had refused to negotiate with workers, saying they would only deal with an appointed liaison committee.

However, he claimed the committee had become defunct as workers had joined Fawu.

Sithole said that, on July 14, deadlock was reached and workers were told they would be dismissed and evicted if they did not return to work.

He alleged that, the following day, police, acting on instructions of the estate manager, had fired teargas into various buildings on the estate and chased workers with sjamboks as they emerged from the buildings.

He said workers were chased into an office, made to pay R14 or R16, then forced onto trucks which took them to the nearby railway station.

He said many spent the night at the station and were taken back to the estate the following day where they were asked to write down the names of people they believed were stopping them from working.

As a result of this 35 people, including himself and Mankinyana, were told to leave immediately.

Sapekoe's production manager, Abel Erasmus, said in an affidavit that workers had been told on July 13 that strike action was a breach of contract and strikers would be dismissed.

He also claimed they had been told Sapekoe was a farming operation and was, therefore, not subject to the Labour Relations Act and was not obliged to recognise Fawu.

He claimed workers had been intimidated during the strike and that three workers had to receive medical attention after being assaulted for working.

Concord News Agency
A PLEA for agriculture to rethink its policies and attitudes towards mechanisation in the light of the high and growing levels of unemployment in SA, was made yesterday by Economic Affairs and Technology Deputy Minister George Bartlett.

Opening an agricultural engineering congress in Mmabatho, Bartlett acknowledged this proposal flew in the face of current thought and trends within the sector.

He said he believed that the level of agricultural mechanisation in a developing country like SA should be inversely proportional to that country's level of industrialisation.

"I suggest that perhaps many commercial farmers are just mechanising for mechanisation's sake."

Bartlett indicated other sectors within agriculture could do well to follow the example set by the country's sugar farmers, who chose not to go the mechanisation route in the cutting of sugar cane.

Today, 24 years on, there is not a single mechanical cane cutter operating in SA on a commercial basis, and there is also no shortage of labour in the industry.

About 20,000 cane cutters have work in the industry, productivity has reached a high level and the capital cost of replacing workers with machines would probably amount to R100m, he said.

He acknowledged the farming community remained under considerable pressure, and predicted that conditions were likely to get worse before they got better — for some at least.

Bartlett suggested that the survivors would be those who fully understood the true meaning of productivity, the agricultural price formulae mechanisms, and the effect of current tax laws and allowances on these formulae.

Bartlett focused on the major economic dilemma facing farmers, namely that costs were outpacing revenue.

He noted that in 1973 the average cost of tractors in rand per kilowatt was R106. By 1981 this had inflated to R255, an annual compound increase of 16%.

By 1984, this had further increased by 19.3% a year to R668 per kilowatt.

Bartlett said he was unable to identify all the reasons for the hefty increases in tractor and implement prices, but said that the engines provided by IDC-controlled ADE, together with foreign exchange rates, had played an important role.

Bartlett maintained tax legislation had also encouraged inefficiency in the use of scarce capital by providing incentives to farmers to buy capital goods.
MP's plan for farmworkers' union

A NATIONAL PARTY MP plans to help farmworkers in his constituency form unions before "leftist radicals" do so.

Speaking during the agriculture vote debate in the House of Assembly yesterday, Mr J A Jooste said it was inevitable that the farmworkers would form unions.

"I will go to my farmworkers and help them organise before the leftist radicals do," said Mr Jooste (NP De Aar). He asked the Conservative Party member who had spoken before him: "Does he think they will not organise?"

"You are the leftist radicals," a CP member retorted.

"Do you want black farmworkers in the regional services councils," asked Professor SC Jacobs (CP Losburg).

Speaking after him, Mr WJD van Wyk (CP Witbank) asked the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wenzel, to state where he stood on black farmworker representation on RSCs. He asked the Minister to intervene with the Minister of Manpower, Mr Pietie du Plessis, to ensure that farmworkers did not unionise.

Farmers did not want the blacks on the farms unionised and the blacks did not need it, Mr van Wyk said. — Sapa.

MP ordered out

THE leader of the PRP, Mr Pat Poovallingam, was ordered from the House of Delegates after refusing to withdraw the word "liar".

Chairman of the Ministers' Council Mr Amichand Rajbansi said Mr Poovallingam had tried to get civil servants to apply pressure to a "certain female".

Mr Poovallingam said that anyone who claimed he had done such a thing was "a liar."
No decision on release of NMC probe

Political Staff

HOUSE OF DELEGATES — A decision had still not been taken on whether to release the report of the National Manpower Commission (NMC) investigation into farm and domestic workers. Manpower Minister Pletie du Plessis said yesterday.

The NMC investigation, which was gazetted more than five years ago, was appointed to conduct an inquiry into “possible measures to regulate the conditions of employment of farm labourers and domestic workers”.

Du Plessis said in reply to a question tabled in the House of Delegates by Mahmoud Rajab (FRP Springfield) that discussions with organised agriculture on possible application of the Labour Relations Act to farm and domestic workers were still in progress.

"Owing to the nature and extent of the consultations and the geographical diversity, it is not possible to give an indication as to when finality will be reached," he said.

The release of the report, if considered advisable, would only be considered once the consultations with organised agriculture had reached finality, Du Plessis said.
The Mogopa people prepare for another trek: Back home

EPHRAIM POOE was seven years old in 1913 when he trekked 12km across the Free State with his mother and father, his seven brothers and sisters, 600 of the Mogopa community and hundreds of their cattle and sheep. 

"It took us eight months to get there," says Poe, now 80. "We reached every Sunday we stopped and held church services." 

Disembowled with their stock of cattle, sheep, pigs, chickens and eggs, and with little food or shelter, they built a village of stone houses, schools, stores and churches. 

They parceled out the land among themselves, grew crops and lived calmly. For a few years it was home. But then, the 1920s, the government evicted almost all the people from their land, taking the women and their belongings 280km northwest to Puchatsi, in Bophuthatswana. Most of them fled to Bethanie, away from the tribal official whom they alleged had tricked a dishonest deal with the government, followed by the mass removal.

On July 29, 1920, 20 residential journeys from Bethanie to Johannes- burg began. Skeptical of the government's intentions, the people were determined to leave the land peacefully, if it meant being jailed. The return was described by one community leader as "a triumph of the people over the government."

About 300 people were needed to transport 1,200 people and their belongings.

"We were in a very, very desperate situation," said Leon Krige, of Bethanie-Kagisane. "Our people have no resources, no place to live, no jobs. We can't get our cattle back. It is just one fine mess created by the government." Bethanie was deserted, with the men off to find work and the women left to care for their children. The only thing they had was their cattle, sheep and a few goats.

"Ach, le dieu" (God), said a local leader, "we know how to live. We will return to our cattle."

However, the government was determined to evict the people from their land. 

"We were told we had to leave," said a leader, "or we would be arrested."

The people responded by setting up a camp in the middle of the village, with a fence around it. The police arrived and tried to evict them. They were forced to leave, and the police burned the camp down.

"It was a terrible time," said a leader. "We had to leave our homes and our land."

The people were forced to leave, and they were given a new place to live. The new place was called Puchatsi. 

The government claimed that the people were being evicted because they were "overpopulated." However, the people were not overpopulated. They were simply trying to live in a place where they had the right to live.

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Call to involve farm workers

CAPE TOWN — Proper organisation of farm workers through involvement, such as that promoted by the Rural Foundation, would prevent radical trade unions causing disruption of food production as had occurred on the mines, Mr P. Meyer (LP Vredendal), said yesterday.

Speaking during the Manpower Vote debate, he said the spectre of a massive disruption of the food industry, during grape, apple or grain harvesting times, on the scale of the mine strike, could have far greater consequences.

"People will starve," he said.

Mr Meyer said he had recently visited a farm where the labour force were partners with the farmer. The farmer held meetings with the labourers at which he produced balance sheets to show them how the profits and losses — in which they shared — were made.

He asked the Minister of Manpower, Mr Pietie du Plessis, to help fund the foundation which needed money for their community workers.

Mr Du Plessis said his department could not contribute directly to the foundation but sponsored training centres for in-job training.

Replying to a question from another member, he said unemployment insurance was a tricky problem which his department had discussed with organised agriculture, without whose co-operation, it would not be workable.

They were now awaiting proposals from the South African Agricultural Union. — Sapa
Organize farm labour to foil radicals.
Farmworkers need proper organisation

PROPER organisation of farmworkers would prevent a radical trade disrupting production as one had on the mines, Mr Petrus Meyer (LP Vredendaal) said in the House of Representatives.

'The National Party Government had chained itself to coloured people and Indians in the new constitution, had thrown away the key, and was now in trouble', the Chief Whip of the Opposition, Mr Frank le Roux, said in the Assembly.

Referring during debate on the Parliamentary vote to the Cabinet resignation of Labour Party leader the Rev Allan Hendrickse, he said: "The NP has painted itself into a corner." — Sapa.

South African Transport Services had made an ex grata payment of R3 647 726 in legal costs in the four months up to July 31 this year, the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetzee, said in the Assembly. — Sapa.

It cost an average R11-million to construct a kilometre of single carriage way two-lane national road over flat terrain and as much as R6-million a kilometre to build a dual carriage way road over mountain terrain, the Minister of Transport Affairs, Mr Eli Louw, told the House of Delegates. — Sapa.

The Minister of Education and Culture, Mr Piet Claise, told the Assembly he was holding talks with rectors of eight universities about a policy for the admission of non-whites. — Sapa.

Damage of at least R76-million was caused to railway tracks during the strike by South African Transport Services employees this year, the Minister of Transport Affairs, Mr Eli Louw, said in the Assembly. — Sapa.

Negotiation is the key

IN confrontation politics, there was no hope for the political parties or the population groups of South Africa, the Chairman of the Ministers' Council in the House of Assembly, Mr P W du Klerk, told the House.

Replying to debate on the Parliament Vote, he said the policy of the Government was to institute change through negotiation politics, not through confrontation.

Mr du Klerk said Conservative Party members spoke with bitterness and sourness in marked contrast to the Chief Whip of Parliament, who had a difficult job in attending to the needs of all three Houses and did it with a 'love for Parliament'.

The CP, with their aggression ('krabgeluid'?) were the greatest danger to white sovereignty.

"It is time you came to accept the new dispensation," said Mr de Klerk.

"We will destroy it yet," Mr Koor van der Merwe (CP Overvaal) interjected.

"You will not be doing South Africa a favour," Mr de Klerk replied.

Mace 'unjustly replaced'

THE House of Assembly's original gold mace, symbol of the Speaker's authority since South Africa became a republic, had been unjustly replaced by one of three replicas presented to each of Parliament's three Houses, the chief whip of the Opposition, Mr Frank le Roux, said yesterday.

He said the original mace "is the property of the House of Assembly. We, as the Conservative Party, demand it back." — Sapa.

The loss of the mace was yet another symbol of the sun setting on white sovereignty in South Africa, he said.

Mr le Roux later noted 16 of the 17 Cabinet Ministers and 14 Deputy-Ministers held seats in the House of Assembly but "day after day there is a huge empty gap in the ministers' benches during debate."

The absence of the ministers was part of the Government's increasingly dictatorial attitude and contempt of the House. — Sapa.

In brief...

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It was necessary to maintain order, he said. Not doing so would threaten the institution of Parliament.

"We are not threatening Parliament, we are threatening you," Mr van der Merwe interjected again.

Mr de Klerk noted that the Progressive Federal Party had not taken part in the debate and he said he therefore supposed they were happy with the way things were being run.

The vote was approved without objections. — Sapa.

Inform public on Parliament

THE public should be more extensively informed about the functioning of Parliament, the chief whip of the Opposition, Mr Alex van Breda, said in the Assembly.

Speaking in the Budget debate on the parliamentary vote, he said substantial allocations were voted by Western ministers to ensure their activities were brought closer to the people. — Sapa.
Draft laws for farm workers

HOUSE OF DELEGATES. — Draft legislation to protect agricultural workers could be expected in the foreseeable future, the Minister of Manpower, Mr Pietie du Plessis, said yesterday.

Replying to the debate on the Manpower vote, he said discussions taking place within the agricultural industry were complex and had not been completed.

"I can't say when discussions will be finalized, but it is probable that draft legislation will be ready in the foreseeable future," he said.

Mr Du Plessis was responding to points raised by Mr Mahmoud Rajab (PHP Springfield), who said the protection of the Labour Relations Act should be extended to agricultural workers.

Consensus

As matters stood, farm workers enjoyed protection neither under this Act nor under the Basic Conditions of Employment Act.

He said it had been reported that in Natal and the Transvaal, children were being forced to work on farms for up to six months a year in exchange for being allowed to live there.

Replying, Mr Du Plessis said he shared concern for farm workers.

He said employee-employer relationships on farms were different to those in the industrial sector. Many farm workers were unskilled.

Because of the nature of agriculture, the matter should be treated with trust and consensus rather than coercion, he said.
**Farm union in historic agreement**

**By SELLO SERIPE**

THE SA Allied Workers' Union recently made a breakthrough when it signed a recognition agreement with a Bergvlei poultry farm.

The 90 labourers, on whose behalf the agreement was signed, are employed by the Bergvlei Chicks and Poultry farm near Kyalami, and at its two other farms, Bronkhorst and Hillcrest in Bronkhorstpruit and Natal respectively.

They are members of the Farm Workers' Union—a Saawu affiliate.

A surprising clause in the agreement is management's recognition of May Day and June 16 as paid holidays.

The SA Labour Relations Act does not provide any protection to farm labourers.

Last month Saawu signed another agreement with a Durban-based firm, Dek, which also offered the union shop stewards an office on the company premises.

According to Saawu coordinator Shadrack Mkhwanazi, Bergvlei Chicks and Poultry management also agreed to increase the labourers' monthly income by R87 in two phases, with R60 retrospective to July 1.

"Saawu is the first trade union in SA's labour affairs to sign an agreement with management on behalf of farm labourers. "This is a historic event and there is no other union which can claim to have won recognition for farm workers before," said Mkhwanazi.

The labourers will also be entitled to an annual 12-day sick-leave.

Meanwhile the union also reached an agreement on Monday with the Alberton City Council regarding a wage dispute which resulted into a week-long strike in July.

The matter was heard before the Industrial Council.

Saawu represented 700 members of the Municipal Workers' Union.

Initially the union demanded a 47 percent across-the-board increase for the workers but, following negotiations with shop stewards, lowered it to 15 percent.

Mkhwanazi said the union had demanded a 47 percent increase because the union believed that unclassified workers earned as little as R120 monthly.

"We lowered it after management showed us the wage scale which was confirmed by the workers," he said.

The council chairman, Johan van der Merwe, confirmed that they reached agreement.

The council had also promised to work with the union on matters affecting the workers.
250 fired at Sea Harvest after stoppage

ABOUT 250 workers have been dismissed from Sea Harvest at Saldanha following a work stoppage, according to a union spokesman.

The spokesman said that since last month members of the Food and Allied Workers' Union had been in dispute with the company over wage increases due to have been introduced in July.

They were demanding parity with employees of the company's major competitor.

"Last week we told management we wanted to hold a report-back meeting with members last-thing one to two hours," he said.

"They won't allow us facilities at the factory, so it was due to be off the premises. But they threatened to take action against the union if the meeting went ahead."

He said that while negotiations were taking place on Monday the workers heard about the company's attitude towards the meeting and refused to return to work after lunch.

"Management, without going through the shop stewards, gave the workers an ultimatum to return at work in 10 minutes. When they refused to accept this about 250 were fired," he said.

Then the night-shift refused to work and the bulk of the factory has been on strike since.

According to Mr. L. Penzhorn, a director of Sea Harvest, the workers were dismissed when they refused to return to work after their lunch break on Monday.

"The workers were clearly in breach of their contract and we dismissed them."

Mr. Penzhorn said the 250 posts would not be filled immediately.

"At the moment it is not necessary because the factory is running well without them," he said.

"We might have to fill some of the vacancies at a later stage."
This way of life is not for the faint-hearted

By Hess Cumming

The farming life on South Africa's northern border in the Moxosian district is not for the faint-hearted. A landslide or mortar blast could, at any moment, bring it to an end.

But the farmers in this remote area are a tough breed. They have accepted the security risks as part of the cost of the opportunity to make a living on the border. Many of them are ex-Rhodesians and have faced worse insecurity and violent disruption before.

Perhaps it is this experience which makes many of them habitually alert, constantly on the lookout for signs of illegal entry from Zambia. They are able to spot suspicious persons instantly, tell you how old they are, whether they belong to local people and where they are heading. Precautions to safeguard their families have become a way of life.

Travelling after dark is kept to a minimum, which inhibits their social life. The last task before sunset on most farms, is to "swipe" their range. A smooth surface, making it easy for trained eyes to spot any indication that a landmine may have been activated during the night.

Most view their economic situation, rather than security, as the major threat to their continued stay. They are far away from the markets, roads lead much too be desired, labour is difficult to come by and to top it all, the drought continues.

Mr. Jack Smith of the farm on the border west of Moxosa says farmers should be subsidised to transport produce to markets on the front, along with processing industry in the area should be subsidised. "Mining is playing a diminishing role in the stability of the region. Farmers must be subsidised more intensively in order to maintain a sustainable community," he says.

Traditionally, many farm workers came from across the border and farmers are bailing to find enough local labour.

This increases the need to mechanise farms to a large extent, a costly exercise.

Many roads are in bad repair and cause high maintenance on vehicles.

The drought caused farmers in the area to rely mainly on irrigation for their crops.

But the dry Limpopo River has not stopped these enterprising farmers.

They sink boreholes into the sandy soil and pump life-giving water at great expense and overcome considerable distances in their crops.

Farmers on the border west of Moxosa in the Gejera area have cleared vast areas of virgin bush for irrigation land.

The soil is a deep sandy loam, a fact testified to by the abundance of cropland and the list of crops is possible to produce, especially in the mild winter months, seems endless.

Farmers in this area, divided between the Limpopo and Venda, say their situation warrants special attention.

Economic conditions forced many out of the region, with much still remaining.

Mr. Johan Doomsingh, secretary of the farmers' association says its bargaining power is now nonexistent.

A spokesman for the Agricultural Credit Board says R1 million has been paid to farmers in the designated frontier areas in the Northern Transvaal.

A hair-raising trip down a dirt track on the borderline of fear

A first visit to the border farming area north of Moxosa is, simply, nerve-racking. Our party planned to reach its destination, the guest house at an experimental farm on the banks of the Limpopo River in broad daylight. But a heli ride and a back-up on the way saw us reach Moxosa well after sunset.

We decided to telephone our host, Mr. Nels Kruger, manager of the experimental farm to explain the delay and make sure of the directions. We telephoned promptly to get final directions to the stretch of about 13 km of dirt road on which we would be to arrive at the farm.

"Drive straight up to Biti Bridge and turn left on to the dirt road," Mr. Kruger advised. "If you will the security lights and send two security guards with torches down to the entrance. You won't miss it." The mention of security guards and lights did little to reassure us. In a voice we tried to keep free of a quiver, our direction-seeker asked whether it was safe to travel after dark on a road where, we were told, a landmine had exploded less than four months ago.

"I can't assure you it's safe. You drive at your own risk. Just keep your eyes open for any disturbances of the surface and drive around any patches of soil," came the matter-of-fact reply.

The journey on that track — it could scarcely be described as a road — brought the foot-and-mouth fence, was plain scary. The rocky surface was chattered up by the heavy wheels of military vehicles which patrolled the road, making it impossible for city slickers with little experience of landmines and other explosive hazards, to distinguish between used up stones and possible disaster.

Every "disturbance," and there were many on the corrugated track, was infinitely sinister. After about half an hour with eyes on stalks and driving at a snail's pace, the glow of the yellow security lights against the dark, laid out behind us before us. A mound of a mustard bulwark night came mercifully, into view.

Then the wavering lights of the security guards' torches guided us into the left turn that took us onto the smooth sandy road leading to the farm Kruger's house.

Now there was little cause for concern. This was safe territory and what we wasted most of all was to get out of the dusty car and into the welcoming comforts of the farmhouse. The relieved driver threw care-ness to the winds and covered the short remaining distance in a trice.

Only later in the evening did Mr. Kruger tell us that a landmine explosion in May took place about 59 km along its entrance road, killing the driver of the truck involved and maiming several passengers on the truck.
Sea Harvest fires 280 workers

THE Saldanha Sea Harvest factory management confirmed yesterday that 280 workers were dismissed this week after they refused to leave the factory's canteen and return to work.

Workers are in dispute with management over demands for pay parity with the company's competitor, Irvin and Johnson (I&J).

The general secretary of the Food and Allied Workers' Union (PAWU), Mr Jan Theron, said that during negotiations with management on Monday, workers became "agitated" and refused to leave the canteen and go back to work until they had had an answer from management.

The general manager of Sea Harvest, Mr Louis Petersen, said most of the workers were working as normal.
Farm Labourers on the cards for legal protection

By S. T. C. Jones

Farm workers entering to the UK have been made aware of the new card system to help protect their rights.

In a recent visit to a farm in the area, the workers were advised on how to use the new cards.

The cards will be issued to farmers who employ workers from the EU and will help to ensure that they are protected under the new regulations.

However, it is important to note that these cards are not a guarantee of employment rights and workers should still be aware of their rights.

The farm workers were also informed about the importance of keeping records of their working hours and days worked.

The new system will help to ensure that workers are paid fairly and that their working conditions are safe.

Overall, the introduction of the new cards is a positive step towards protecting the rights of farm workers in the UK.
Farmers' co-operatives must stay — Wentzel

PARLIAMENT — Big traders would never be allowed to break the farming co-operative system, Minister of Agriculture Mr Greyling Wentzel said in the House of Assembly yesterday.

Speaking in the committee stage of the supplementary budget, he said that in the late 30s, farmers — most of them poor — had organised themselves into co-operatives to improve their bargaining power.

In spite of obstruction from traders, the farmers succeeded.

"Today the co-ops help the small farmer buy his requisites at the lowest possible prices," Mr Wentzel said.

It was known that certain traders and industries still wanted to break the co-operative movement.

"It is essential that the composition of co-operatives should represent not only small but also medium and big farmers to mobilise the maximum capital and buying power."

He said he had told the chairman of the Ministers' Council, Mr Amichand Ramchandra Prithibhai, that his department would help him build a co-operative system to suit the needs of the small Indian farmer.

The Indian farmers could use the system to strengthen their own bargaining power, but the new direction in which Indian farming was moving could not be sustained without a well-organised co-op system.

The Bill was read a second time after the PRP withdrew its earlier opposition. — Sapa.
Tractor death: Detective convicted

Court Reporter

A BRACKENFELL detective was convicted in the Wynberg Regional Court today of culpable homicide following the death of a farm labourer he dragged behind a tractor in November last year.

Detective-Sergeant Gert Johannes Jacobs, 31, was found guilty of causing the death of Mr Dawid Morris.

Mr Morris died in Tygerberg Hospital after receiving multiple injuries, which included a damaged heart, lacerated liver and ruptured colon.

Jacobs has been suspended from the police.

ATTACKED WITH PANGA

Jacobs was acquitted on a charge of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm to Mr Johannes Alkaster.

Co-accused Sergeant Hermanus Cornelius Rosouw, 55, of Harte Street, Kraaifontein, was acquitted on both charges.

The court heard that Jacobs and Sergeant Rosouw were investigating a fight between a group of squatters and farm labourers on Rotterdam Farm, near Kulls River, when Jacobs was allegedly attacked by Mr Morris with a panga.

Jacobs believed Mr Morris planned to kill him and tried to arrest him. He tied Mr Morris's feet to a tractor's towbar and drove towards the farmhouse to call the Kulls River police.

He told the court he had not heard Mr Morris fall off the tractor or Sergeant Rosouw shouting at him.

WOUNDED THREE TIMES

Today, in mitigation, Mr H Trisos told the court that Jacobs was the father of two children and his second wife was pregnant. Mr Trisos said he had already suffered severe financial loss after having been suspended from the police force.

Mr Trisos submitted that the circumstances surrounding the incident were of such a nature as to constitute provocation against the accused and asked the court to take into account the type of person he was.

"He was not the sort of person who looked for trouble and I submit that circumstances dictated the events that led him to where he stands today," said Mr Trisos.

Jacobs, who was a first offender, had been wounded three times in the course of his police duties, he added.

Jacobs told the court Mr Morris attacked him "like a madman or someone under the influence or something".

"Blows with my stick and fists seemed to have no effect on him. He kept coming at me, shouting that he would kill me.

"He refused to stand on the tractor to be transported. I was too tired to carry him after the fight when I arrested him," Jacobs said.

Both the accused denied having assaulted Mr Alkaster and breaking his arm with a "heavy, blunt weapon".

The hearing was postponed to Friday for sentence.

Mr J C L Botha was on the Bench. Mr J Loots appeared for the State.
Shotguns, tearsmoke used after stoning at Saldanha

Staff Reporter

TEARSMOKE AND shotguns were used to disperse a group of people at Diazville, Saldanha, after a woman and three security force members were struck by stones and slightly injured, according to the police unrest report.

Security force members, their vehicles and a private home were stoned by a group of coloureds yesterday, the report said.

"A black woman and three security force members were struck by stones and slightly injured. The group was dispersed with tearsmoke and shotgun fire.

ARRESTED

A coloured male was slightly wounded. A coloured woman and two coloured men were slightly injured.

Three coloured men and a woman were arrested in connection with these incidents," said the report.

The Argus has been given information about injuries and a possible fatality at Diazville at the weekend.

The Argus also has information about disturbances involving supporters of two rugby teams and after a "dance on Saturday night.

STATEMENT

Details cannot be reported in terms of the emergency regulations and the police have been asked to comment.

Boland police liaison officer Captain Oys Boontaai said a full statement about the events of the weekend was being drawn up and would be sent to the Police Directorate of Public Relations in Pretoria for release to the Press later.
Farm workers get pension plan

JOHANNESBURG. — The general council of the South African Agricultural Union has approved in principle a retirement scheme for agricultural employees.

This follows an investigation conducted by Sentrafoer and is expected to be instituted in January next year.

The union’s vice-president, Mr Nico Kotze, said that the scheme’s main objective was to provide for the retirement needs of employees in agriculture, with death and disability benefits as perks.

“The scheme is unique in the sense that, as employers, farmers join voluntarily and that each employer with his team of employees build up their own fund within the registered umbrella fund.

“Cher scheme offers agricultural employees a truly unique opportunity to provide for a more comfortable retirement,” Mr Kotze said.

In the case of retirement, either a lump sum or a monthly pension would be paid.

The amount will depend on how long and how much the relevant employee contributed to the fund. In the event of death or disability an amount equalling twice the annual salary of the employee will be paid out, with a choice of pension in the case of disability.

Mr Kotze appealed to farmers to support the scheme because a maximum number and steady increase of members was essential for implementation and its future viability.

A board of trustees from the ranks of organised agriculture will administer the fund, with Sentrafoer as mediator and Old Mutual as underwriter.
Policeman guilty of farmhand’s death

Court Reporter

SENTENCE will be passed on Friday on a police detective convicted in Wynberg Regional Court yesterday of culpable homicide.

Detective Sergeant Gert Johannes Jacobs, 35, of Rusthof Farm, Kull River, who was temporarily suspended from the police force pending the outcome of the hearing, had pleaded not guilty to culpable homicide.

He was convicted of causing the death of Mr David Morris, 35, on November 1 last year by tying him to the back of a tractor and dragging him on the ground. Mr Morris died after receiving multiple injuries.

Jacobs was acquitted of assaulting Mr Johannes Alkaster with intent to do grievous bodily harm. Co-accused Sergeant Hermias Rossouw, 35, of Harte Street, Kraalfontein, was acquitted on both charges.

The magistrate, Mr J C L Botha, said there was no evidence that Sergeant Rossouw had committed an offence.

In a statement handed in to the court, Sergeant Rossouw said he and Jacobs had gone to the farm Rotterdam to investigate "trouble".

He saw a man stealthily approach Jacobs with a panga and he had "floored" him.

Jacobs then grabbed the man and took the panga away from him.

"The youngster (jong) was lying on the ground and when I told him to get up, he said he would try."

Jacobs came back with a tractor and tied Mr Morris's legs to it with a rope.

Sergeant Rossouw climbed on to the tractor and when he noticed the rope trailing, realized Mr Morris was no longer tied to the tractor.

In previous evidence, both policemen said Mr Morris was tied to the tow bar in "a sitting position" to be transported, but had fallen off.

In mitigation of sentence, Mr H Tri, sos, for Jacobs, said he was a father of two and his second wife was pregnant with a third child.

The prosecutor, Mr J Loots, said that judging from the photographs which formed part of the court record, it appeared that Mr Morris had been very badly assaulted.

He said Jacobs was a police officer who was supposed to set an example. He was not appointed for "trouble".
Mr Jacob Jacobus Julies and his wife Elizabeth, parents of Abraham Julies who was shot dead on Sunday evening.

Move on papers ‘intimidatory’

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG.—Requests by the new Directorate of Media Relations for certain newspapers to submit copies of their publication for personal use are seen as ominous attempts to intimidate editors, says a statement issued yesterday by the Anti-Censorship Action Group.

The statement says the request that copies of newspapers be submitted to the “Government’s new chief censor is clearly an intimidatory move with serious consequences for the free flow of information which Minister Stoffel Botha claims he believes in.”

The statement is signed by author Nadine Gordimer, Dorothy Wheeler of Havana, and Pat Sidney, president of the South African Society of Journalists.

‘Draconian laws inconceivable’

Argus Africa News Service

WINDHOEK.—It is inconceivable that the citizens of SWA/Namibia should still be subject to the “draconian” powers of the Terrorism Act — a law scrapped by the South African Parliament 15 years ago — says a Windhoek Supreme Court judge.

Mr Justice Kenneth Bethune made the remark in his written reasons for ordering the release of six Swaps detainees, who were freed on Friday. The men were arrested and held under Section 6 of the Terrorism Act.

He said the Terrorism Act conflicted in a number of respects with the Bill of Fundamental Rights proclaimed with the installation of the current Transitional Government in Windhoek in 1985. The current legislators in Windhoek had, however, so far made no use of their power to review or scrap the Act.

Kimberley’s ‘wedding of the

The Argus Correspondent

KIMBERLEY.—The “wedding of the year” here featured Irish schoolteacher Thomas O’Neil and his former pupil, Enaah Botholhile Mthethwa, at the St Boniface Catholic Church.

The former St Boniface High School head prefect said “I do” to her one-time matric teacher in the presence of hundreds of enthusiastic, and mostly curious, people, who packed the church.

The couple had been the talk of the town from the time they started courting.

“Yes, indeed, we are living in a changing world,” said one elderly woman.

Eulah is a local student worth University of a lecturer. They were pretty, their fathom the fence.”
Boy, 14, shot dead after firings

By CHRIS BATEMAN

A TEENAGE boy was shot dead, at least seven people were wounded and at least four people were arrested in Saldanha on Sunday as labour-related conflict escalated after 280 Sea Harvest factory workers were sacked in the town on Monday.

The toll of wounded could be as high as 10; Diazville township sources have named seven residents they said were wounded, while police said four residents and three security force members were wounded.

Since Monday at least 20 people have been arrested, 11 of them women who appeared briefly before a Vredenburg magistrate on Friday on charges of failing to obey police orders. The 11 were granted bail of R100 each.

Township sources gave the names of nine men they said were arrested outside a township cafe early on Sunday. Relatives said they were told by police that the men had been taken to Victor Verster Prison outside Paarl where they were being held in terms of the emergency regulations.

A senior police spokesman in Pretoria, Colonel Steve van Rooyen, yesterday said that a “coloured male” — identified by township sources as Abraham Julies, 14, a Std 4 pupil of Diazville Primary School — had been shot dead on Sunday.

Spokesmen for the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) and the Saldanha Advice Office said two women and a man, aged 18, 19 and 21, with pellet wounds in their legs, were under police guard in Vredenburg Hospital while a 15-year-old girl with pellet wounds in her head had been transferred to Tygerberg Hospital.

They said they had traced another wounded man to the Saldanha police station but were still looking for two more people reportedly wounded and in police custody. Colonel Van Rooyen said that any additional information received by police headquarters and “worth mentioning” would be released today.

The trouble began after Sea Harvest management fired 280 workers for refusing to meet a 10-minute deadline to return to work on Monday. The workers had demanded an answer about a pending meeting before returning to work. Mr. Louis Penzhorn, general manager of Sea Harvest, said yesterday.
Evicted mother 'will live under the trees...'

A KRAAIPOORT mother and her four children have been told to leave the house they have rented for 10 years — for no apparent reason.

"We will have to go and sleep under the trees, if we can't stay," said Mrs Sarah Philiander. "We have nowhere else to go."

It is believed that the eviction was ordered on the advice of the Management Committee, which according to the Regional Services Council "doesn't have to give reasons".

A spokesperson for the Management Committee in Stellenbosch confirmed that the Management Committee had recommended the eviction. He also confirmed that the Management Committee did not have to give reasons.

The Philiander family said they were told that somebody paid R150 to the rent office because "he wanted a corner house".

The mystery began on Monday when the family received a letter from the rent office, telling them to leave. No reasons were given.

She said a Mr Mohamed Salie of the rent office told them there was "no reason" but that they "just wanted the house vacated. He advised her to engage an attorney.

The same suggestion was made when she went to the Division Council.

From left: Mrs Sarah Philiander with her daughters, Julie-Anne, 4, Audrey, 15, Esmeralda, 22, and Bernadette, 18, in front. Picture: SAIMH VENTER

Bo-Kaap CMC man Botha's pal

SOUTH REPORTER

ONE of the main initiators of a CMC management committee for the Bo-Kaap, Mr Ismael Achmat, has written letters to P W Botha since 1978 and once painted a portrait of the State President.

He has been asked to leave public meetings in his area since last year.

He has also been closely linked to Mrs Shariar Hoosen, the MP for Tafelsig, who polled 115 votes in the 1986 elections for the House of Representatives.

But the 39-year-old spray-painter believes he has the support of the community and is determined to prove it through elections for a management committee.

Achmat is one of five people nominated to serve on a management committee for the Bo-Kaap area. The others are Mr Ismail Harky, Mrs N Abuder, Mrs Amrina Kaeptman and Mrs Sunaya Salie.

Achmat announced his resignation two days after the names were announced by the Provincial Administrator. "I am not against the management committee system. I only resigned because I don't want to be nominated. I want to be elected," he said.

"Over the years our area has been controlled by the City Council and various groups have been arguing with them without getting anything right," said Achmat, who is a former secretary of the Schotse Kirk Civic Association.

Achmat said he didn't see himself as a "coloured" and he did not support the system of apartheid.

Mr Ismael Achmat

DIE SUID-AFRIKAAN

in die September-uitgawe van

DIE SUID-AFRIKAAN

Lees in ons komende uitgawe wat werklik gebeur het toe 'n groep binnelandse Suid-Afrikaners 'n afvaardiging van die ANC in Dakar ontmoet het — in eerstehandse verslae van mense wat self daar was.

Van aanstaande week af by uitgesoke nuusagente beskikbaar.

NAAM: ________

ADRES: ________

POSKODE: ________

Spesiale aanbod

Ontvang vry uitgewes van Die Suid-Afrikaan vir die prijs van vier. Indien u nou op vier uitgewes intekken, word u gratis eksemplaar van die September-uitgawe ontvang.

Koop hierdie advertensie uit, vul die vorm in en pos dit saam met 'n teks of posorder vir R7,60 aan Die Suid-Afrikaan, Breestraat 213, Kaapstad 8001. U sal u gratis eksemplaar per korreforme pos ontvang — asook die volgende vier uitgewes.
DURBAN. — The estimated one million farm workers who are beginning to stage their demands for the rights of the farm worker for almost a century. The move was by 1,400 farm workers at the Sapekoe Farm near Richmond, near Newcastle. The farmers are demanding recognition of the Farm Workers Union, an association of South African Farm Workers Union (SAFWU).

According to the union, the farmers have been demanding recognition for their workers for some time. On July 14, 1,000 workers gathered at the farm to demand the recognition of their union. The farm management, however, refused to recognize the union.

The situation at Sapekoe is not unique. Across the country, farmers are resisting the demand for the recognition of farm workers' unions. The union claims that the farmers are afraid of the workers' demands for better working conditions and higher wages.

The situation at Sapekoe is likely to continue as farmers resist the union's demands. The union isexpected to continue its efforts to organize farm workers and fight for their rights.

**Dispute over benefits**

A DISPUTE is brewing between the Electric and Allied Workers Union and the employer over fringe benefits. The EAWU, which represents 2,000 workers in the Western Cape, claims the employer is not offering them members' benefits.

Mr Brian Williams, secretary of EAWU, said the union has refused to sign an agreement with the employer.

"Some of the workers are exposed to harsh working conditions but they are without essential benefits," he said.

GWU recruits at Rhodes

RHODES University workers seem to finally become united in the fight for their rights as they review claim agreements.

More than 400 workers have signed agreements with the Transport and General Workers' Union, Security Workers Industrial Union, and the National Council of Trade Unions. The agreements include wage increases and better working conditions.

"The workers are happy to be united," said Mr Anton Baker, executive director of the Transport and General Workers' Union, Security Workers Industrial Union, and the National Council of Trade Unions.

**Transport men go slow**

EIGHTY Transport General Workers Union members, for the first time, have gone on strike to the demands of the management, which is said to be holding up agreements to add workers' grievances.

The strike started at 2:00 PM on Thursday, after a meeting with the management failed to resolve the workers' demands.

"The workers are determined to get their demands met," said Mr John Brown, the union's representative.

**Nature launches in W Cape**

THREE Nature workers in the Western Cape division have launched a strike over fringe benefits.

Nearly 400 Nature members and eight affiliates in the region have signed agreements with the Transport and General Workers' Union. The agreements include wage increases and better working conditions.

"The workers are happy to be united," said Mr Anton Baker, executive director of the Transport and General Workers' Union, Security Workers Industrial Union, and the National Council of Trade Unions.
shaking off shackles

By VUYO BAVUMA

THE Western Cape Hostel Dwellers Association (WCHDA) plans to extend its battle to eradicate the "cancer" of migrant labour to nine more parts. The 25,000-strong WCIDA, which fights for the rights of migrant labourers, has members in Langa, Nyanga, Gugulethu, Lwandle (Birandla), Mfuleni and Khayamandi (Gibibosch). It decided at its recent regional conference to organize migrant workers in nine parts of the country.

Positive

"We have put our fingers in many parts of the city and the response has been positive," said WCHDA’s publicity secretary, Mr Mondi Mxokupem, of Khayamandi.

"We shall continue to fight for the rights of migrant labourers. It is inhuman that families be separated because of ideology. Our wives and children should be allowed to stay at the hostels.

WCHDA is an affiliate of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu). It runs health and advice projects aimed at alleviating the hardships of migrant workers. The advice office explains issues such as UIF benefits and rental payments.

We also assist women who get arrested for trespassing at the hostels. Last year we successfully opposed the prosecution of women at Mfuleni and Lwandle hostels," Mxokupem said.

"We also have a mobile clinic unit which offers food to malnourished children. Its staff also visits sick children who are mostly neglected and visited our members twice a week."

WCHDA is also involved in upgrading the hostels and negotiating for land to build houses for its members.

The association was formed out of worker frustration due to appalling conditions in the hostels. In 1984 a nine-member executive was formed in Nyanga hostels but it later developed into a regional structure.

Mxokupem is a former organiser of the General Workers’ Union. He was born in Transkei in 1941 and left home at an early age to work in East London where he also studied part-time. In 1965 he came to work in Cape Town.

"I worked at a Bellville glass factory where conditions were terrible. We did not have protective clothing and our wages were low," he said.

In the early 1970s Mxokupem joined the GWU and was elected an organiser in 1979. In 1983 he went to the International Transport Federation in London to raise funds for the railway workers involved in a strike at Port Elizabeth and Durban.

Factory

"Towards the end of the year I took part in talks aimed at forming a federation of workers," Mxokupem said.

"There were many conflicting ideas but eventually nine union members supported the idea, thus paving the way for the birth of Cosatu."
War of nerves

By SHAH VENTER

A WAR of nerves is raging between squatters in the area of Khayelitsha and the Kraaifontein municipality which doesn’t want Africans living in the area.

A month has passed since D-Day for the removal of African squatters from Bloekombos in Kraaifontein — but they are still living there. Now the municipality has decided to take legal action against the squatters which means theRemove might be handed over to the police.

The 70 or so residents are uncertain about if and when an attempt will be made to move them. The appearance of strangers or unknown vehicles could mean imminent removal to green tents far from their jobs.

‘Sommer jokes’

They use under no illusions about what living in Khayelitsha will mean, and the local official promises of transport to and from their work have ‘come and gone’.

Residents are constantly on that guard, waiting for the moment when they will have to make that decision.

Last week police arrived and told them they would have to leave.

On August 10, the day scheduled for the removal, residents waited for hours in heavy rain, expecting municipal trucks, but none came. Since then they have been visited by ‘municipal security guards’ who walked around the camp without talking to any of the residents.

Recently municipal officials visited and asked: ‘What will you do next?’

After they left the squatters said they didn’t want to, the official left.

‘One thing is certain, we are not going to Khayelitsha and that is klar,’ Mr Andrew Jacobs a community leader.

Worried

Jacobs’ wife, Lena, who was born in a two-week pregnancy baby said: ‘We are very worried, and restless. We will be happy if they say we can stay here.’

‘We don’t know if the municipality is going to do it, if they are going to move us now or not’, Jacobs said. ‘We think about it all the time.’

They must just let us know now what they are going to do. If they don’t have a place for us in Kraaifontein, they must move us to Kraaifontein and they believe removal in Khayelitsha would mean losing their homes.

Broken down

Mr Janse Fiers, 22, who works for a building contractor in Cape Town, said his house had been broken down twice since he moved to Red Hill in 1976.

‘We don’t know where we will be able to find housing if they move us,’ Fiers said. ‘Ocean View is already so overcrowded,’

Domestic worker Mrs Notshe Zaroza, 25, said she had lived with her husband and three children at Red Hill since 1995.

‘Our house was broken down earlier this year and I was arrested twice and convicted of trespassing,’ she said.

‘I have no family in Cape Town. And if we lose our home, we will have nowhere to go if they evict us.’

Thabii Qoba, 22, said he lost his job as a woodcutter for the local council when he was arrested last month.

‘My boss would not understand what had happened. Now I have been unable to find other work,’ he said.

Mr Andrew Jacobs with his children (from the left) Mari, Anthony, Arnette and Poppie.

When asked what day the community has decided to take legal action against the squatters which means the removal might be handed over to the police. They are uncertain about if and when an attempt will be made to move them. The appearance of strangers or unknown vehicles could mean imminent removal to green tents far from their jobs.

20 families face eviction

By AYESHA ISMAIL

TWENTY families, squatting in a ‘white’ area in Towns River, have been fined and served with eviction notices.

The Kraaifontein’s, a spokesperson for the squatters said the families asked a former to stay on the property because of the great shortage of houses.

The police asked them to leave. The municipality considered the area a health hazard as they did not have proper toilets and the police asked the families to move.

The police also raised concerns that they had nowhere else to go. On August 7 the people were given a 14-day notice to vacate and they had to pay R15 in fines.
Code system could protect farm workers

By BARBARA ORPEN

A SYSTEM whereby farmers could be persuaded to become signatories of a “code” which would lay down minimum conditions of employment for farm labourers could be the most effective manner in which to introduce much-needed measures required for the protection of the country’s 1.2m farm labourers.

This was said yesterday by Mr Errol Moorcroft, a former PFP MP for Albany and a farmer himself, who was commenting on reports that the Government was preparing to introduce some labour legislation for farm workers.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greylng Wentzel, said in Parliament last week that some legal protection for farm workers was on the cards, but added that it was not the Government’s “intention to have trade unions on the farms”.

Farm workers are not covered by most of the laws which protect other workers. These include the Labour Relations Act, the Wage Act, the Unemployment Insurance Act and the Occupational Safety Act.

Mr Moorcroft was one of a number of farmers canvassed yesterday for their opinions on the issue of granting farm labourers legal protection.

“Farm labour is definitely in need of some sort of protection and it would appear that some sort of bargaining forum is inevitable in agriculture,” he said.

Mr Jimmy Emslie, who is the chairman of the Central Albany Farmers’ Association, said attitudes to farm labour had changed dramatically over the past few years.

Farmers had “changed with the times” and most would therefore go along quite easily with a system which introduced protection for labourers, he said.

The chairman of the Koorap Farmers’ Association, Mr Fred Kidson, said both farmers and labourers should be protected.

The issue of farm labour was a sensitive subject and while labourers should be given some sort of protection, there were other problems such as the fact that farmers’ income had not kept pace with production costs.
Court to rule on storm at tea farm

THE workforce of the state-owned Sapeko tea estate near Richmond, Natal, left the farm voluntarily on July 15, Sapeko's management said in the Pietermaritzburg Supreme Court last week.

But dismissed employee Gilbert Makinyana said he had fled the property after watching police, using tear gas and sjamboks, evict workers and their children from the farm hostels.

Makinyana has launched his application for a spoliation order on the grounds that the company took the law into its own hands in ordering police to evict more than 900 workers.

He has applied for his accommodation to be restored to him. If Makinyana is successful all the evicted workers will be able to follow suit.

The workers, who are members of the Food and Allied Workers' Union, went on strike in protest against poor living conditions and wages of R55 a month. They were demanding an increase of R250, the recognition of Fawu, the reduction of the 11-hour working day to nine hours including tea and lunch breaks, and two meals.

In an affidavit before the court, tea estate manager William Titlestad said the company was a farming operation and therefore not controlled by the Labour Relations Act.

Fawu has condemned Sapeko for "hiding behind the flaws in the country's Labour Relations Act".

Appearing before Judge Friedman, Titlestad said workers had been given an ultimatum to return to work or face dismissal. Most of the workers defied the deadline to leave but "changed their minds soon afterwards and came to collect their wages in large numbers".

He said he had had no dealings with the police.

However, Warrant Officer TR O'Connell, who was in charge of a seven-man reaction unit, and Warrant Officer JL du Plessis, the Richmond station commander, said they had talked to Titlestad and the production manager, Abel Erasmus.

The policemen and Erasmus denied that force was used on July 15.
Interests of white and black farmers ‘mustn’t be mixed’

PARLIAMENT — Co-operatives had provided the steering power for white farmers and could do the same for black farmers, but the interests of the two groups should not be mixed, Dr Ferdi Hartzenberg (CP Lichtenburg) said yesterday.

He said in second reading debate on the Co-operatives Amendment Bill that he was referring to a clause in the measure which allowed farmers in the self-governing and independent national states to market their products in SA in an orderly manner.

It would be a most dangerous thing if farmers from outside SA’s borders were allowed to become members of local co-operatives.

“I ask the Government not to tamper with the co-ops in this area,” he said.

“It will endanger their future existence, and South Africa can’t afford that.”

He said the CP would support the measure.

Mr H.J. Smith (NP Smithfield) said the clause showed that the Government recognised that the economy of the region, including the national states, was not divisible.

Mr Ralph Hardingham (NRP Mool River) said it was important that the self-governing states should be encouraged to market their products legally through the co-operative system rather than try to dispose of their produce “through the back door in what may verge on an illegal form of marketing”.

Agriculture Minister Mr Greyling Wentzel said the time had come when blacks should be accommodated in the co-operative movement as well as development corporations.

The Bill was read a second time without objections. — Sapa.
Pine farmers pay 'starvation wages'

EAST LONDON. — Workers on the pineapple farms at Mooiplaas near here work 12 hours a day for five days every week and earn a weekly wage of R12,50. This comes to about 20 cents an hour.

The workers, including many women, are recruited from the villages near Mooiplaas. They are not protected by a minimum wage law and have no minimum working hours.

A worker said: "We cannot even say we are living from hand to mouth as our wages are very low. We are working very hard but we earn very little wages and can hardly support our families." My husband gets his pension every two months. My three children are at school and I can hardly meet their needs. We have told our bosses that we are dissatisfied with our wages but our complaints fell on deaf ears," she said.

Another worker said: "We are not given any benefits like food rations. We are expected to buy food from our R12,50. Our wages are really below poverty level."

A nursing sister attached to the local clinic under the Cape Provincial Administration (CPA), Mrs Thandi Nqini, said the farmers were taking advantage of poor people. "The farmers are exploiting these people because they have no money. Many of the workers are very poor and have been unemployed." Some women said they worked on the farms to supplement their families' income. Their husbands worked on the mines and sent money home occasionally.

A spokesperson for Operation Hunger said they investigated the problems experienced by the farm workers and approached the farmers to improve the wages and working conditions.

"The situation has not changed and the conditions are still bad for the workers. We are battling with the farmers who claim to pay their workers good wages," the spokesperson said.

— ELNEWS
Protect the worker
South African farmers may be on the verge of conceding legal protection, relating to minimum wages and working conditions, to 1.3m farm workers.

The historic concession — which will stop short of officially sanctioning registered trade unions — is expected at the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) congress in Durban next month.

A mandate to investigate "certain adaptations" to farm labour practice was issued to the SAAU Council last year. SAAU deputy director Haas van der Merwe says the council favoured changes to the Basic Conditions of Employment Act "to better adapt it to circumstances in agriculture."

The key to understanding the piecemeal reform now sought by the council is the National Manpower Commission (NMC) report, still unpublished but presented to government in December 1985. The report evidently put pressure on farmers to accept labour reform — and extended agonising over some compromise then began.

"At this stage, it seems farmers are very reluctant to tolerate normal union activities on farms," says the PFP's Peter Gastrow. The country's estimated 66,000 white farmers have a lot of political clout, and Gastrow believes the Department of Manpower was forced to play a "persuasive game."

There was evidence of that game in the House of Representatives recently, says Gastrow, when Agriculture Minister Greylng Wentzel "seemed to suggest some form of protection was desirable and had been accepted by organised agriculture."

But there was no hint that the Labour Relations Act, which caters for the registration and formal recognition of trade unions, was due to be amended. And Wentzel said that, since consultations with organised agriculture were continuing, government had no immediate plans to act on the report.

Clive Thompson, director of the Labour Law unit at UCT, thinks events in farming are following the pattern set in manufacturing in the late Seventies:

"Government and the farmers see the growing demand for union rights for farm workers, and they want to contain, deflect or channel this pressure. No doubt they'll opt for containment — probably by watering down the remedies and rights enjoyed by industrial workers. I fancy we will see some form of amendment to the Wage Act or the Basic Conditions of Employment Act to introduce minimum wages; or, more likely as an interim measure, minimum terms and conditions of employment."

But it's doubtful that such concessions will do no more than buy time for farmers.
Teargas at Diazville teenager's funeral

Staff Reporter
ABOUT 400 people attended the funeral yesterday of 14-year-old Abraham Julies, who was shot dead by police in Saldanha 11 days ago.

Abraham, 14, was shot at a labour-related conflict in the fishing town on Sunday. September 13, after 269 Sea Harvest factory workers were sacked. Several others were wounded and arrested in a day of violence in which burning tyres barricades were set up and several homes stoned.

According to eyewitnesses, some teargas was fired at yesterday's funeral as mourners were leaving the graveyard after a police warning to disperse.

A spokeswoman for the West Coast Council of Churches said the township was cordoned off and only Diazville residents were allowed to attend the funeral.

Buses from other parts of the Western Cape were turned away at roadblocks.

The funeral, which began at the Julies home in Pluto Street at 2.30pm, proceeded to the Apostolic Faith Mission and ended at 5.30pm.

A spokesman for the Police Public Relations Directorate, Captain C.J. Marais, said last night that if such an incident had occurred it would appear in today's unrest report.

He said no interim reports on unrest were made unless they were "significant".

JULIES FUNERAL... Diazville residents yesterday attended the funeral of 14-year-old Abraham Julies, who was shot dead by police in Saldanha 11 days ago during labour-related conflict.
Western Transvaal farmers of varying shades of political opinion have become involved in development projects designed to upgrade the living conditions of their workers.

The Cape-based Rural Foundation has been the initiator of the programme which has taken root in Venterdorp, Koster and Liebenburg. In Venterdorp, no less than 32 farmers have joined the Venterdorp Community Development Association to further the aims of the programme.

"The main motive is to uplift black people, to give them a better deal," says Mr Chris Botha, who was the foundation's first organiser in the region and who has just given up the position to return to the ministry.

Explaining his own involvement and that of his wife, Henna, Mr Botha said: "We grew up in the Western Transvaal and it always bothered me that our black people had such a low standard of living."

Each farmer participating in the scheme pays monthly dues for each of his workers, demonstrating a commitment to the project, says Mr Botha.

In addition funds from both the private and the governmental sectors have been obtained.

Often the starting point of the programme is intervention on the economic and physical front. There is a considerable stress on family planning services so that there are fewer dependents in each family.

Improvement of housing facilities and services is undertaken on the basis of the employer making contributions of materials and workers supplying the labour required.

Informal education - such as needlework and handicraft classes - and recreational activities are set up and have resulted in craft fairs and inter-farm sports competitions.

Mr Botha says that in many cases these new-found interests have broken the heavy weekend drinking sessions which can debilitating workers.

Mr Botha stresses the workers must take responsibility for the improvement of their own conditions. Almost all contributions made by employers under the programme require reciprocal work and effort from farm residents over and above their normal day's work.

Mr Botha said that despite the drought and the process of mechanisation the work force on farms in the region was very stable - encouraging farmers to initiate programmes for the children on
Karoo nomads: Peo on their way to now

ON THE MOVE AGAIN: This family gets ready to start a journey to another town and, hopefully, work.

SAP can't store guns for public

PRETORIA. — The South African Police do not have the facilities to store firearms for members of the public, says the SAP public relations division.

"Every year, at the start of the school holidays, members of the public approach police station commanders in increasing numbers and ask that their private firearms be kept in safe custody during their absence," said an SAP statement.

"Although the SAP would like to assist, facilities do not exist for the storage of these weapons.

"There are private firms, possibly also banks, which do have such facilities. Members of the public are asked to make alternative arrangements for the safekeeping of their weapons." — Sapa.

By DENNIS CRUYWAGEN
Education Reporter

UNEMPLOYED rural nomads who roam the Karoo from town to town and span with their families meager possessions loaded on a donkey cart, search for work, have become victims of hard financial life for farmers.

These nomadic workers a familiar sight on dusty Karoo farms roads and the national road.

They are former farm labourers who left the farm they had been working on for number of reasons to start nomadic life.

At night they unhitch the donkeys at temporary, provided by some local authorities and turn to their cows for protection against the elements.

Technically, the roaming farmhands are supposed to spend 48 hours at these...
People nowhere

by DENNIS CRUYWAGEN

UNEMPLOYED rural nomads who roam the Karoo from town to town and outback with their families and meagre possessions loaded on a donkey cart, searching for work, have become victims of hard financial times for farmers.

These nomadic workers are familiar sight on dusty Karoo farm roads and the national road.

They are former farm labourers who left the farms because they had been working on a piece of reasons to start a nomadic life.

At night they unhitch their donkeys at temporary sites provided by some local authorities and turn to their carts for protection against the elements.

Technically, the roaming families are supposed to spend 48 hours at these overnight sites which they call "uitspanpiekies" (outsprings).

However, some of them have lost their mobility because they have been forced to sell the only possessions they have, their donkeys and carts.

Today they have turned overnight sites near Beaufort West, Victoria West and Britstown into semi-permanent settlements.

Some of them sleep out in the open.

Dr Aubrey Redelinguys, a University of the Western Cape academic, says in a research paper that problems in the agriculture sector led to the appearance of the nomads.

He researched the nomads in November 1986 and in March this year and interviewed 72 families.

He said organised agriculture should address this problem.

Unfair dismissals

He recommended that farm workers be given a minimum wage, the right to form a trade union, receive adequate housing and some protection against unfair dismissal.

Dr Redelinguys said: "The appearance of this phenomenon entrenches the view that farm workers are the most under-protected labour source in one of the most protected economic sectors in South Africa."

He said that the future looks bleak for the nomads, especially the more mobile ones.

He said they often cried: "God will have to help us."

Sicknesses like chronic bronchitis and diarrhoea were rife among the roamers.

Tuberculosis and crime were responsible for the majority of adult deaths in these communities.

He said these uneducated, often highly experienced workers, provided labour on Karoo farms.

Factors such as poor remuneration, long hours, no holidays, limited access to education and medical services, ill-health, old age, and poor relations with their employers normally drove labourers from Karoo farms.

On the farms they lived in a "relatively-protected" environment, but their standard of living dropped sharply when they changed their lifestyle.

"In the process of wandering from place to place they have become marginal people, or as one community leader said, ‘people on their way to nowhere,’” Dr Redelinguys said.

He found that nomads looking for work were moving away from the national road and concentrating on gravel roads, railway stations or locations on the fringes of Karoo towns where they hoped to catch the attention of farmers.

They took care to camp near a windmill, a water reservoir or in the shade.

Found begging

Dust kicked up by cars made their existence uncomfortable, but there was always a possibility that a car would run down a hare or buck, providing the nomads with a meal.

The nomads also raided dirktims or begged for food.

Their basic diet consisted of bread, coffee, sugar and flour.

"No wonder that cases of scurvy have been recorded,” Dr Redelinguys said.

At the time of the interviews only 24 percent of the nomads had consumed meat.

Drinking water was often obtained from a single tap at the overnight sites. These taps are broken most of the time.

WAITING IN HOPE: Unemployed, lost and hungry, this nomad waits for a passing farmer to give him work.

Dr Redelinguys said cases were recorded where the nomads used water from pools along the roadside as drinking water.

Asked why they had become nomads, one replied:

"I can't understand. As farm labourers we have helped to make the country rich, but now the whites are rejecting us."

Most married

Another said: "I am tired of this existence. My children and I may as well die. My husband prefers going to jail than to struggle to feed us."

Another said: "The farmer said I am too old and had to leave."

Forty-eight percent of the couples were married and 31 percent were living together, while 43 percent of the heads of families were old-age pensioners.

Dr Redelinguys wrote that the absence of adequate housing prevented the wandering labourers from settling into settled communities.

They want to be close to hospitals, towns which offer employment, post offices where they can collect their pensions, and schools.

© "People migrating to nowhere - a study of nomadic workers in the Karoo" by Dr Aubrey Redelinguys of the Institute for Social Development, University of the Western Cape, was completed earlier this year.
By AUDREY D'ANGELO
Financial Editor

THE multi-million rand deciduous fruit industry is one of the biggest employers — and earners of foreign currency — in the Western Cape.

But the European organizations and retailers who handled 500 000 tons of fresh fruit from SA last year earned more than twice as much from doing so as the growers and others in this country.

This was among facts given to the Confederation of Importers and Marketing Organizations (CIMO) in Europe by the SA ambassador to the European Economic Community (EEC), Bhadra Ranchod, at their annual conference in Brussels.

He was speaking against a background of pressure for protectionist measures against agricultural imports and the continuing threat of sanctions.

Ranchod said that a total of European Ecu 560m was earned by European organizations and retailers by handling SA fresh fruit exports last year, compared with Ecu 240m earned by growers and others in SA.

"If we take the average retail price of a case of Cape grapes in Europe and break that down to the final payment to the grower in SA, then these figures indicate that Europe retains two-thirds of the gross income and the exporting country receives one-third.

"Given these conditions, it is difficult to understand why certain bureaucrats are calling for increased protectionism or restrictions against Southern Hemisphere imports."

Ranchod said the European market was becoming increasingly competitive.

But fresh fruit production in SA would continue to grow, employing better techniques, better varieties and improved handling procedures to make it more competitive.

Pear production would reach a volume of nearly 300 000 tonnes by 1995 compared with the present 160 000 tons a year.

Table grape production was expected to reach about 175 000 tons in 1995 compared with the present 100 000 tons and total production of stone fruit would grow steadily to reach 300 000 tons in the same period.

Stressing the need to export this fruit to such as Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Mozambique and East Africa.

Today it is part of SA's largest banking and financial services group, Standard Bank Investment Corporation (Stanbic).

With assets of more than R19 000m, the group employs 23 000 people and provides its services through over 900 outlets countrywide. — Sapa
SAAU welcomes diesel-for-farms relief

PRETORIA — The SA Agricultural Union has welcomed government’s announcement that diesel fuel will be sold at net prices for agricultural production and transport from November 1.

SAAU president Kobus Jooste said, "Pretoria yesterday the union wished to thank the authorities, agricultural cooperatives and petrol companies, who had worked "with great commitment and speed to replace a system, which had become costly and troublesome, with a more acceptable one"." — Sapa.
arm workers flee beatings

By VUYO BAVUMA

Six farm labourers claim they fled a Mooreseburg pig farm after being assaulted by the farmer.

The workers, all from the Transkei, were part of a group of 29 who fled the farm on September 23, two months after they were recruited.

The owner of the farm, Mr. SC Kotze, approached for comment this week, denied that he had ill-treated or "starved" some of his workers.

"There are more than 100 happy workers on my farm. There are only a few dissatisfied men. If I assaulted them, why didn't they report the matter to the police?" he said.

"These workers come from the Transkei without clothes, not even a shapron, but they expect to get everything free," he said.

The workers, who do not belong to a union, said matters came to a head when Kotze refused to pay them.

Interviewed in Paarl, where they live with relatives, the workers spoke of their "ordeals" on the farm.

They complained of hunger and poor living conditions. Some said the workload was excessive.

One of the workers, William Gusi, 21, said: "We were brought by truck from our homes and promised R130 a month, but the employer never paid us anything."

"We worked daily for more than 14 hours, starting at 4am. Even when it rained we worked without raincoats. There was no fixed time to go home." 

Food rations

"We received food rations twice a week. On Monday the employer gave us millet meal and a cup of milk, often mixed with water. On Fridays we were given three pieces of bread," he said.

"At the end of the our first month Kotze refused to pay us saying he would deduct money for our overalls and boots. Instead he loaned us R10," Gusi said.

Gusi said on September 23 Kotze again refused to pay them.

"He said he was deducting money for transporting us to the Western Cape."

"We then decided to leave the farm. We were so desperate to get out that we left our belongings behind," Gusi said.

Another labourer, Tamba Dinamo, claimed he was assaulted with a stick.

"The farmer used to beat us whenever we asked for food. He said we were there to work, not to eat."

"We used to go hungry because our food rations were not enough to see us through the week," he said.

According to the workers, a Mr. Peter Memani returned to the Transkei after being treated at hospital for head wounds.

They said two "indunas" ensured that the affairs of the farm "run smoothly".

"They were treated far better than the rest of the workers. They earned R350 a month and were not subjected to maltreatment," Mxolisi Msebeni said.

Kotze said he could not understand why the men were complaining.

"I fetched the workers from Transkei with my bakkie and I charged them R10 each. At the farm I gave them gumboots and overalls for which they had to pay R25."

Contract

"I was going to refund them when their contract expired at the end of the year."

"During the month, the workers bought groceries from the farm shop and at the end of the month I deducted money," he said.

Kotze denied that the workers were promised R130 a month.

"As far as I know, I promised them R80 a month. We only made a verbal contract, nothing was signed."

"I also gave them two kilogrammes of millet meal, a litre of milk and meat every day," he said.
Sea search for Plain fisherman called off

THE search for a Mitchell's Plain fisherman who disappeared after an inflatable boat capsized off Cape St Francis has been called off.

Mr Cecil Bernard Soudom of Beacon Valley, Mitchell's Plain, and a colleague, Mr David Moses of Eastridge, Mitchell's Plain, were manning the boat yesterday near I & J's long-line fishing vessel Pioneer when its crane broke down.

Mr Soudom's duty was to pick up large crabs that fell into the water while 10m of baited line was being hauled on board the Pioneer.

The sea was rough and the boat capsized.

After Pioneer 1's crew pulled Mr Moses back on board, the vessel, they lost hold of Mr Soudom and he fell back into the water.

"They saw him disappear beneath the water. His lifejacket and a buoy were found later," said Mr Whitehead.

"The water is quite cold out there, and a man could not live in it for longer than five hours.

"There will be a full inquiry when the Pioneer 1 returns to Cape Town tomorrow"
FARM WORKERS

Rights deferred

Organised agriculture has removed from public gaze its agonising over farm workers' rights. Behind the scenes is tension between the Conservative Party and National Party, who are openly contesting a "hearts and minds" struggle for the farming vote.

The SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) general council won authority from farmers at last year's congress to inquire into and implement sweeping changes to farm labour practice.

no longer be delayed." This year's congress — held in Durban last week — was scheduled to provide the forum at which the council's action would be tabled and debated.

But the proposals remained under wraps subject to continued discussion with SAAU affiliates and, according to a senior SAAU official, government pressure on farmers to reach agreement has mysteriously eased.

At issue, say council officials, is whether to accept the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, with a clause similar to Section 51 (a) of the Labour Relations Act written into it. Such a clause, they argue, would allow any sector, including farming, to adapt regulations covering working hours to suit special circumstances and seasonal demands.

Thus dairy farmers, for instance, would have to decide whether it is acceptable to expect workers to report for four hours' duty around sunrise, and another four at sunset. Officials readily accept that since farm workers enjoy no formal representation, and farmers are set against negotiating with trade unions, establishing accord with workers on such issues is "a difficult question."

SAAU affiliates are nonetheless charged to report back to council by the end of January. Barring a political impasse between now and then, the SAAU may soon thereafter announce it accepts that the provisions of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, with modifications to maximum working hours, are acceptable to farmers.

Whether this will be acceptable to farm workers is, of course, impossible to say since they have no official voice. While farmers wish to see this situation maintained, organ-
FARMERS DON'T WANT RSCS

PRETORIA — Organised agriculture is to ask government to exempt farmers from regional services council (RSC) levy payments until they have an acceptable representation on the councils.

And they decided at last week's Transvaal Agricultural Union's general council they want the issue treated with "the greatest urgency". Farmers attitude towards the RSCs was "no representation no taxation". They were also angry they were excluded from the original discussions which formed the background to the establishment of the RSC system.

Farmers said they would get no benefit from the levies and that until they were shown there were benefits "they want out".
"Govt scheme could fail"

Only a trickle of farmer aid applications

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Applications from cash-strapped farmers for assistance from government’s R400m aid scheme were only trickling in, the Agriculture Department’s financial assistance division said.

The SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) has slammed the scheme, which it claims is teetering on the edge of failure because too little of the R400m — about R7m — has been allocated to farmers in the past six months.

The department is studying proposals made by the SAAU to make a success of the scheme.

SAAU president Kobus Jooste has warned that unless the proposals are accepted it will have to be admitted the aid scheme has failed.

A spokesman for the department’s financial assistance division said major reasons for the apparent reluctance of farmers to apply for aid was that financial institutions seemed to have “heard” Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentsel’s appeal not to take a hard line on debt-ridden farmers.

He said another reason was the good rains, which promised at least average summer crops. This had probably re-opened some production/credit channels.
Re-examine Land Acts: DBSA official

A SENIOR Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) official has called for SA’s Land Acts to be re-examined as they hampered the growth of “emerging” black farmers.

DBSA divisional manager of agricultural development Johan van Rooyen said that on economic grounds alone, inappropriate legislation jeopardised optimal land usage and undermined private enterprise initiatives.

“Regardless of the political sensitivity of the issue, one must look at the economic implications of black farmers being denied access to agricultural resources. Land issues will receive increasing attention in the future, and should be placed on the agenda,” he said.

Van Rooyen was interviewed by Business Day after he delivered a speech at the Techno-Economic Society of SA in Johannesburg recently.

Van Rooyen said farmers in developing areas experienced many constraints which acted as disincentives for increased production. He said black farmers were faced with limited availability of credit, poor infrastructural support — such as roads and electricity — lack of skills, education and inappropriate policies and legislation.

To allow emerging black farmers to compete effectively in the market place, Van Rooyen said that the present distribution of land must be looked at within a sound economic framework attending to efficiency and equity criteria, and not solely in terms of its political considerations.
Workers flee farm assaults

By VUYO BAVUMA

THREE farm labourers fled from a Malmesbury farm this week after allegedly being ill-treated.

The labourers, recruited from Elliot near Transkei, left the farm on Sunday three days after their employer refused to give them money. According to the workers, they did not sign contracts.

Three weeks ago, SOUTH reported that six Transkei farm labourers from the same farm fled after alleged beatings. They also claimed they had worked for two months without pay.

This week the three workers said they worked from 4 am to 7 pm.

Melikhaya Qubela, 19, who left school in Sub B in 1979, described how he was recruited.

"He said he had been pleased to get the job. "I was glad when given the job. I thought I would be able to assist my parents who are pensioners. But that was not the case."

"I met the farmer's foreman in the Eastern Cape. He asked us whether we were interested in working at a farm in the Western Cape. He said we would each earn R190 a month and promised us food and accommodation.

"About 27 of us agreed. We did not sign any papers but our pass documents were taken by the foreman."

"At about noon, we boarded a truck to Malmesbury. At night it was cold in the back of the truck. After travelling for about eight hours, we reached Malmesbury and the foreman gave each of us half a loaf of bread and a pint of milk," he said.

Qubela said at the farm they were told they would clean pigsties.

"The farm owner gave us overalls and gumboots. We were disappointed when the foreman said we would be paid R90 a month," he said.

Another labourer, Nuntu Nobangela, 20, claimed the workers were sometimes assaulted.

"We asked the farmer to send us home but he refused saying he would deduct money for fares from Elliot."
SA labour dispute has ripple effect

By DICK USHER, Labour Reporter

An international union federation has started a worldwide boycott of a Spanish fishing company's products because a South African firm has not reinstated about 180 workers dismissed this year.

The boycott has been called by the International Union of Foodworkers (IUF) against Pescanova, 50 percent owners of Sea Harvest at Saldanha.

Sea Harvest was called on to reinstate about 180 members of the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu), affiliated to the IUF, who were dismissed in September after they stopped work in solidarity with about 300 workers who had been dismissed three weeks earlier during a wage dispute with the company.

Fawu claims the company's actions before and after the dispute showed it was intent on destroying the union or weakening it so that it ceased to be an effective presence at Sea Harvest.

Fawu said the company was "putting up a puppet committee" to replace it.

"POLITICAL ASPECTS"

Mr H E Kramer, managing director of Sea Harvest, said there was no suggestion of "union-busting".

"The fact that we continue negotiations with Fawu in spite of some questionable tactics and a lot of abuse proves otherwise," he said.

"It is our impression that the heavy accent which Fawu increasingly places on political aspects of its activities does not find favour with a large part of the workers living in Saldanha and surrounding communities.

"This has unfortunately led to a measure of polarisation and Fawu has lost support in some quarters."

IUF general secretary Mr Dan Gallin today confirmed that the boycott had started.
Agriculture must rethink labour policy

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The agricultural industry would have to take a fresh look at its fast changing labour relations, Manpower director-general Piet van der Merwe said yesterday.

He said farmers would have to look more closely at the aspirations of their workers.

They had to be made aware of modern methods of handling labour relations.

He said also that trade unions would become more involved in agricultural labour.

The new labour dispensation aimed at institutionalising and deradicalising labour conflict by collective bargaining and work security.

Referring to international labour organisations' "orchestration" of actions against SA, Van der Merwe said the attack of the anti-apartheid committee of the ILO had changed to socio-political rhetoric.

The ILO conference recommended action by governments such as punitive economic measures, severing of all ties, the breaking of trade and commercial links and the prohibition of public investment, as well as the export of technology.

Actions by trade union federations worldwide to exert pressure on their governments to introduce mandatory punitive economic measures was another recommendation.
Politics adds to far north troubles

help farmers, who say much of the water will simply run off the rock-hard soil.

The devastating effect the drought has had on farmers, the backbone of the plateau's economy, is obvious. Year after year they have watched their resources dwindle, their debts mount, yet with each new season comes hope.

Anxiety and despair are rapidly mounting as the implications and many farmers have been forced into bankruptcy while others have been forced into debt. In the past six months alone, 300 NTC members were appointed. A further 100 will probably be declared bankrupt soon, said Mr Van Scharbeck.

Farmers over the NTC R10 million, of which about 75 per cent is on a direct result of the drought. Mr Van Scharbeck said the other 25 per cent was probably indirectly caused by it.

Depopulation of the region causes serious concerns as it is becoming increasingly difficult for

Where driving to school is a nightmare

Getting her three children to school in the small town of Tibo in the far north's Transvaal is a nightmare for farmer's wife, Mrs Jenny Pretorius.

Every Monday morning she travels 18 km to Tibo to take her children to their boarding school. At 8 am she is the first person to travel the dusty border road from their farm, Danger, on the banks of the Langevo - and the danger of a breakdown is an ever-present threat.

The army demonstrated the village's vulnerability and ammunition discovery recently. It was a message to get the family in line.

"My fear is not for myself. I have lived a third of my life, but my children have their whole future ahead of them," said Mr Pretorius.

The army demonstrated the villagers' vulnerability and ammunition discovery recently. It was a message to get the family in line.

"My fear is not for myself. I have lived a third of my life, but my children have their whole future ahead of them," said Mr Pretorius. Children in the area have been exposed to army training for some years. The Pretorius family plans to stay on and fight for the survival of their 56 ha farm.

They are eligible for subsidies on reinforced landmine- proofed vehicles.

"But where do we find the money to pay for the subsidies? We can't even pay for our farming equipment," said Mr Pretorius.
Farmers' union denies backing CP in attack on Govt aid scheme

Pretoria Correspondent

The Transvaal Agricultural Union has denied it agreed with the Conservative Party that the Government's R400 million aid scheme for farmers was a failure.

A group of CP members, including party spokesman for agriculture, Dr Ferdi Hartzenberg, recently met the Executive Council of the TAU to discuss agriculture.

Dr Hartzenberg has, in an article in Die Patriot — the CP's mouthpiece — said the scheme was a "tremendous failure."

The article claimed that Dr Hartzenberg said the TAU and the CP were unanimous that the scheme had not worked.

According to Dr Hartzenberg, only 32 applications by farmers have been acknowledged by the Agricultural Credit Board, which represented a mere R13 million since July this year.

The CP's attack on the scheme follows the provisional liquidation of one of its MPs and former farmers in the Schweizer-Reneke district, Mr Kobus Beyers, who owes a co-operative R5.8 million.

A spokesman for the TAU said on Monday that the organisation had never said the scheme had failed but had made proposals to the Government to improve the scheme.
Life below breadline -- claims UWC study

Weekend Argus Reporter

NEARLY 90 percent of farmworkers in the Grabouw area earn less than a subsistence wage, according to a study by the University of the Western Cape.

The university's Institute for Social Development studied the municipal coloured township of Pinewiew in Grabouw and 43 farms in the surrounding districts of Elgin, Vyeboom and Grabouw.

"Local agricultural economists found this farming area was probably the most profitable in the whole country during 1968. The average net yield a hectare in 1996 was R12 000," said the report.

It showed 89 percent of household heads in the study area received less than R50 a month in cash. Five percent earned between R40 and R100 a month.

If the value of free housing, water, electricity and other in natura benefits was included, calculated at R100 a month, 84 percent of the householders were earning below the minimum subsistence level.

Average income was R219 a month, which "must still be seen as totally inadequate to support an average farmworker's family of seven," said the report.

However, only a few farm workers (eight percent) indicated that they received food rations on a regular basis. Most respondents (32 percent) did not receive in natura remuneration (apart from housing).

About 40 percent of farmworkers covered basic household expenses on their present pay, but almost three-quarters were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their wages.

About 55 percent could not make ends meet on their cash wages.

Most workers were paid for overtime (81 percent) but "some of the respondents pointed out that their normal work day was so long that they worked overtime every day".

The average working day was about 11 hours in summer and 9½ in winter.

In the urban area of Pinewiew the monthly income of 44 percent of household heads was between R201 and R450. Nearly 35 percent earned between R41 and R60.

Seven percent earned less than R200 and six percent more than R1 000.

About 48 percent earned below the minimum subsistence level, but with the incomes of other household members this fell to 16 percent.

Farmers angered by cutting report

by ADA STIJLT

Weekend Argus Reporter

FARMERS in Elgin and Grabouw have reacted with anger and indignation at a university researcher's finding that 84 percent of farm labourers in the area were paid less than the minimum subsistence level.

Mr Derrick Cunningham, chairman of the 240-member Greenland Farmers' Union in Grabouw, attacked the survey as "one-sided".

He said it had been carried out among a relatively small sampling.

Many farmers were irate at the researcher's report that some labourers earned as little as R40 a month.

"This must be a comment by a disgruntled labourer, as none of our farm workers are paid less than R30 a week in cash, even to the most unskilled, inexperienced labourer," said Mr Cunningham.

Mr Daniel Beukes, chairman of the Pinewiew 20 Study Group for young farmers, said: "We don't deny that problems exist and that workers' housing needs upgrading. All of us are working hard towards this goal. But it isn't right to break down all our other considerable efforts this way."

Mr Beukes said he paid a weekly R35 to R45 in cash for labourers -- depending on whether they were seasonal workers or full-time employees.

"I also try to keep the women employed throughout the year. A family could bring in about R700 cash weekly at any time. If the wife was a fast packer she could earn extra weekly bonuses of up to another R70 in cash," he said. "During the packing season a family's weekly combined income could be as much as R140 in cash."

Farmers debated the report during a special meeting on Wednesday night at the local co-operative, where it aroused a great deal of anger.

The report said monthly "in kind" payments to labourers amounted to about R100, but farmers Mr Daniel Joubert and Mr Christopher Watermeyer said this figure was far below what they contributed.

"Extra costs to care for each family are on average from R200 to R350 a month, including housing, medical costs, transport, pension funds, electricity and water," said Mr Joubert.

"And these costs are still going up, especially since everyone has launched a concerted campaign to upgrade labourers' housing. Each new home, with all the mod cons, costs at least R35 000," he said.
Oom Gert Beker's face is round and wrinkled as a sun-baked raisin, testifying to the harsh Namakaland sun under which he has farmed for more than 40 years. His life has been a series of trials, a nomadic cycle followed by the hundreds of small livestock farmers in Namakaland in search of pastures. Every June, he would sow the vegetable plot on his land, and his family had sown for generations, high in the Karlbek who, and then for some 15 years to graze his sheep and goats on veld surrounded by water rivers. Come September, and the spring rains which swell the veld to aWS, for which the region is famous, he would return to harvest his crops and replant for summer, when he would also harvest his crops and replant for winter.

The land belonged to someone. Grazing was common, and the right to farm certain wheatlands and vegetable plots traditionally passed from father to son, during dicing months everyone grazed their animals there. When Oom Gert received a letter from the local filer, the Liebenfomien Management Board, ordering him to destroy buildings he'd erected on his garden plot and honing him from his future use, he was astonish anyone would deprive him of rights he'd enjoyed since 1948. Because he hadn't affor foot in the heigh, he ignored the letter and planted his vegetables as usual.

On returning home from his winter grazing, he found his vegetable plot fell within a fenced-off area being farmed by one Nico Swart. His harvest was gone; eaten and trampled by Swart's sheep and goats. When he walked his land, he was told he had no right to be there. He turned to the Liebenfomien Management Board. "Our attitude was completely sympathetic," he informed the entire camp in which my garden plot lay had been awarded to Swart. For his exclusive use and that neither I nor any member of the Liebenfomien community had the right to enter.

Beker's story is told in papers filed in the Cape Town Supreme Court, to which Liebenfomien residents took to San Francisco in 1985 to the Liebenfomien reserve to 41 "economic farming units," 30 of which - covering almost 500,000 hectares - have been leased to "approved" individuals and partnerships, with an option to buy.

Oom Gert could hardly believe the letter, telling him to destroy the buildings on the land he'd farmed for 57 years. But one day when he came home, there was a fence across his land and his harvest had been destroyed. GAYE DAVIS reports on the people of Liebenfomien, who lost the land they were given in 1948.

The effect of this is that the majority of Liebenfomien's estimated 5,000 residents have been alienated - without compensation - from a decent living on traditional sowing lands. An estimated 800 people must graze their stock on the remaining 17 units - about 60,000 hectares.

Beker alleges the "approved" farmers include "strangers to the area" as well as Liebenfomien Management Board members, their relatives and people already earning steady incomes as teachers, state officials, shop-owners and building contractors. Pressure on the 17 units has led to severe over-grazing - ironically, as the new system's stated intention was to halt the destruction of the veld. Animals are dying of starvation, reducing residents' stocks, in many cases their only source of income.

Residents now want to know from cabinet minister David Court, whose Department of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture to the House of Representatives controls the area, why the division of their communal land into "economic farming units," and its lease to individuals, farmers, should not be revoked or set aside.

"If the majority of Liebenfomien residents have been deprived of our income and right to live, what's been the real purpose of the whole exercise?" he asks. In the Fibelle, rights were confirmed for the issue of "letters of recognition" to exist occupants of a permanent dwelling and sowing lands. "As far as I know, it was never, until recently, the practice of the board to deprive families of their rights to certain lands and give them to others."

Beker and fellow residents maintain that in consideration of the existing legislation, the 1970 Land Coloured Areas Act, they were not properly informed before the decision was taken to deprive them of their rights to Liebenfomien land. "No proper investigation into who held rights of occupation was carried out and if it had been, their rights would have been confirmed; "The Act has been contravened in that land has not been allocated to bona fide farmers; "Compensation has been awarded;" They believe that if it was the board's intention to drive white communities from the land, it would have been a huge step forward."

An answering affidavit by the former chief d1 of the coloured rural area, PA Oliver, states that residents were unlawfully and the Act was contravened.

He cites a series of meetings held over the years - usually at residents' requests - to clarify the situation. He denies the effect of the system will be to drive people from the land, saying it was intended to raise a decent living for the largest possible section of the community."

Asked during a 1984 meeting of coloured residents what would happen if the majority of residents opposed the new scheme, he is quoted, in minutes attached to his affidavit, as saying: "It is democratic to take the side of majority but that of the minority must also be looked at."

Youngsters queue for food from three legged pots at a temporary encampment of the past: Tant Lena Kock and Tant Lena Cardinal in their home. The
The solution: Festivals and donkey-cart rides

A COMMITTEE of inquiry, recommending the 150-year-old communal system of land ownership at Leitlofontein be replaced with individual rights to land, has suggested the introduction of festivals and donkey-cart trips to stimulate economic activity in the region.

The four-person committee was appointed last year by David Curry, minister of local government, housing and agriculture in the province of Orange Free State, in a bid to devise widespread anger among the rural area's estimated 1,000 "coloured" residents over the system of "economic farming units".

Gerry agreed to oppose the committee after Leitlofontein residents launched a Supreme Court application to have set aside the new system, which denies them access to their traditional farmland. He also paid part of the legal costs.

The committee, which visited the area in March, was never made public. However, residents have launched legal proceedings, and the report forms part of applying affidavit filed.

Chairman of the committee is Imsa Professor Drake, of the University of the Orange Free State, who was accompanied by others such as "scientists" from "scientifically uncontrolled" laboratories.

The report recommends the land be returned to the people, who must "know the division of land into different" and "invaluable right of all those residents who are concerned about the development of the area" and that nothing, including legal action, should be allowed to upset this.

A serious hindrance to development, says the report, is "the fear" of people "for the development" and "inability to distance themselves from their traditional lifestyle" in favour of "a competitive capitalist economy which they see as being too high a price and beyond their capabilities".

Other obstacles, says the report, include the tension caused by the "large gap in perception" between the "progressive group" which wants the area's development and a "traditionalist element" which opposes the new system.

The report does not close the size of the "progressive group" but states it is not "the newly established Leitlofontein Farmers Association" which has 4,000 members, or the majority of the new-privatised land. According to the committee's own statistics, there are at least 320 "neighbours" in the area.

Smith headed the committee which allocated farms. He desires that leases have no links with the area: "The fact is that any person in the Leitlofontein area with initiative and who wants to get somewhere in life must have an income from a source other than the land."

A report on the "economic farming units" controversy at Leitlofontein draws sharp criticism for "scarcity" and "lack of scientific substance".

A committee of inquiry, recommending the 150-year-old communal system of land ownership at Leitlofontein be replaced with individual rights to land, has suggested the introduction of festivals and donkey-cart trips to stimulate economic activity in the region.
PRETORIA — Agriculture and Water Supply deputy minister A I van Niekerk, yesterday announced amendments to emergency assistance schemes for stock farmers.

The are to come into effect on January 1, 1988.

The amendments are aimed at offering participants better financial benefits.

Measures to protect the veld against destruction were also extended and consolidated.

Participants are to receive “a realistic cash remuneration” for animals withdrawn from the veld. The incentive is related to the carrying capacity of the farm and the current net farming income from livestock.

“This will amount to R10 per large stock unit per month for sheep and goats, and R6 per large stock unit per month for cattle,” van Niekerk said.

To qualify for the scheme, participants must reduce their animal number by a third of the carrying capacity of the farm.

They may also voluntarily reduce livestock until only a third of the carrying capacity of the farm unit remains as a nucleus breeding herd or flock.

“This system benefits the conservation farmer who already farms with a reduced number of animals and protects the natural resources against exploitation,” van Niekerk said.

Full particulars of the scheme are contained in circulars obtainable from the Directorate of Financial Assistance.

The long-term solution for structural problems such as unviable units and other socio-economic problems are now being investigated, van Niekerk said.

— Sapa.
Farm worker electrocuted

Staff Reporter

A BANHOEK farm worker who was investigating the cause of a veld fire died instantly yesterday morning when he touched a live electric wire.

A powerline which had been brought down during high winds on the farm Zeven Rivieren apparently set fire to a number of pinetrees. Mrs P G van Breda, of Zeven Rivieren, said yesterday.

Mr Tommy Lutuli, aged about 60, and another worker were walking near a tree when Mr Lutuli jerked and collapsed.
The menace hidden in the forest winds

FORESTRY workers in South Africa are apparently unaware of the dangers to their health posed by the widespread use of Agent Orange-type defoliants as weed killers in the plantations.

Like all agricultural workers, the men and women who work in the forests are not covered by the country's laws governing minimum wages, hours of work and collective bargaining.

For them the result is a daily regime of hard labour that leaves little time for enquity into the dangers of the herbicides they are exposed to.

Richmond is a small sawmill town in the Natal Midlands surrounded by sugar farms, tea estates and forests.

From the cluster of rundown shops in the centre of town that make their money from the thousands of farmworkers and sawmill operators in the area, a network of muddy-red roads radiate into the green hills, where, according to the environmental group Chemwatch, the herbicide 245-T is still extensively used.

A row of black and white brick buildings stand at the end of one of these roads. That's where Phumulile (whose surname has been withheld to protect her) lives and works with 500 other labourers on the Saligna Forestry Estate.

She told us about a day in their working lives.

She wakes very morning at four before the sun rises from behind the trees and prepares food with the three women who share her room in the compound. They eat quickly, tidy the room and rush to the tractor and trailer waiting to take them into the forest.

At 6am they reach the spot where work begins, Phumulile works in a gang of 10. Together they must cut and clean 250 trees in order to qualify for wages of between R5 and R8 a shift.

If they fail, they must return the next day and finish the quota before the next shift begins.

Phumulile says it sometimes takes them three days to complete a single shift. They call it itoko, the piece-work system.

From 9am to 10am the workers break for lunch — mielie meal mixed alternately with fish or beans. Once a week they get meat. For this, R1.60 a day is deducted from their wages.

Work resumes at until 3pm, the official end of the shift, though they sometimes continue until after 5pm to finish their quota.

Asked if they felt it was dangerous to work in the forest, workers in the Mask worn during spraying gang said the pressure of working under itoko made it impossible to spend time safeguarding against accidents.

Phumulile spoke of a colleague, Bhekizitha Sibhohle, who died earlier this year after a wet log slipped off a pile of wood and hit him on the chest. He was 24 when he died and had two children.

Earlier this year, a woman worker spent a month in hospital after being injured by a falling tree. The workers said the employer and the chainsaw operator were fined R20 for "negligence".

Asked for comment, Mike Edwards, spokesman for the Forest Owners Association, confirmed that piece-work wages of R5 to R8 a shift were standard practice in the forests.

But Ron Meyer, administrative manager for the Saligna estate, denied that workers were fined for accidents at work and said they were fully covered by the Workmen's Compensation Act.

He added that the use of 245-T had been abandoned last year. An alternative product was now in use and workers were fully trained in the use of poisonous herbicides, he said.

However, a colleague of Phumulile's, who asked not to be named, said her job was to spray the trees with a herbicide from a 20-litre drum strapped to her back.

After being shown a bottle of 245-T, she said the forest had used the poison earlier this year. She has been issued with a mask, raincoat and gloves to guard against the herbicides. But colleagues who work nearby are left fully exposed to the spray from the herbicides she uses. They have never been told of the dangers of any of the poisons.

Nor have they enquired — for them these dangers remain hidden in the wind and their cause for anger is the harsh reality of the itoko system.
Wentzel paints grim picture of farm distress

AGRICULTURE Minister Greylng Wentzel yesterday painted a grim picture of distress in the farming industry.

However, he said he believed the downward trend had been checked during 1987, and the new year might see upward movement in most sectors of the industry.

Five or six years of successive drought had resulted in poor crops and crop failures, drastic deterioration of natural grazing, and a decline in animal production — resulting in the extermination of some herds and flocks.

This was followed by unavoidable increasing financial pressure and emergencies for the farming community, he said.

More farming enterprises had ceased to function and there was further depopulation of large areas.

Plans for the restructuring of the industry, necessitated by the series of disastrous droughts and by the industry's own errors and shortcomings, had been launched, Wentzel said.

Agriculture still had to wrestle with a multitude of problems.

A survey released yesterday by the Agricultural Economic Trends Directorate indicates that agriculture's massive debt could exceed R14bn by the end of the year.

The survey says total debt in farming at the end of last year soared to R12,446bn, compared with R1,402bn in 1970.

Reasons for the rapid escalation of debt since 1981 included inflation, over-optimism of farmers, high interest rates and the prolonged drought.

Farmers' interest payments increased from R131m in 1976 to R1,715m last year. The survey shows, too, the huge increase in Land Bank credit — from R268m in 1976 to R2,648m at the end of last year.
DAILY DISPATCH, MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1987 —

**Union concerned over number of unoccupied farms**

Mr Peit W. Swart, said at the weekend.

Mr Swart has just returned from the "designated" area of the north and north-western Transvaal where drought and other problems have caused havoc.

He said there was an urgent need to find solutions to the problems. It was in the national interest that border farms should be occupied.

It was urgent, too, that compulsory occupation be enforced in terms of the relevant legislation, he said.

He stressed that the more unoccupied farms there were the higher the unemployment rate would be among blacks.

In one irrigation area about 1 200 of the black labour force of 1 600 were out of work, said.

Mr Swart added that the number of cattle herds on many farms had been drastically reduced because of lack of grazing.

The rebuilding of the herds would take several years, creating financial bridging problems, he said.

Mr Swart also criticised delays in granting aid. There were no obvious and simple solution to this, he said.
More N Transvaal farmers leaving the land

MORE and more Northern Transvaal farmers are being forced off the land to find a livelihood elsewhere. SA Agricultural Union Director, Piet W. Swart, said at the weekend.

He has just returned from the "designated" area of the North and North Western Transvaal where drought and other problems have caused havoc.

Swart said there was an urgent need to find solutions to the problems among other reasons because it was in the national interest that border farms should be occupied.

It was urgent, too, that compulsory occupation be enforced in terms of the relevant legislation.

He stressed that the more unoccupied farms there were, the more unemployment among blacks developed.

In one irrigation area about 200 of the normal black labour force of 1,600 were out of work.

Swart warned that cattle herds on many farms had been drastically reduced because of lack of grazing.

The rebuilding of the herds would take several years.

This created financial bridging problems.

Swart also criticised delays in granting aid.

He added there were no obvious and simple solutions.

Some time or other, however, the accumulated debt of deserving farmers would have to be brought into line again with the long term repayment ability of their farming units.
Worker tied to tree dies after fist, sjambok assault

THE DEATH
FARM
PEACE

BY MATHATHA TSEDU

A 35-YEAR-OLD labourer died in the Northern Transvaal after being tied to a tree and assaulted for two days for riding over and killing two dogs belonging to his white employer.

A Pretoria police spokesman yesterday confirmed that Mr Eric Sambho of Vuwane, Venda, died of assaults at a farm on December 12.

No one has been arrested, he said.

Sources in the area said Mr Sambho was employed as a tractor driver on the farm in the Lebovubu area about 10 km east of Louis Trichardt.

"On Friday morning he had parked the tractor and rested for lunch. When he went back he started the tractor to resume work and he rode over the two dogs that had been killed on the farm. When he realized this he went to the farmer to report the matter.

"He even offered to pay for the two dogs with part of his wages but we understood that the farmer refused the compensation and told him to run away as their son was very cruel and would not be responsible," the sources said.

Case

"Mr Sambho did not run away and when the employer saw him coming back, the source continued, he tied Mr Sambho to a tree and brutally assaulted him with a sjambok and fists until late into the night.

"He slept in the open yard to the tree. The assault continued again the following day until Mr Sambho died," the source said.

Lt. C. Vosse said he could not confirm all three allegations. "All I can say is that the black man died of assault and a murder case is being investigated. No one has been arrested. Yes, it is said he was tied to a tree but I cannot confirm that I don't know the name of the farm and I cannot give you the name of the white man involved," he added in response to questions from the Sowetan.

It could not be established yesterday when Mr Sambho was to be buried.

THE Editor and Staff of the Sowetan wish you all a peaceful Christmas.
THESE children were left stranded after working without pay.

Stranded, Abused.

By Monk Nomura

64 Left

Destitute

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SOESEA, Thursday, December 24, 194...
Sequel to killing

TWO white farmers and four black men appeared in the Louis Trichard Magistrate's Court on December 15 in connection with the killing of farm labourer, Mr Eric Sambo.

A spokesman from the police division of public relations in Pretoria confirmed the six, from Lechubu near Pietersburg, were arrested on December 14 and appeared in court the next day.

The whites were released on their own recognisances.

The blacks were each granted R200 bail.

The men, who were not asked to plead, appear again on January 8.

They are: Mr Jacobus Vorster (41), Mr Piet Lemert (20), Mr Wilson Osa (53), Mr Samuel Nosakhavhimi (28), Mr Petrus Noelshoeha (52) and Mr Wilson Mudanelewa (30).

The badly hurt Mr Sambo (35) was found on December 13. He died later. — Sapa.
Tourists to locals, cautious warning: Swimming in seas 3 die in heavy seas

3 die in heavy seas

The Family... Gay of My Adorable Grandchildren

ABANDONED COTTAGE, 18

ADJACENT ACRE, 15

AND CLEAR HAREM

By Ken Elation, Chris Pangram

ON 12/21/87
NO DECISION ON FARMER

Lebowa waits for Minister

THE Lebowa Government is still to decide on what action to take against a Western Transvaal farmer who dismissed 64 youths last week without pay after they had worked on his tomato farm for almost a month.

The youths, aged between 12 and 19 years were recruited to the farm near Hartbeespoort Dam by the farmer on December 3. The children, who came from Lebowa and Gazankulu were brought to the farm in a truck.

They were chased away by the farmer last Tuesday night. The youths told the Sowetan that they were not paid and that the farmer had threatened to assault them.

They were found destitute near Brix and they were fetched by the Atteridgeville municipal police who, together with local social workers, gave them shelter and food. They were later fetched by officials of the Lebowa Government who transported them home.

Mr J M Phoshoko, Lebowa's urban representative in Pretoria yesterday said they had completed taking statements from the 64 youths. "We are now waiting to present all the facts to the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr L G Mathole who is presently on holiday," Mr Phoshoko said.
AGRICULTURE - LABOUR

JAN - DEC

Farm workers organised

By GEORGE HILL

THE unionising of unorganised workers in the Western Cape took a historic step when the first trade union meeting of farmworkers was held at Grabouw at the weekend.

The meeting was held under the auspices of the Farmworkers Project of the Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu).

About 100 people, from about eight farms in the Grabouw and Elgin areas, attended the meeting.

Veteran trade unionist and Fawu’s national organiser in the fruit and vegetable sector, Ms Lizzie Phike, told the meeting farmworkers were tired of being “the downtrodden”.

“The working and living conditions of farmworkers are similar to those of prisoners in jail. The union will give you the chance to break free and fight for your rights.”

“Farmworkers haven’t the protection of the law, but it’s their right to bargain their labour as any other worker. They have the right to a living wage, better working hours, leave, holidays and medical benefits.”

“But this can only be accomplished if the farmworkers are prepared to unite,” she said.

Phike said farmworkers were treated like slaves, but slavery was “a thing of the past”.

“You are the people who make the bosses rich. They cannot work without you. The houses that they provide are not yours, because you can lose them for angering your bosses with minor infringements,” she told the workers.

After the meeting, Phike said the organising of farmworkers was of “critical” importance to the progressive labour movement in South Africa.

“The successful unionisation of farmworkers will bring us so much closer to the realisation of a free South Africa.”

“In the Western Cape we are slowly moving forward and hope to organise the labour forces of the bigger employers first. At one farm we have completed negotiations for a recognition agreement for its factory workers. We hope to start negotiations on behalf of the farmworkers in the near future,” she said.

Phike said there had been “major strides”, particularly in the milling sector, in other parts of the country.

“Since we started we have seen workers’ wages being increased from R40 to R90 a week. Many workers, however, are paid as little as R23 for which they have to work up to 80 hours a week.”

“One of our main problems is the insecurity of the farmworkers and their intimidation by the bosses. We are handling many cases of farmworkers being assaulted and evicted from their homes for the slightest reason.”

She said farmers were reacting to the unionisation of their labour forces by forming “toothless” liaison committees.

Another major obstacle was the exclusion of farmworkers from the Labour Relations Act.

“This denies them access to the courts. The farmers know this and overstep their authority.”

“Overall, our progress is satisfactory although we know that the task at hand is not an easy one,” Phike said.
Organiser claims assault

CONFRONTATIONS with hostile farmers and evading dogs and security guards are occupational hazards for 26-year-old Petrus Aplooon.

Aplooon, a former Grabouw fruit packer, was last year appointed Western Cape organiser of the Food and Allied Workers Union's Farmworkers Project.

Aplooon said the union had "signed-up" 1,290 farmworkers since the launch of the project during the middle of last year.

"Access to farmworkers is a key problem and I have had many confrontations with farmers.

"Sometimes intimidated farmworkers inform the farmer of my presence, but I'm lucky not to have been prosecuted for trespassing."

Sometimes his only access to workers was on Saturdays, when they did their once-a-week shopping at the nearest town or village.

"About 800 African workers on a huge estate in Grabouw are not even allowed free movement when they're not on duty. They have to, for instance, get permission to leave the estate on a Sunday.

"Our chief aim is to give some protection to farmworkers, especially since they are not covered by existing labour laws. We are handling cases where farmers have assaulted workers or evicted them from their houses for slight or no apparent reasons."

Aplooon said a major problem to overcome is workers' fear of their bosses and reprisals.
lives as waves washed over them.

"Then they found they couldn't get away from the boat because the wind was too strong. The flames were spreading quickly and a third of the boat was ablaze.

"We moved in close as possible, threw them a rope and pulled the life-raft towards us. At this stage only a small section was above water and the men were desperately clinging to one another and wherever they could find a grip.

"We pulled them up one by one or by our boat. They were pretty shaken.

The Julie Lynne was owned by the Cape Town company Interfish.
Blazing city
trawler sinks

By VERNON BRENT
Staff Reporter.

SIXTEEN Cape Town fishermen, forced to abandon their blazing trawler, clung to an overturned lifeboat during a "miraculous" rescue operation off Luderitz.

Against the odds of darkness, heavy seas and near gale-force winds, the crew of the Cape Town trawler Julie Lynne escaped without injury.

The blazing vessel sank hours after the men were plucked from the water by the crew of the Saldanha funny boat Brandaris.

"ONE IN A MILLION"

The master of the rescue vessel, Captain Gabriel Tolkien of Plumstead, described the chances of the rescue, which began about 2am yesterday with a distress call from the Julie Lynne, as "one in a million."

"We were about 50 sea miles south of Luderitz when the call came," he said.

"They said a fire had broken out in the engine room. We rushed to their position, fortunately only five minutes away.

"When we arrived the stern was ablaze, flames shooting up to 15m in the air as diesel from the tanks mixed with the flames.

"The crew were huddled on the forecastle.

"The wind was gusting about 25 knots and fanning the flames forward rapidly.

"They knew if they made one mistake they were goners.

"They threw down a life-raft but it overturned in the water. One by one they were lowered down to the upside-down raft.

"The crew clung on for their (Turn to page 3, col 8)
Rescue from fiery trawler

Staff Reporter

THE crew of a Hout Bay trawler were pulled to safety when the vessel started sinking off Lüderitz after catching fire early on Thursday morning.

The skipper of the 23.5m Julie Lynne, Mr Basil Lucas, said an electrical fault started a fire in the engine room. The trawlers Brandaris and Vondeling stood by and the crew of the Julie Lynne were moved to the high forecastle from where a liferaft was launched.

'The men lay on the raft to prevent it capsizing,' Mr Lucas said. 'The Julie Lynne was sinking fast and after I cut the raft loose it drifted to where the Brandaris closed with us.'

A line was passed to the raft and the men were pulled to safety.
Bill on farm child labour

By BARRY STEELE

The use of child labour on farms during school hours will become illegal if a bill published in Parliament yesterday becomes law.

The Education Laws (Education and Training) Amendment Bill provides that anyone who removes a child from school during school hours will be guilty of an offence and can be fined up to R150 or jailed for a month.

It is already a crime to take children subject to compulsory education out of school.

In terms of the bill, however, it will be a crime to use any pupil at a farm school for "any employment, whether for remuneration or otherwise".

It will also be an offence to demand the use of a pupil's services, whether paid or not, as a precondition for admission to a farm school.

The new bill has still to be considered by a standing committee.

The use of schoolchildren during school hours is widespread in some areas, particularly at harvest times, protagonists of the bill say.

Hendrickse opens police station

The Chairman of the Ministers' Council in the House of Representatives, Mr Allan Hendrickse, said he had no problem with identifying himself with the 75th anniversary celebrations of the South African Police.

Opening a R2-million police station at Komville near George yesterday, he said coloured people were part of the police and he could therefore identify with the celebrations. — Sapa
Eviction notices to 8 families are withdrawn

The silent plight of the evicted farmworkers

By Jo-Anne Collinge

Farmworkers, more than any other group of people, have been forced off the land of "white" South Africa and put away in the homelands.

It is a process which carries on piecemeal, virtually unremittingly and silently. It is a process which accounts, for instance, for the dramatic growth of Boishabelo near Bloemfontein and the mushrooming of the endless shanty towns of kwaNdebele.

When the mammoth study known as the Surplus People's Project was published in 1983, it was estimated that 1.3 million farmworkers had been removed in the past two decades.

They constituted the largest single category of known forced removals, a full 33 percent of the total.

Until a few days ago, a handful of families from the lush forest area round Lothair in the eastern Transvaal were to join this human flood, leaving quietly as those before them had done.

Eviction notices had been issued to eight families on the farm Tweepoort and summonses served. It looked as if their fate would be life in kaNgwane, where the availability of arable land averages just half a hectare per family — no more than is available in the rural shackland of kwaNdebele.

Suddenly, the company which owned the land, HLH Forest Products (part of Hunt, Leuchars and Hepburn), halted the legal process toward eviction. It had all summonses withdrawn and undertook to begin discussions with the workers.

A company spokesman said new information had come to light about the circumstances of the families who had been designated squatters and HLH was prepared to meet representatives of its workers/tenants and to discuss the backgrounds of those under threat of eviction.

"We are withdrawing all eviction notices because new information has come to hand. We will investigate each case on its own merits and ensure that each family is handled fairly."

There is no guarantee that some of the affected families will not be evicted at the end of this process. But the company, which employs about 2,000 people in the region, has undertaken to talk about its rules and to play by those rules.

In the south-eastern Transvaal, most forest workers have been clustered into settlements in the last year and are no longer free to settle randomly.

There seem to be two major considerations in the streamlining of labour and the eviction of "surplus" workers or squatters: more productive and capital intensive use of the land, and security.

Researchers observe that farm evictions frequently take place under conditions where:

- There is increased mechanisation.
- Ownership of land becomes more concentrated and previously separate farms are joined under single management units with a consequent saving on staff.
- Extension of the amount of land under cultivation occurs.

The security preoccupation of "verswarting" of the plateland has long been a facet of farm labour policy, researchers argue.

In 1988, loans exceeding R20 million were paid to farmers setting up in the border areas. In 1984, further incentives to keep whites in sensitive border areas were offered when the Promotion of the Density of Population in Designated Areas Amendment Act was passed.

Forest workers in the south-Eastern Transvaal... heirs of labour tenancy

- Picture by Herbert Mabuza

The Ngotsho Co-operation Agreement reached between farmers in northern Natal near the Swazi border and Inkatha 18 months ago has among its fundamental objectives guaranteeing security for all in an area which is known as an African National Congress route into South Africa.

Researchers Mr Gerry Mare and Ms Georgina Hamilton claim that security considerations extend beyond containing the ANC to include such matters as:

- Stock theft.
- Banditry in which commercial vehicles are attacked and looted.
- Arson, which has been directly related to labour disputes on several Natal farms.
PRETORIA: The massive government support for the ailing agricultural industry in the past few years of destructive droughts was outlined this week by Agricultural Minister Greyling Wentzel.

He said during the past seven years financial assistance to farmers from the state amounted to R2.4bn — R1.4bn for loans, and R1bn for subsidies.

"This, Wentzel said, did not include state aid to the wool industry (R15.5m), and the maize industry (R300m) and flood disaster aid.

Neither did it take into account state guarantees for carry-over debts.
Prison labour in urban areas at R3.70 a day

Political Staff

IT COSTS R3.70 a day per person to hire prison labour in South Africa if guards are provided.

This has been disclosed by the Commissioner of Prisons, Lieutenant-General L H Willemse, in evidence to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

In the committee's fourth report, tabled in Parliament yesterday, Lt-Gen Willemse said that on weekdays in urban areas, it cost R3.70 per prisoner a day with a prison guard, and R1.20 a day if the guard was provided by the hirer.

In rural areas, it cost R2.95 a day with prison guard and R1.00 a day without.

The rate was lower on Saturdays.

These tariffs had been in force since November 1, 1983, but this was being revised and general guidelines for minimum wages for unskilled labour had been laid down.
Forestry workers may stay

Forestry workers who were threatened with eviction from land in the southeastern Transvaal have been guaranteed a permanent home on company property.

The dispute between the lumber producers Hunt Leuchar and Hepburn and people living on the company's land in the Lothair district has been resolved.

The company withdrew eviction notices and court summonses and met affected residents last week. About 15 extended families had faced eviction and relocation to kaNgwane.

"The outcome of the talks was an agreement that all workers who had lived on the land before HL&H bought it and all others who had settled there more recently with the permission of company managers could remain, a spokesman for the Transvaal Rural Action Committee said."
THE approach is different to some downright dangerous — like playing with matches sitting atop a box of dynamite.

But, like Frank Sinatra, Johan Haasbroek, Afrikaner farmer in the Leeuwardenstad district of the Wester Transvaal, did it his way.

Mr Haasbroek, seen above in one of the classrooms, is a prosperous and successful farmer who has revolutionised labour relations with his 45-strong black workers by placing them in management positions and encouraging them to take an active part in management decisions.

"Many people were sceptical when we started," said Mr Haasbroek, whose farm lies deep in the heart of conservative country.

"But I think we've proved the Doomsday prophets wrong," he said. "Productivity is up dramatically and staff turnover has been at the lowest levels ever.

"We started an experiment in which black foremen were given real managerial powers in the running of the farm. "They are responsible for the hiring and firing of the people who work for them, and are involved in setting production goals," Mr Haasbroek said.

About seven years ago his labourers realised that their children needed to be educated.

"They approached me to build a school on my property and I agreed to help," he said. "The arrangement was they had to contribute something towards it and had to make a contribution towards school fees."

The school has five teachers and offers classes to Std 5. There are plans to offer high-school classes in the future.

"During the unease the parents approached me. They had heard there were strangers in town who planned to burn the school down," Mr Haasbroek said.

"I told them it was their responsibility and their school, and that they should sort it out.

"Thesnapshot was they posted guards at the school and at all the entrances to the farm, and we never had a moment's trouble."
Anglo Farm Strike

The three dismissed farm workers, from left to right: Todeski Gareeze, Nyuli Nsenguiy and Lulimile Mbeswenti.

By Géorge Hill

Anglo Farm Workers

The workers were dismissed and their wages were withheld. The workers went on strike in protest of the unfair dismissal. The workers were demanding better working conditions and higher wages.

Workers marched on the farm and demanded their rights. The management refused to negotiate with the workers. The workers were forced to go on strike to demand their rights.

The strike continued for several days, during which the workers occupied the farm and refused to work. The management eventually made some concessions, but the workers were not satisfied.

Another rally was held, this time with support from other farm workers. The management agreed to negotiate with the workers and a new contract was signed.

The strike ended with a victory for the workers, who had forced the management to recognize their rights and improve their working conditions.

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Farm employee is shocked by firing, beating by his 'nice boss'

BY STAN MHILONGO

VAAL farm labourer Simon Chabane, was "startled and at a loss for words" when his "nice boss" fired him and then allegedly "gave him the hiding of his life".

Chabane, 44, who had worked on Charmie van Lunka's farm in Driefontein near Vanderbijlpark, told City Press that he only discovered the reason for the action "when the police accused me of being a thief".

The investigating officer at Barrage Police Station, Sgt M Wardeck confirmed that Chabane had laid a charge of assault against his former employer.

The farmer has denied the accusations.

Chabane said he was extensively questioned by police about a burglary that took place on the farm in December last year.

"They claimed I had stolen a fridge and a television set," he said.

Chabane said he had worked on the farm for a year, receiving R200 a month and rations of mealie-meal and soup to support his wife Lisa and three children.

He said relations with his "friendly boss" unexpectedly turned sour on January 30.

"He fired me without giving reasons and then repeatedly hit me with a piece of wood," he said.

Orange-Vaal General Worker's Union spokesman Steve Kollisang said Chabane was unfairly dismissed.

"To add insult to injury, Chabane was fired without being given notice, leave pay or food rations," said Kollisang.

Meanwhile, the farmer has denied the allegations. He told City Press he had not assaulted the worker.

"In fact, I never accused Chabane of being involved in the burglary that took place at my farm. It was the police who accused Chabane of stealing a fridge and television set following their investigations," he said.
Old trespasser can return to birthplace
3 SA seamen ‘beaten’ by Taiwanese

Staff Reporter

TAIWANESE fishermen allegedly tied up and stabbed a Langa fisherman, Mr John Mnqenge, in the face after he asked for his wages and requested to be sent home from Reunion Island.

Two other South African crew members were allegedly beaten up by Taiwanese sailors when they demanded their wages.

The allegations were made yesterday by Mr Aubrey Yekani, also of Langa, who spent six months at sea with Mr Mnqenge and Mr Sikofolo Sawuza as crew on the Taiwanese trawler Hiashan 2.

According to Mr Yekani, the boatswain of the trawler refused to allow the South Africans to return home when the vessel docked at Reunion in the Indian Ocean.

“We wanted to go home at the end of the contract, but the Taiwanese boatswain told us that we would have to spend another six months at sea. We were very dissatisfied and asked for our wages,” said Mr Yekani.

The boatswain allegedly refused to pay the men, who were promised R6,000 at the end of their contracts. “We were grabbed by other crewmen and beaten about the face and body. Then the boatswain ordered us to paint the ship before we left, and when we refused, Mr Mnqenge’s hands were tied and a sailor stabbed him through the cheek,” Mr Yekani said.

Mr Mnqenge was given medical treatment on the island after his colleagues lodged a complaint with the police.

The three South African sailors — without being paid — were eventually taken to Reunion airport by a shipping agent and flown via Mauritius to South Africa on February 8.

The president of the Seamen’s Maritime Union, Mr Stephanus Stevens, said the union had taken legal action against the trawler’s agents.

The manager of the agency that employed the men, Mr Paddy Sheridan, could not be reached last night for comment.

Pop star foot R21m tour bid

LONDON. — George Michael is footing amazing R21 million for his world tour.

The think-big star spared no expense make the eight-month, 150-date extravaganz the most lavish affair in the history of rock.

When he launched his first solo roadshow in pan last night, 24-year-old George had with a huge entourage specially-chosen aid.

The massive travel troupe, which will with him until Oct., when the tour winds in America, is set to the singer R3380 a week in wages and billets alone.

Group members each getting between R1,750 and R750 a week, simply to sure gorgeous Ge feels at home while...
Slow aid to farmers

PRETORIA — Only R19m of the R400m set aside by government to rescue farmers from sequestration has so far been allocated.

An Agricultural Credit Board (ACB) spokesman said applications for aid from the fund had slowed down towards the end of last year because of the favourable weather conditions, and the prospect of good crops.

However prospects deteriorated in January and the tempo of applications was increasing.

A Transvaal Agricultural Union spokesman said farmers were angry at the time it took to process applications.

They claimed the procedure was clogged with red tape.

"Farmers with sequestration hanging over their heads want quick answers about whether or not they are getting aid," he said.
Good farming year forecast

GERALD REILLY

Most agricultural control boards were confident 1988 would be one of the best years of the past decade, said forecasts tabled at the Agricultural Outlook Conference (Agrocon) yesterday.

But, the Meat Board said, the average auction price of beef would soar 15% this year.

The average price was likely to be R486c/kg.

The price escalation in the past two years resulted from a shortage of beef, especially for processing.

During 1988, limited supplies of beef would be exported to maintain overseas contacts.

It was forecast that 24 000 tons of beef would have to be imported to relieve the local shortage.

The Wheat Board reported a record 2.8-million ton crop — 0.8-million more than the previous season.

The board expected wheat consumption to quicken with urbanisation and, by 2000, it should amount to 3.5-million tons.

The sugar industry expected production to remain stable this year despite losses caused by last September’s floods.

The industry was investigating the production of fuel ethanol from cane to ensure greater income stability.

The broiler industry estimated the industry had reached a value of R1bn. It expected that within the next 10 years, more chicken than beef would be consumed.

The poultry meat industry was expected to expand by at least 10% this year.

The Maize Board said sales of maize for human consumption declined during the past three marketing seasons.

The main reason was the relatively high consumer price and that yellow maize had to be added to white maize to meet the demand.

Although sales of yellow maize increased 11% in the first half of the 1987/88 marketing season, a long road was still ahead to win back lost market share.

Analysis showed international maize prices would remain under pressure until 1991.
White farms included in KwaNdebele

Soal said: "Farmers of Rust der Winter, other than those who are insolvent or destitute, are not satisfied with the incorporation into KwaNdebele."

Clive Derby Lewis (CP nominated) said Rust der Winter was a good example of what people were saying about President PW Botha "progressively" giving SA away.

Calling on government to reconsider, he asked: "How many more Rust der Winters lie ahead for SA's farming communities?"

A T Meyer (NP Cradock) said Soal's claims that farmers of the area resisted the incorporation were not true. In fact, the majority were on record as being in favour.

KwaNdebele needed the agricultural area to be incorporated, to make the self-governing national state more economically viable.

M C Botma (NP Walvis Bay) said it was clear the area would not be allowed to deteriorate after incorporation and the new farmers on the land would be assisted to establish themselves.

J D van Wyk (CP Witbank) said the move was an indication of government's disregard for the feelings and wishes of farmers. The way the handover was being effected was "destruction of democracy in the worst way possible." — Sapa.
Eskom pragmatism reaches to equator

By Michael Chester

Eskom, the state electricity network giant, yesterday proposed a round-table conference with neighbouring countries as far north as the equator to discuss the creation of a power grid to cover the sub-continent.

The Eskom chief executive, Mr Ian McRae, said the object was to harness the energy and technology resources of the whole region. The master plan was to use the multi-national grid as the foundation to economic unity outside the political sphere.

He said there had already been positive responses to proposals of new co-operation and mutual assistance from six neighbours, several of which had entered into formal agreements over two-way export and import deals on energy supplies.

The next aim was to arrange round-table discussions with the nine member nations of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference.

Undaunted by political conflicts, Mr McRae, as an engineer, views the chances of success in pragmatic rather than ideological terms.

"The sub-continent has a simple choice — economic stagnation caused by political division with growing unemployment and worsening poverty, or economic dynamism stemming from co-operation in the non-political sphere.

"If there is stalemate among the politicians, it should not mean that everything else must stay at a standstill."

Mr McRae said it would be stressed that Eskom had no ambition to act as Big Brother and dictate the terms of the exercise.

*See Page 15.*
Disputes/work stoppages/strikes

37. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Manpower:

(a) How many (i) disputes, (ii) work stoppages and (iii) strikes were reported in 1987 in terms of the Labour Relations Act, No 28 of 1956, to (a) his Department and (b) the Wage Board and in what industries, trades or occupations did (i) work stoppages and (ii) strikes occur?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER:

(a) (i) (aa) and The Labour Relations Act, 1956, does not contain provisions in terms of which disputes must be reported to the Department of Manpower or the Wage Board.

(ii) (aa) 123.

(iii) (aa) 1025.

(ii) (bb) and Work stoppages and (iii) (bb) strikes are not reportable to the Wage Board

(b) (i) and (ii)

Construction 84

Electricity 8

Finance and insurance 16

Government and services 54

Manufacturing 580

Mining 141

Trade and accommodation 220

Transport and communication 47

TOTAL 1148

NOTE: The figures under (b) include strikes and work stoppages. Separate figures for the different industries, trades or occupations are not available.

Parade submissions—report on working conditions

38. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Manpower:

(1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 7, 2 June 1987 consultations concerning the report of the National Manpower Commission on the working conditions of farm and domestic workers have been completed; if not, why not and (b) what remains to be done to complete this investigation; if so, when;

(2) whether the report has been released; if so, when; if not, (a) why not and (b) who took the decision in this regard;

(3) whether any action affecting the working conditions of farm and domestic workers is to be taken as a result of the findings of this commission; if not, why not; if so, (a) what action and (b) when;

(4) (a) when was this commission established and (b) what was the total cost of the commission as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER:

(1) No.

(a) Consultations with organized agriculture are still in progress as the agricultural sector is diverse, comprising a great many interest groups at national, regional and district level.

(b) The nature of the sectors involved and the geographical diversity prevailing in agriculture necessitates drawn-out discussions and further investigation. It is consequently not possible to give a precise indication as to when finality will be reached.

(2) No.

(a) The Labour Relations Act, 1956, provides for the National Manpower Commission to submit its reports and recommendations to the Minister of Manpower, who decides on any actions to be taken thereon. It is, however, not incumbent upon the Minister to release any report, with the exception of the annual report.

(b) The Minister of Manpower

(3) Whether any action is to be taken, will be considered once consultations with organized agriculture have been concluded

(a) Fails away

(b) Fails away.

(i) 1 October 1979.

(b) The total cost of the Commission up to 31 March 1957 amounted to R5,12 million.

Blacks in independent states: South African citizenship

95. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

(1) How many Blacks in each independent Black state regained their South African citizenship in 1987 in terms of the National States Citizenship Amendment Act No 13 of 1978;

(2) whether any applications were refused; if so, (a) how many from each state and (b) why in each case?

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:


(2) (a) and (b) Fail away

Johannesburg: rapid rail transit system

106. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 233 on 5 August 1987, a decision has been taken on the introduction of a rapid rail transit system for Johannesburg; if not, why not; if so, what decision?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

No. The matter is still under consideration.

Drivers’ licences/identity documents

107. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

(1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 233 on 5 August 1987, the Commission for Administration has carried out a further investigation into the matter of whether drivers’ licences should be separate from identity documents; if so, (i) (a) how many and (b) the Cabinet Committee for Economic Affairs; if so,

(2) whether the Commission has reported to the Cabinet Committee for Economic Affairs; if so,

(3) whether this committee has reached a decision on the matter; if so, (a) what is the decision of this committee and (b) what decision has the Cabinet made in this regard?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) Yes.

(a) and (b) The Cabinet has decided not to separate the two documents.

Members charged/convicted, bounds of duty exceeded

192. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Defence:

(1) Whether, in 1987, any members of the South African Defence Force were (a) charged with and (b) convicted of exceeding the bounds of duty while serving in any Black township; if so, (i) how many and (ii) in respect of what offences in each case;

(2) whether, in that year, any civil actions were instituted against (a) him and/or (b) any members of the Defence Force for acts committed by members of the Defence Force while on duty in Black townships; if so, (i) how many, (ii) what were the circumstances surrounding each claim and (iii) what was the nature of the claim in each case;

(3) whether any of these actions have been finalised; if so, (a) how many as at the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) what was the outcome in each case?

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) (a) 4 assault

(b) 1 assault

(2) (a) Yes

As at 31 December 1987-88

(i) To explain the circumstances surrounding all the actions would run to volumes and
The Agri-Vegetable Industry

Taking A Look At The Future

Our World's Growing Food... The Story Must Be Told

The success of the Agri-Vegetable Industry depends on the ability of its workforce to adapt to new technologies and challenges. The industry must continue to invest in research and development to ensure it remains competitive and sustainable.

In the past, the industry has faced challenges such as fluctuating crop yields, changing market demands, and increased competition from other industries. However, by adapting to these changes, the industry has been able to remain successful.

Looking ahead, the industry will face new challenges, including climate change, increased competition from other industries, and changing consumer preferences. To remain successful, the industry must continue to invest in research and development, as well as in education and training for its workforce.

The Agri-Vegetable Industry is an essential part of our world's food supply and plays a crucial role in ensuring the health and wellbeing of people around the world. By continuing to adapt and innovate, the industry will be able to meet the challenges of the future and ensure its continued success.

Reference:
Fair Farm by Herb Pfeiffer

In City Farm
New-Style Farmer

Agricultural News
DURBAN - A farm worker has been crippled and may lose his leg after he was allegedly shot by police who were called in to evict workers from a Natal farm.

Management had called police to the farm to load workers onto buses which had been arranged to take all contract workers back to the Transkei.

The 23-year-old Mbangiswa Lugojo is unable to walk without a walking stick after the incident on the Crookes Bros Farm, near Stanger, on December 18 last year.

The entire labour force of 360 workers had been dismissed after a work stoppage on December 16 in protest against the detention of the Natal farm worker organiser, Mr Richard Gumede, and a shop steward.

Gumede and the shop steward had been trying to negotiate a wage increase when management complained to police that they were intimidating and harassing workers.

Lugojo said that on the day of the incident, he and another worker had gone to the shop when they heard that the workers had been instructed to get their belongings together and board the buses. They returned to the farm where police allegedly opened fire on him with birdshot.

He said he was shot at without warning and for no reason, as he was walking back to get his belongings.

He said the police then took him to the local hospital where he received no medical treatment. He was given painkillers and ointment to rub on his leg and discharged after two days.

He then went to Durban's King Edward VIII hospital where he was told they would not be able to remove the bullet as there were too many of them and they may have to cut his leg off.

The personnel department of Crookes Bros have denied any knowledge of the incident.

Lugojo, a Transkei contract worker who had worked on the farm for three months, said he was worried as he did not know whether he would be able to work again.

He is living in a squatter shack now and is unable to go home as he has not been paid out. He worked nearly 12 hours a day as a sugarcane cutter, but earned only R100 a month.

Lugojo said he will be taking legal action against the police. Stanger police declined to comment.

Concorde
WORKERS AT FARMS GET UNION

MORE than 1200 workers attended the inaugural conference of the National Union of Farmworkers (NUF) in Johannesburg at the weekend.

The NUF, an affiliate of the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), has called on other unions organising in the industry to disband and join it "in accordance with the principle of one-union-one-industry."

Addressing the conference, Nactu's general secretary, Mr Prakash Camay said: "We, in Nactu, have always believed in independence from political organisations. This is an important principle which needs to be emphasised."

Mr Camay said two Nactu members were "killed last year, 'by our own brothers'. One of them was Mr Amos Boswana, a shop steward with the Steel Engineering and Allied Workers' Union.

Nactu was being forced to organise defence committees to protect its members, Mr Camay said.

Resolutions taken at the meeting included:
- That the union believed that workers' interests and demands could be best served only through the development "by workers of the workers' manifesto";
- The union recognised all the historical documents "noting the liberation struggle"; and
- The following office bearers were elected at the conference, Edward Musekwa (president), Lazarus Motswadi (vice-president), Moses Mahlangu (treasurer), Anthony Makhubu (assistant treasurer) and Tshaka Moletsane (general secretary).
Killing rocks
flood town

TENSION in the small Northern Cape town of Kakamas was further heightened this week when another resident of the local "coloured" community was shot dead by a farmer.

This follows the shooting of two young people in Langverwag township on February 13 after a police raid on a home for dagga.

The families of those killed and injured in the shootings are to sue the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Visser.

A four-year-old girl and a 13-year-old boy were shot dead, while 13 people were wounded and three people allegedly assaulted during the incident.

Police claimed birdshot was fired to disperse a "stone-throwing" crowd. Witnesses alleged there was no stone-throwing.

The policeman allegedly by Langverwag residents to have opened fire on the crowd with a R1 rifle has been suspended from duty.

A police spokesperson said two murder dockets had been opened and a dossier was being handed to the Attorney-General.

Building contractor Mr David Isaacs, 52, was shot dead this week after an argument and a scuffle with a farmer near Kakamas following the arrest of three youths who later appeared in court on a charge of looting.

Another farmer allegedly leaned out of his bakkie and shot Isaacs at least twice.

No arrest had yet been made, a police spokesperson told SOUTHERN.

Isaacs was shot after asking three farmers about the arrest of the youths, who tried to recover the contents of a fridge floating down the Orange River near a farmer's house.

Isaacs's son, Mr Kobus Isaacs, 24, said he and his parents had driven to a spot on the Orange River outside Kakamas to examine the extent of the floods.

When they arrived at the river they found police had arrested three youths on suspicion of looting. The youths had been bundled into a police van.

Among them was Mr Willem Bok, a relative of the Isaacs family.

Bok and a friend had gone earlier to the river to look at the flood damage. They noticed a fridge floating down the river and coming to rest against a tree near the home of a farmer, Mr C Notle.

They were joined by three other youths. They decided to wade into the water in an attempt to recover the contents of the fridge.

Meanwhile, three farmers, including Notle, had phoned the police to report an alleged incident of looting at his house.

Later, four policemen arrived. They plunged into the river and hauled three of the youths back onto the bank. Bok was allegedly hit in the face and had his head pushed beneath the water.

When the police left with the youths David Isaacs approached the three farmers and questioned them about the alleged looting. A fight broke out between Isaacs and a farmer called Hasselman.

The third farmer, in his seventies, tried to run Isaacs over twice with his bakkie. He then leaned out of his bakkie and shot Isaacs. One of the shots had missed and hit a female bystander.

Captain Carel van der Westhuizen, the police liaison officer for the Northern Cape, confirmed David Isaacs had been shot dead and that 53-year-old Mrs Ella Swart had been wounded in the left thigh.

He said Isaacs had been shot twice, once in the head and once in the chest. He had been shot after attempting to pull the farmer from his bakkie.

A murder docket had been opened and an investigation into the shooting was underway. A dossier would be handed in due course to the Attorney-General.

Van der Westhuizen confirmed also that a case of assault had been laid against the police by Bok.
More than 1200 workers attended the inaugural conference of the National Union of Farmworkers (NUF) in Johannesburg last weekend.

The NUF, an affiliate of the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), has called on other unions organising in the industry to disband and join it "in accordance with the principle of one-union-one-industry."

Addressing the conference, Nactu's general secretary, Mr Piroschaw Camay said: "We, in Nactu, have always believed in independence from political organisations. This is an important principle which needs to be emphasised."

Among resolutions taken at the meeting were that the union believed workers' interests and demands could be best served only through the development "by workers of the workers' manifesto."

Office bearers elected at the conference were: Edward Musekwa (president), Lazarus Motswadi (vice-president), Moses Mahlangu (treasurer), Anthony Makhubu (assistant treasurer) and Tshaka Moletsane (general secretary).
Union first for vulnerable farm workers

A NATIONAL union of farmworkers has been formed for the first time in South African labour history.

According to a statement from the official, about 1 200 workers attended the launch of the National Union of Farmworkers (NUF), an affiliate of the National Council of Trade Unions (Natcu), in Johannesburg last weekend.

Workers travelled to the launch from Natal, the Western Cape, the Northern and Eastern Transvaal and the outskirt of Johannesburg, the statement said.

An official of the union said this week that the union had membership at farms in the Tsitsikama Forest, at the Centrechem farms used for the testing of chemicals in Natal, Funfair Chicken Farms, the pig farms in Worcester and Anglo-American Corporation farms.

Farmworkers are excluded from the Labour Relations Act and therefore have little protection as employees.

"Our membership is drawn from different ideological persuasions. Some belong to Inkatha, United Democratic Front, Azapo, so we cannot be affiliated to any political organisation," an NUF spokesman said.

Natcu is a rival labour federation to the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) and is usually associated with the black consciousness movement.

However, in its statement, the NUF organisers said they "believed in the independence of Natcu from political organisations."

"We are, however, not neutral in the national liberation struggle. Natcu members will assume their rightful place in the vanguard of the struggle," the statement said.

The union said that, as a Natcu affiliate, it was committed to "anti-racism, anti-capitalism, anti-imperialism and anti-discrimination".

In an apparent reference to the Freedom Charter and the Azanian Manifesto, the NUF said it "recognises all the historical documents of the liberation struggle."

"The union believes that worker interests, demands and views can best be served only through the development by workers of a workers' manifesto," it added.

NUF called on all other unions organising on farms to disband and join them "in accordance with the principle of one union, one industry".

The inauguration meeting commemorated the 10th anniversary of the death of Pan-Africanist Congress leader Robert Sobukwe.

PW blames 'radicals' for defeat in Cape

It is probable that, were there a general election this year, the CP would at least double its current tally of 20 seats in the white chamber.

However, the really big winner seems to be the Afrikaner Weerstands beweging (AWB) whose links with the CP were exploited to the full by newspapers such as Beeld.

The only effect of that appears to have been to drive more voters into the CP. The propaganda campaign inadvertently revealed that rural Transvaal whites don't really mind the AWB's neo-fascist image and behaviour - a factor the government will have to take into account if it ever considers banning it.

It has also shown that kraaldrige election eve gestures - like bombing Angola and effectively banning 17 anti-apartheid organisations - do not impress rightwing voters enough to win them back to the NP.

The National Party, like the United Party of old, is increasingly being forced to rely on English-speaking support, in Johannesburg, Natal and the Eastern Cape, to compensate for the loss of the northern Afrikaners.

The major difference with history is that, unlike the NP of old, the CP is not a national coalition.

It is regionally based in the Transvaal and Orange Free State and without a major breakthrough among Afrikaner voters in the Cape Province the ceiling on the number of seats it can win, falls short of an overall majority in the country.
SAAU looks at flood damage

PRETORIA — The SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) has begun to assess the damage suffered by the industry in the floods in the Free State, Natal, northern and eastern Cape.

It is feared the flood damage is the worst incurred in the last half century. Combined with the previous four years of drought, it amounts to a disaster in many areas.

Provincial unions broadly sketched the extent of damage in their areas at a SAAU general council meeting this week.

No monetary assessment has been attempted, but a spokesman says the amount involved is certain to be huge.

When the final toll in damaged or destroyed buildings, machinery, equipment and fencing is known it will be counted in tens of millions of rands, authorities claim.

Stock losses have also been heavy. One dairy farm near Bloemfontein lost more than 100 registered Frieslands. Thousands of sheep have drowned.

SAAU president Kobus Jooste has appealed to farmers to report details of damage as swiftly as possible. Forms for reporting this are available at co-operatives and local agriculture department offices.

Jooste says it is important that aerial pictures be taken of the flood-stricken farmlands to support damage claims.

The SAAU has already alerted government to the need for aid.

Affected provincial agricultural unions have been authorised to accept contributions for distressed farmers.
Farmworkers unions brings ‘semi-feudal’ sector in focus

A new union for farmworkers was launched in Johannesburg last weekend, illustrating increasing focus on this very difficult sector.

The National Union of Farmworkers (NUF) is affiliated to the National Council of Trade Unions. It called on other unions organizing in the industry to disband and join if “in accordance with the principle of one-union-one-industry”.

This call tends to trespass on the slogans of the other union involved in this area, the Food and Allied Workers’ Union (Fawu), an affiliate of Cosatu (Congress of South African Trade Unions) which adopted the one union, one industry policy at its launch in 1985.

Sporadic attempts

Interestingly enough, although Nactu unions generally subscribe to the Azanian Manifesto rather than the Freedom Charter which has been endorsed by Cosatu, the NUF congress resolved that workers’ interests and demands could best be served through the development by workers of a workers’ manifesto.

And it also recognized all the “historical documents” – the Manifesto and the Charter.

Farmworkers have traditionally been difficult to organise. Only sporadic attempts have been made since the flood of rural workers who joined the Industrial and Commercial Union (ICU) in the 1930s.

They are excluded from the provisions and protections of the Labour Relations Act and proposals to extend provisions to them and domestic workers appear to have been held up by problems with organised agriculture. Also, they generally live in semi-feudal conditions where they are very much at the mercy of the whims of their employers.

Although there is often a good relationship between the farmworkers and their employers, farmers as a group tend to be seen as less than progressive when it comes to industrial relations.

However, there have been some stirrings in this area and the South African Agricultural Union last year decided to appoint an industrial relations officer to advise farmers in this area.

Organising is also very difficult.

With the workers living on the job and the job being on private property, union organisers would technically be trespassing if they entered private farms.

And when the workers often live kilometres away from roads, “factory gate” organising is not really a possibility.

Fawu has approached this problem by organising where they have access to farms on which there is some form of product processing.

“This is an attempt to give them some protection,” a Fawu spokesman said.
Child labour law reminder

Although the use of child labour during school hours was not a fundamental problem, the Government wanted farmers and labourers to know where it stood on the issue, the Minister of Education and Development Aid, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, said in the House of Representatives yesterday.

Dr Viljoen was speaking in the second reading debate on the Education and Training Amendment Bill, which prohibits the use of child labour during school hours and provides for increased penalties for an offence.
Wine workers get it down on celluloid

Tygerberg Bureau

WINE farm workers are to benefit from a series of training videos aimed at improving their skills.

The videos were launched at a ceremony in Paarl yesterday and are available to farmers from today.

The Rural Foundation commissioned the films and KWV sponsored the bulk of the project, with contributions from Stellenbosch Farmers' Winery and other companies.

There are seven tapes of 15 to 20 minutes each, dealing with various stages of wine growing.

The series took more than a year to make because each phase had to be shot at different growing stages and seasons.

Mr. Frans Malan, chairman of the foundation, said he believed the videos would help workers deliver a better service and result in their being paid better.

It was one of the ways in which the foundation helped to raise the standard of living of farm workers, he said.
Volkskas: No easy cure for farming

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — There are no simple or instant solutions to SA's deep-seated agricultural problems, says Volkskas economist A Louw.

In a survey, he said the exceptional interdependence of government, the farmer, and input and supply industries demanded concerted efforts to make successful use of aid and revitalisation measures.

Government aid had helped agriculture generally, and if some of the problems could be eliminated it could make an important contribution to the revitalisation of the industry.

But, Louw said, the level of technical, economic and financial management in agriculture still left much room for improvement.

Available knowledge and technology were not being applied.

Unions

He said trade unions were set to become a reality in agriculture. Proactive action by farmers and the authorities was therefore essential to prevent politically inspired action from harming agriculture during critical periods.

On interest rates, Louw said they could show a moderate increase to 14% or even 15% towards the end of the year.

This would exert further financial pressure on farmers.

On inflation, he said the Economic Advisory Council had estimated inflation contributed 46,8% to farmers' increased debt burden between 1989 and 1995, compared with 31,4% for interest costs and 21,8% caused by drought.

It was expected, he added, that inflation would have contributed even more to farmers' worsening financial positions in 1986 and 1987.
Agriculture's position is deteriorating

Bleay Political Staff 17/3/88

THE farming sector, on which 5.5-million people were directly or indirectly dependent for employment, has been seriously set back in recent years and certain sectors are in a desperate financial position, Finance Minister Barend du Plessis says.

In 1977, income from a year and a half's farming could have redeemed the sector's debt, but by 1986 it would have taken five years' worth of farming to pay off its debts.

Farming debt had increased from just below R2bn at the end of 1975 to more than R11bn at the end of 1986.

The key role played by agriculture could not be gainsaid and it played a much greater role than was reflected by the statistics on the economy.

It was a great consumer of intermediate inputs and in 1986, R4.4bn was involved in this.

"It also provided work opportunities for some 1.25-million people, while about 5.5-million people were directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture for employment.

"Furthermore, the sector is second only to gold as the largest net earner of foreign exchange," he said.
A WELL-KNOWN Still Bay farmer has been charged with murder, following the death of a labourer who was clubbed to death.

Mr Everitt Kleinhans appeared in the Riversdale Magistrate's Court yesterday.

It was the 27-year-old Mr Kleinhans' second appearance in court following the death of Mr Henry Koetzee on February 20 this year.

At his first appearance on February 25, Mr Kleinhans, from the farm Grootfontein, pleaded not guilty to a charge of murder, alternatively culpable homicide. He was released on R200 bail.

At yesterday's hearing, the court heard that no decision had yet been taken by the Attorney-General and the case was postponed to May 4.

Mr Kleinhans appeared before Mr F R Barkhuizen, Warrant Officer J D Grobbelaar prosecuted. Mr Kleinhans was not represented.

Transvaal drought is broken at last

Farmers in north smile at the water

Transvaal farmers are relieved at recent rains and it seems as if the drought has finally been broken, the Transvaal Agricultural Union said in a statement yesterday.

Western Transvaal farmers have high hopes of good farming now. Most dams are full and large crops are expected, the statement said. Northern and central Transvaal farmers have also benefited.

The TAU said: "Things are looking up in the northern Transvaal, although it will take a couple of years before grazing is re-established. Live stock remains a problem through lack of funds and availability."

Dams on average have more water than last year, though in some parts of the northern Transvaal there has been no rain and there farmers are still struggling.

The Department of Environmental Affairs also confirmed that the drought in the far northern Transvaal has been broken.

In the Letaba district there is excitement as the level of the Fanie Botha Dam at Tzaneen continues to rise.

There have been stringent irrigation restrictions in force in the area for five years. The dam reached a low 25 percent level in 1987. But it has risen dramatically to 80 percent since mid-February.

FARMERS ARE REJOICING

The picturesque Ebenezer Dam near Haenertsburg, which provides Pietersburg with 30 percent of its water is full — so is the Naudé Dam, Pietersburg’s main source.

While many parts of South Africa have been lashed by floods, the far north has had good rains without much damage. Farmers, industrialists and conservationists are rejoicing.

Even the normally arid Messina district in the extreme north is boasting its best grazing conditions in a decade. — Sapa and Northern Transvaal Bureau.
One-off subsidy for farmers in drought areas

Parliamentary Staff

Additional assistance for summer crop farmers who had experienced critical drought conditions was announced by Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentzel yesterday.

Speaking in the House of Assembly during the Own Affairs agriculture-vote debate, Mr. Wentzel said the one-off subsidy payment to farmers in those summer crop areas that he termed emergency drought areas would be a maximum of R100 per hectare, to a maximum of 400 ha under dryland crops.

The money would be paid directly to the farmers' creditors after June 1 and would go towards settling their production debts for the 1987/88 season.

Mr. Wentzel said the five-year drought, during which some farmers had achieved only about 30 percent of their average normal crop yield, had not only left the farmers "financially devastated and understandably despondent" but had affected the economies of farming towns too — "the shopkeep-
er, doctor, attorney, chemist, hotel and even our churches and schools".

It was also announced that an interest subsidy, equivalent to 10 percentage points of the Land Bank's interest rate on cash credit loans to agricultural co-operatives in respect of farmers' carry-over debts for the 1988/89 season, would be paid.

A subsidy of 55 percentage points would be effective on the same basis in respect of overdue production loans with the Agricultural Credit Board, Mr. Wentzel said.

He also announced that production loans from the Agricultural Credit Board to qualifying farmers would be increased by R75 000 to R100 000.

The increase was to help farmers obtain essential commodities for their families and would also help in keeping labourers on affected farms and in supporting rural communities.

The main criterion would be the average annual crop yield delivered to the co-operatives for the five production seasons from 1982/83 to 1986/87 compared with a 10-year yield.
Parliamentary Staff, Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentzel yesterday appealed to the Conservative Party to keep politics out of farming, an industry that was in trouble and needed competent people—not political squabbling.

One of the contentious issues during the Own Affairs agriculture vote debate in the House of Assembly was the R400-million scheme, introduced last year, to aid farmers faced with sequestration. CP MP Perdi Hartzenberg said he would repeat outside the privileged confines of Parliament his belief that the scheme had been designed to fail.

Deputy Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk dashed back, saying he had sworn affidavits from farmers who had been told by the CP not to apply for help from the R400-million scheme as the CP wanted it to fail.

Dr. Hartzenberg also alleged that appointments to organised agricultural bodies were dependent not on competence but on political affiliation.
Farmers 'pressured workers'

Some farm labourers were pressured into not voting in the recent by-election at Ceres because their employers were against coloured representation in Parliament, Mr Clifford Nkasa (EP Bokkeveld), said in his maiden speech in the House of Representatives yesterday. — Sapa (DPN) 27/98
Evicted family sleeps next to road in the rain

By Kaizer Nyatumba

A labourer evicted from an Eastern Transvaal farm spent two nights — one of them wet — sleeping "off the side of the main road" with his family of six.

The labourer, Mr Albert Mthimkhulu, said he grew up on the farm from which Mr FE Johannes of Pam- poenkraal in Panbult evicted him and his family on Thursday last week in the presence of policemen.

A messenger of the court confiscated his TV set, a generator and a case of beer, Mr Mthimkhulu said.

Mr Moray Hathorn of the Legal Resources Centre in Johannesburg said Mr Mthimkhulu first received a written eviction notice from Mr Johannes in November last year, but he had nowhere to go.

He approached a Piet Retief magistrate who wrote a letter to Mr Johannes asking him to allow the Mthimkhulu to stay until June when they would have reaped their crops.

On January 27 Mr Mthimkhulu was fined R30 for trespass.

Mr Johannes denied responsibility for the eviction.
Worker dies after shots by suspicious farmer

East Rand police are investigating the death of a 26-year-old man who was hit in the chest by a bullet when he was working on a Sundra farm on Saturday.

Mr Jeremiah Nkosi of Plot 19 in Sundra was walking in a field with two young boys when a neighbouring farmer, apparently thinking they were up to no good, fired two warning shots from a .22 pistol, a police spokesman said.

One of the shots hit Mr Nkosi in the left side of his chest and he died instantly. The two young boys fled, leaving behind the empty sacks and sickles they were carrying. They later told police the man who had hired the field from the farmer had instructed them to cut fodder for his animals.

Police are investigating the shooting. No charges have yet been laid.
Inkatha Accord can't help workers
FARM WORKERS

Appeasing the Right

Consultations have not been completed on the report of the National Manpower Commission (NMC) investigation into the working conditions of farm and domestic workers, and there is no indication when they will be. Manpower Minister Piet du Plessis has told the Progressive Federal Party MP for Johannesburg North, Peter Soal.

In a written parliamentary reply, Du Plessis says talks on the report — which was handed to government in final form on July 3 1985 after three years' work — are continuing.

"Consultations with organised agriculture are still in progress — the agricultural sector is diverse, comprising a great many interest groups at national, regional and local level. The nature of the sectors involved and the geographical diversity prevailing in agriculture necessitate drawn-out discussions and further investigation. It is consequently not possible to give a precise indication as to when finality will be reached," Du Plessis said.

In June last year, Du Plessis said he intended responding to the report once talks with representatives of organised agriculture had been completed. He would then also consider, "if deemed advisable," releasing the report for general information. Du Plessis told Soal that the Labour Relations Act gave him discretion in deciding whether or not to release an NMC report.

He said that, up until the end of March last year, the NMC, which was established in 1979, had cost R5.03m. Uniform working conditions and union rights for farm workers are an extremely delicate political issue for the National Party, which is already facing a shift to the Right among white farmers. The chances of the NMC report being released soon — if ever — seem extremely limited.

Activists campaigning for a better deal for farm workers argue that they are the most exploited class of workers in terms of both physical labour and financial reward. They say they need to be brought under the protection of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, the Labour Relations Act and the Unemployment Insurance Fund.
Man dropped stone on employer's head

By Joe Openshaw

A 30-year-old farmworker said at a murder trial in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday that he had dropped a heavy stone on his employer's head to hurt her because she owed him five months' wages.

He said that when he had asked her for his back pay she told him: "Voetsek. I haven't got any money."

Mr John Ndlovu, of Stonehill Farm, Magaliesburg, was giving evidence in the trial before Mr Justice W F O'Donovan and two assessors in which he, Mr Lazarus Mance (39), also of Stonehill, and a 17-year-old youth are charged with murdering 68-year-old Mrs Marie Therese Goffin van der Borght, of Doornspruit, Magaliesburg, on July 16 last year.

They are also charged with robbery with aggravating circumstances and have pleaded not guilty to both charges.

Mr Ndlovu said he worked for Mrs van der Borght for six months, driving a tractor and ploughing on her farm, and had only been paid R250 for one month.

He complained to the police on July 15 about not being paid. After they had spoken to Mrs van der Borght, they told him she would pay him the next day.

"I had a bavelas on the morning of July 16 and drank five litres of Barbouet and then went and asked my employer for my money. She again told me to voetsek and drove off to town.

"I went back feeling heart sore and drank another 10 litres.

"When she came back from town at 8 pm I went to see her. I didn't say I wanted money because I knew she would not open the door, so I told her there was a veld fire on the farm.

"When she opened the door I told her I wanted my money. She again told me to go away. I felt downright and grabbed her by the throat and held on for a long time. Her eyes rolled back so I let go and she fell down.

"We took her to a hill on Manhaarrand and unloaded her. She raised her head. Mr Mance took a stone and threw it at Mrs van der Borght and she screamed very loudly.

"We dragged her to a ditch face-down — she was still alive and her dress had been pulled over her head — and rolled her into it."

"I picked up a stone 30 cm long and threw it on top of her head because I felt bad about my money. I did not want to kill her, I only wanted her to feel pain," Mr Ndlovu said.

He and Mr Mance returned in the bakkie to the farm where they ransacked her room and found R60, which they shared. He only learnt the next afternoon, when the police came to the farm with Mrs van der Borght's blood-stained dress, that she was dead.

The hearing continues today.
Roget Kenyon, a contributing editor of Readers Digest, has told the Media Council he did not claim to be a representative of the Department of Education and Training when interviewing the headmaster of a farm school.

He was giving evidence yesterday during the council's hearing of a complaint by the department about an article on farm schools in the July 1967 issue of Readers Digest.

Mr Moses Thesiko, principal of the Tsebong farm school at Viljoensdorp, near Vereeniging, alleged that Mr Kenyon, author of the article, introduced himself to him as a Department of Education and Training official.

Mr Kenyon said: "It would not be in my character. In any event, I laid my bona fides on the table with Anglo-American owners of the farm. There was no reason for any deception."

Friendly

Mr Thesiko had welcomed him in a friendly manner, which suggested that he knew about his "mission", Mr Kenyon said.

Mr Kenyon said Tsebong farm school was well run.

Mr M.A. Diemont, chairman of the council: Would it not have been fair to say so?

Mr Kenyon: Possibly. The point of the article was to show our readers what the situation is like in the rural areas. I don't think many of our readers have ever physically seen a farm school."

Readers Digest editor Miss Wendy Pankhurst asked him if his article was a fair reflection of farm schools."

Promised

Mr Kenyon replied: "Yes, it was very fair. I believe the article shows exactly what is happening in our rural areas as far as the education of children is concerned."

He told her that he had never promised to give Mr Thesiko a copy of the article before publication.

Readers Digest research editor Miss Sylvana Dantu said she read the article to Mr Thesiko twice.

Earlier, Mr Thesiko said Mr Kenyon went to his school on August 15 1966, and introduced himself as being from the Department of Education and Training in Pretoria. It was only after the interview that Mr Thesiko realised Mr Kenyon was from the magazine.

The department and Readers Digest agreed to explore a possible compromise. (Proceeding)
Throttled, stoned and thrown in a ditch

Two to hang for killing woman (68)

By Joe Openshaw

Two farm labourers who killed their 68-year-old employer by throttling and stoning her and dropping a 24 kg boulder on her head, were sentenced to death in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday after being convicted of murder.

The two, Lazarus Mance (39) and John Ndlovu (36), both of Stonehill Farm, were also sentenced to 10 years' jail for robbing her of a bakkie, watch and R60.

A 17-year-old youth who appeared with them on the two charges was found not guilty by Mr Justice B O'Donovan and acquitted.

The judge and two assessors found there were no extenuating circumstances and rejected as totally false a story by them they had been provoked into assaulting their employer, Mrs Marie Therese Goffin van der Borght, who lived alone on the farm Doornspruit, Magaliesburg, because she had not paid them.

'TREATED LIKE AN ANIMAL'

'This is another instance of old people being attacked and robbed. Mrs van der Borght was treated like an animal — she was dragged through the veld and then stoned to death,' said the prosecutor, Mr S Schotter, when asking for the death sentence.

'The two had every intention of robbing Mrs van der Borght and the nature of the injuries indicates they intended killing her,' the judge said.

The court found Mance and Ndlovu went to see Mr van der Borght on the night of July 16 last year and Ndlovu encouraged her to open the door and look out by telling her there was a fire on the mountain. He then grabbed her by the throat.

'Ndlovu throttled her until she lost consciousness. He and Mance loaded her on her bakkie and drove her 14 km where they took her clothes off and she became conscious. Mance hit her on the head with a stone and then they dragged her face down over rough ground and dumped her in a ditch. Ndlovu then dropped a 24 kg boulder on her head and they left,' the judge said.

They returned to the farm where they ransacked her room and found R60 which they shared.

Ndlovu said in evidence he had worked for six months for Mrs van der Borght and had only been paid for one month.

He had grabbed her and throttled her because he felt downtrodden and heartsore because of her treatment of him and had meant to hurt her and teach her a lesson — not kill her.

'The court formed an unfavourable impression of their demeanour as witnesses and concluded they were unabashed liars.

'Both Mance and Ndlovu were well-known to Mrs van der Borght and the robbery could never have remained undetected while she was alive,' the judge said.

Mr Justice O'Donovan noted the intention by the defence team to apply for leave to appeal against sentence of death.
MORE than 6 million black farm workers and their dependants are living on a monthly wage of between R35 to R105.

This is disclosed in a Nation Union of Farm and Agricultural Workers of SA (Nufasa) demand to the Government for an improvement in wages.

Nufasa general secretary Sam Moswane says, blacks employed in agriculture in the Transvaal and Highveld earn less than R55 a month for ploughmen to R150 for those on vegetable farms.

SA Agricultural Union deputy director Kobus Kleyhans says at least 6 million blacks and their dependants work and live on white-owned farms.

Mr Moswane says that if the demand is not met, "the union will decide what action to take".

But there is little room for employees’ action. Mr Kleyhans says that although the right to strike is inherent in common law, "if people walk out they are breaking their contract with their employer".

"The employer has the right to terminate the contract and order them off the land." Mr Moswane says there is "no legislation to protect dismissed farm workers, accommodation is generally poor and most of them are illiterate".

Farm workers are excluded from:

- The provisions of the Labour Act, which means they cannot use the collective bargaining or dispute resolution machinery provided by the Act.

- Protection afforded under the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, so their conditions of employment are governed only by common law.

- The Unemployment Insurance Fund.

- Legal protection from victimisation for trade union activities and the right to form registered trade unions.

- Minimum safety regulations governing working conditions.

A National Manpower Commission was appointed in 1983 to look into the working conditions of farm and domestic workers, and handed its findings to the Minister of Manpower on July 3, 1985.

The report has not been released. Manpower Minister Piet du Plessis said in a parliamentary reply that "consultations with organised agriculture are still in progress".

The discussions began in June last year.
We developed a huge complex.

Hills Bros. Group Ltd.

Development and Project Management

Industrial property organisation in Southern Africa.
Farmers square up against trade unions

By Robyn Chalmers

Farmers will pull out all the stops to prevent trade unions from becoming too powerful, says a consultant of the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU).

Dawie de Villiers, associate director of labour relations at Unisa's School of Business Leadership, says: "Farmers feel threatened by the formation of trade unions in the rural areas, and believe it is wrong.

Job total

"Unions pushing for better wages and higher standards of living do not fully understand the dynamics of farm life."

About 1.3 million workers are employed on farms. They are represented by six trade unions which are not recognised.

Statistics on the number of members they have are difficult to ascertain. Cosatu says its National Union of Farm and Agricultural Workers (Nafawa) has 22 000 members.

A report in Die Afrikaner, mouthpiece of the HNP, says the Paper, Print and Allied Workers Union has 5 000 members in forestry plantations in Natal and the Eastern Transvaal and the Orange Vaal General Worker Union on Anglo American farms claims a membership of 5 000.

The National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) affiliate National Union of Farm-workers says it has 15 000 paid-up members. Cosatu's Food and Allied Workers Union maintains that the unions have the greatest

Common law

Conditions of employment for farm workers are governed only by common law, and unions are pushing for some form of regulation.

Professor de Villiers agrees that workers need protection, and says they should be included under the Basic Conditions of Employment Act.

"I have made numerous representations to the relevant bodies on this score, bearing in mind that because the Act was written for factory workers it has to be looked at in depth."

The major problems facing workers are relatively low wages and the lack of job security.
A strike rages, under the bluegums

A HUNDRED farmworkers have been lying around in their red and white overalls under bluegum trees on a farm for the past 18 days — but no because they are lazy.

For the National Union of Farmworkers (NUF) the work stoppage on the Magaliesberg farm is first real test of the union’s ability to extend trade union rights to South Africa’s biggest farming regions.

The dispute began on April 18 when three shop stewards elected by the 120-strong workforce demanded that Impala’s owners begin talking to the NUF about a wage hike.

According to senior shop steward Lazarus Motsosadi, who is also NUF’s vice-president, about 100 workers went on strike after the farmer told the shop stewards to “... off”. Before midday he sacked the strikers and told them to leave the farm compound by the next morning.

Motsosadi called in their organiser, NUF general secretary Tshaka Molelese, who advised the workers to don their overalls and report for work every day while the union tried to get them reinstated.

Since then the situation has deadlocked with the farm owner refusing to talk to the union or the shop stewards. The union is investigating a legal challenge to the sackings. The farmer, who has threatened to go to court for an order to evict the workers, keeps his farm going by employing jobless workers from surrounding farms and white schoolchildren in the afternoons, says Motsosadi.

Workers’ grievances relate to wages: they say they range between R70 a month for women, R250 a month for a driver. A month for a truck driver who has been on the farm for 23 years.

The farmer provides free accommodation and gives each family one bag of mealie meal a month. Motsosadi says workers never receive compensation at work, even though workmen’s compensation laws have been extended to farm labourers.

Last year three workers from the farm were killed in a truck accident while on duty. The farmer gave the families R200 to share for the funeral expenses.

One crucial difference separates the Impala strike from the norm: Impala is not a factory. It’s a farm.

By THANDEKA GQUBULE and EDDIE KOCH

she said, “We don’t mind if you publish only the workers’ side of the story.”

Molelese began building his union on the pig farms and nurseries that dot the road between Krugersdorp and the Magaliesberg. For him the outcome of the Impala dispute is crucial. Victory will convince NUF’s members in the region, which the union sees as one of its power bases, that the organisation has something to offer. Defeat will be a serious setback for NUF’s plans to use the region as a bridgehead into the maize farms of the Western Transvaal.

The obstacles the union faces are typical of those that the unions making headway in the agrarian sector must contend with. NUF cannot go to the industrial court to argue the dismissals were unfair as farmworkers are not covered by the country’s labour laws. On the farms there are no minimum wages or basic conditions of employment, no methods of collective bargaining and farmworkers cannot claim unemployment insurance when they lose their jobs.

The workers say they have never signed written contracts, leaving NUF with only common law and the farmer’s verbal agreement of employment with which to fight a legal battle for reinstatement.
FARMER THROWS OUT FAMILY
FIRST they were evicted, then their goods were confiscated.
Farm schools subsidized

A TOTAL of 5,776 farm schools for blacks were subsidized to the tune of R136.7-million by the government for the 1987/88 financial year, the Minister of Education and Development Aid, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, said yesterday. Replying to a question by Mr Ken Andrew (FPP Gardena), Dr Viljoen said a total of 466,991 pupils were registered at the farm schools which received an average subsidy of R24,569 each during the past year.
The striking farmworkers are charged

By EDDIE KOCH and MUSA ZONDI

ABOUT 80 rural labourers from two farms in the Magaliesberg area have been charged with trespassing on property owned by Impala nurseries after being dismissed last month for staging a wage strike.

Farm owner Jurrian van Voorst has also made an urgent application in the Johannesburg Supreme Court for the dismissals to be declared valid and for an order that the workers vacate the farm and their compounds.

The workers, who live with their families in compounds located on the farm, have remained on the premises since the dismissals. Shop steward Lazarus Motsoadi says the farm owner has refused to allow the labourers to work, even though they have offered their services every day.

Thaka Moletsane, general secretary of the National Union of Farmworkers (Nuf), told the Weekly Mail that 82 union members on the farm had been charged with trespassing this week and summoned to appear in the Krugersdorp Magistrate’s Court on May 19.

The supreme court hearing has been postponed until May 18 and the union given until Monday next week to file papers arguing why the order should not be granted.

The labourers and their families will be allowed to remain on the farm in the interim and they have undertaken not to disrupt the workings of the farms.

The strike began on April 18 after workers demanded Van Voorst begin negotiations with Nuf about wage increases. The workers have also listed grievances involving alleged assaults and intimidation by the farmer.

Members of the Van Voorst family last week refused to comment.
Schools plan for Boland gets going

by TYRONE SEALI
Weekend Argus Reporter

IN PLACES where low wages, inadequate housing and ill health are rife, the Western Cape Foundation for Community Work is attempting to create a better deal for farm labourers' children.

The FCW, an Athlone-based organisation specialising in pre-school education, care and training, has spread its operation to the Boland.

In Franschhoek, the foundation recently launched a pre-school programme at the local NG Sendingkerk.

Educare

At Aagter Paarl, the seeds have been sown for a home-based educare system where mothers on the farms will be involved in caring for and teaching the children.

Parents are discussing proposals for the scheme and FCW community workers expect it to start operating soon.

At Stellenbosch, 30 toddlers and three staff members, of all colours, have turned the Jakkerland pre-primary centre in Jamestown into a success.

The FCW has a growing network of pre-school centres including those at Khayelitsha, New Crossroads, Mitchell's Plain, Blackheath, Athlone, Grassy Park, Ocean View, Malmsbury, Atlantis, Paarl and Wellington.

Problems

"There are great problems with learning, particularly in rural areas, and we are trying to introduce effective programmes to address this need," said FCW social worker Mr. Trevor Lombard.

"One often has a case of a child in the care of a single parent who has to go out to work. The child is placed in the care of other people without an effective training programme."

"Little things go wrong - the child is not taken to clinics when it is necessary, or it isn't fed properly - and before you know it, the child is ill and the parent has to stay out of work to attend to the problem."

"Before you know it, the parent loses his or her job because of absenteeism and, as a result, there's a crisis in the home."

"We are hoping that through our multi-disciplinary approach involving psychologists, social workers, community health workers and administrative staff we will help communities who have these problems."

Curbed

Says Mr. Lombard's colleague Ms. Pat Birkett: "One of the main things we want to achieve is to break down the idea that a pre-school programme can only take place in a formal setting."

However, some farmers have tried to curb attempts at upliftment on their estates.

"Some farmers won't let one on to their property. We visited Simondium once with a church minister and he pointed out places where, he said, we should not even try to get in," Mr. Lombard said.

"Our work is difficult, but we feel we must get to farm labourers and use the pre-school work as a step towards uplifting entire communities."

Bondage

In this instance, says Mr. Lombard, upliftment means destroying values and practices that have held labour communities in bondage.

"One of the problems on many of the farms is that when a labourer becomes ill, he is fired because he could affect the rate of production."

"He immediately has to leave the farm and, if he has one, he has to take his family with him. This means the parents and children are uprooted and have to start all over again somewhere else."

"Should he die, the labourer's wife and children will be forced to leave the farm unless the woman takes in another man as her husband."

"FCW projects co-ordinator Ms. Rucia Abrahams says: "We are here to make our expertise available. We hope that by using our diverse skills and services we will be able to end many of the long-standing educational problems in rural areas and the Cape Flats."
25 labourers injured in truck accident

CAPE TOWN — Twenty-five farm workers, all from Klipfontein Farm in the Villeradorp district, were injured when the truck in which they were travelling left the road on Viljoens Pass between Grabouw and Villersdorp on Saturday.

The injured were taken to the Hottentots Holland hospital in Somerset West. Fourteen were reported to be in a serious condition.

The accident occurred on a sharp bend on Viljoens Pass.
RENT PROTESTS HAVE REACHED WELLELS FARM NEAR WERTHEIGNING WHERE SHEiks

THOUSANDS OF RESIDENTS AT WELLER'S FARM

BIG RENT PROTEST

SOWETHAN, Tuesday, May 17, 1969
Farm families face eviction

Staff Reporter

WORKERS at the Villiersdorp agricultural co-operative and winery are looking for housing for their wives and children after being told to move them off the premises where they have been living in temporary structures.

They were given until 5pm on Monday to dismantle the structures or lose their jobs.

There is no black township in the area and the co-op provides only single quarters for their workers.

Mr Jannie Raubenheimer, director of the co-op, said he was aware that the workers ignored the deadline and their families were still there.

"Earlier this month we called a disciplinary meeting with the workers and their union.

"We warned them that they were in danger of losing their jobs if they did not move their families," Mr Raubenheimer said.

"If they do not dismantle their shacks soon, we will call another disciplinary meeting and give the workers a second warning."

"I am still hoping that we can find a solution to this problem," Mr Raubenheimer said.

"It is impossible for us to allow the workers' families to stay here. The company does not want to contravene any laws."

About 18 families, mostly from Transkei, are living in the corrugated-iron and wooden shacks next to the men's barracks.

The nearest township is Zwelethenga, 50km away near Worcester, which has a severe housing backlog.

Miss Ursula MacDonald, the Grabouw secretary of the Food and Allied Workers' Union, said the union had a meeting with co-op workers this week.

"The workers are resigned to the fact that they cannot live with their wives and children," Miss MacDonald said.

"We decided to ask management for an extension of the deadline, to give the workers an opportunity to dismantle the structures.

Miss MacDonald said this would probably take place tomorrow, when the workers had time off and could assist their wives.

"The workers are prepared to comply with management's request. All they ask now is a little time to find alternative accommodation for their families."

Miss MacDonald said the union and the Progressive Federal Party's unrest monitoring and action committee were looking for accommodation for the women and children.

"Some of them have relatives in Zwelethenga and Cape Town who we will approach to ask for temporary housing," she said.

Miss MacDonald said the union would continue to pressure the authorities for a black township in Villiersdorp.

Mr Jasper Walsh, PFP MP for Pinelands and chairman of the monitoring committee called on the co-op management and the municipality to consider alternatives.

"No black housing, or even land, is available in Villiersdorp for these people," Mr Walsh said.

"For many years the coloured labour preference policy, enforced by influx control, meant that the only housing for blacks was hostels for single men.

"But surely now something can be done for these people?"
A POTGIESBERSUS peanut farmer and his employees, Mr Klaus Kgasela (31), who are suing the Minister of Law and Order for malicious prosecution, were implicated by two witnesses who claimed to have seen them breaking into a shop, a Pretoria Supreme Court judge heard yesterday.

Mr D A J Swart (50) and Mr Kgasela, who is a foreman on the farm, are claiming R15,000. The two were arrested in connection with a burglary at a shop 3 km from Mr Swart’s farm on February 27, 1986. They were subsequently found not guilty on July 30, 1986 in the Potgietersrus Regional Court. They are claiming.

By ALINAH DUBE

R10,000 and R5,000 respectively.

Mr Justice Esselen heard that Mr Swart only heard of his alleged involvement in the burglary when he met a Warrant Officer Schoeman at a hotel at Tswaing Mines, a settlement near his farm, on March 22, 1986.

"After speaking to me about the burglary case, Warrant Officer Schoeman said he had a confidential matter to discuss with me as a friend.

"He made mention of my having been involved in the case and that my car had been at the scene of the crime.

"He also stated that he did not have anything to do with the case but that a Sergeant Coetzee was the man who wanted to see me in jail," Mr Swart said.

He further told the court that after a long conversation he put it to Warrant Officer Schoe-
THURSDAY 26 MAY 1988

CRUDE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION...

1. No Member of the Opposition will be allowed to enter the Chamber at 12 noon. It is hoped that the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the National Front, and the Leader of the Opposition, will be present to attend the meeting of the Committee of Supply.

2. The Minister of Education and Culture will make a statement on the situation in the education sector. The statement will be broadcast on the radio and television.

3. The Deputy Minister of Water Supply and Irrigation will make a statement on the current situation in the water sector.

4. The Minister of Health will make a statement on the recent outbreak of the disease in the country.

5. The Minister of Agriculture will make a statement on the current state of the agricultural sector.

6. The Minister of Defence will make a statement on the current security situation in the country.

7. The Minister of Finance will make a statement on the current state of the economy.

8. The Minister of Transport will make a statement on the current state of the transport sector.

9. The Minister of Communications will make a statement on the current state of the communication sector.

10. The Minister of Tourism will make a statement on the current state of the tourism sector.

11. The Minister of Labour will make a statement on the current state of the labour sector.

12. The Minister of Social Affairs will make a statement on the current state of the social affairs sector.

13. The Minister of Environment will make a statement on the current state of the environment sector.

14. The Minister of Foreign Affairs will make a statement on the current state of the foreign affairs sector.

15. The Minister of Education and Culture will make a statement on the recent developments in the education sector.

16. The Minister of Health will make a statement on the recent developments in the health sector.

17. The Minister of Finance will make a statement on the recent developments in the economy sector.

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54. The Minister of Foreign Affairs will make a statement on the recent developments in the foreign affairs sector.
Man crushed by grape press

PAARL. — A man died in a grape press at De Doorns yesterday.

Captain Grys Boonzaaier, Boland police liaison officer, said Mr Hlathe Boy Dema, age not given, was dragged into the press at De Doorn wine cellars and instantly crushed.

Capt Boonzaaier said Mr Dema was busy oiling the machine when another worker accidentally switched it on. — Sapa
Dop pay system 'grave' problem

The problem of the dop system in the Western Cape was becoming grave, and stricter control was needed, the Minister of Health Services and Welfare, Mr. Chris April, said in the House of Representatives.

He said in debate on his budget vote that there was little he could do to prevent farmers from giving labourers alcohol as part payment for their work.

However, those who did not care about improving the lot of labourers would face the dire consequences of a festering sore of discontent.

This medieval system was driving indigent people deeper into the sub-culture of poverty.

A survey by his department showed that the dop system was prominent in places such as Durbanville and Phillipi, and was found as far away as Knysna and Kakamas. — Sapa.
Dop system 'grave'

The problem of the dop system in the Western Cape was becoming grave and stricter control was needed, the Minister of Health Services and Welfare, Mr Chris April, said yesterday. A survey by his department showed that the dop system was prominent in places such as Durbanville and Phillipi. Mr April also said vagrancy and prostitution were increasing in Cape Town. Surveys had shown that there were an estimated 500 to 600 vagrants and there were only two night shelters for boys and three for adults.
Why we fled 'Baas Cowboy'
By the farmhands who trod 100km to get away

By GAYE DAVIS,
Cape Town

TEN men who walked 100km to Cape Town to escape a Piketberg farmer they were tricked into working for say that the man they call "Baas Cowboy" made them work six-and-a-half days a week in shifts of up to 15 hours, and paid them R5 a day.

The men, who said they were beaten regularly on the farm, said they had fled late at night for fear of being spotted by patrolling foremen who would tell the farmer, GJ Carstens.

Carstens, of Klipheuwel farm, canned the nickname "Baas Cowboy" from his style of labor relations.

He has denied the allegations, saying the men were "just trouble-makers seeking publicity." He said, for example, that he did not beat his workers: "It's bad to beat them when they cost so much — they just leave."

The men arrived in Cape Town last Wednesday after a three-day walk and just a month after being recruited in impoverished Bothashelo, a resettlement area 55km east of Bloemfontein and some 1 000km from Piketberg.

They said Carstens offered daily wages of R5.50 for labourers, R12.50 for tractor drivers and R15 for truck drivers.

Instead, they harvested potatoes and onions for R5 a day, six-and-a-half days a week, and were "paid" for overtime in tots of wine.

Carstens said this week the men had threatened his other workers. He dismissed all their allegations which include hiring under false pretences and refusal to return the 10 books they surrendered on recruitment. He insisted they were free to leave the farm at any time.

The 10 men were recruited on April 5 at a Bothashelo general store owned by the township mayor, Sam Chaka. Carstens said Chaka regularly arranged his recruitment drives.

The 10 men said they travelled, packed into four trucks with about 100 others, for 28 hours before arriving on Klipheuwel farm.

They said they were warned against leaving and were housed in a compound apart from other workers "so that we wouldn't get to hear the farm's story," said Shadrack Maruping, who spoke on the men's behalf.

Of their weekly wages, R2.40 was docked for food — mealie meal, black sugared coffee for breakfast and mealie meal with unpeeled potatoes for lunch and din-

To PAGE 2
The tenants who cling to land they do not own

By JO-ANN BEKKER

FOR years Johannes Mthebwa herded 566 sheep on the fencless farm of an absentee landlord in the south-east Transvaal. He said his job was to "take care of the livestock and help the farmer." His pay was the wool from the sheep, and he often worked without a contract.

In return for his arduous work, he received it. It is a typical situation among the 200,000 black farm workers who are tied to the land and are never free to move on.

Mthebwa is one of many farm workers who are at the mercy of their employers. They are paid a fraction of the wages that white farm workers earn, and they are often forced to work for free.

The tenants who cling to land they do not own - By EDDIE KOCH

Labour tenant — always on the brink of landlessness and, right, the Tsot...
family reap the bitter consequences of RM LABOUR

Wearing overalls to beat the yellow jersey patrol

ONE of the crucial lessons Lawrence Moore has learned in the union organizing and organizing work is that farmers shouldn’t wear bright clothes and carry firecrackers when they go out to talk to the farm workers.

Moore, a former organizer for the United Farm Workers of America, has seen the effect of such tactics. He remembers one incident when he was trying to organize workers on a farm in the southwestern part of the state.

The farm workers were being paid low wages and working long hours. Moore and his co-workers were trying to negotiate better working conditions.

One day, Moore and his colleagues were working on the farm, trying to reach the workers. Suddenly, smoke started filling the air. The workers had set a fire to try to drive them away.

Moore and his co-workers had to retreat to safety, leaving the farm workers to continue their illegal tactics. This kind of harassment is common in rural areas, where workers often face challenges in organizing for better working conditions.

By EDDIE KOCH

By EDDIE KOCH

UNION ORGANISERs are living in fear as a result of a new assault on the movement.

A group of workers in a small town in the west of the country went on strike to demand better wages and working conditions.

The employer, a large agribusiness, responded by sending in a team of private security guards to break up the strike.

The workers were met with violence, and several were injured. The police were called in, and tensions escalated.

The union organizer in charge of the strike was arrested on charges of inciting violence.

The organizer is now being held in a prison, facing life in jail if convicted.

Union organizers are calling for solidarity and support for their colleagues facing this type of oppression.

"We need our members to stand with us," said the organizer's lawyer. "We are fighting for a better future for all workers, and we will not give up without a fight."
In court

The case of two white men charged with murder, following the alleged beating to death of a farm labourer last year was postponed in the Louis Trichardt Magistrate’s Court to July 29.

Jakobus Vorster (21) and Mr Petrus Loernard (21) appeared before Mr P.J Cronje on Monday.

The appearance of the two is a sequel to an incident at a Levubu farm on December 21 last year when they allegedly beat Mr Eric Sambo to death for riding over two dogs with a tractor.
R80-m ethanol plant expected to get OK soon

By David Canning

DURBAN — Cabinet approval is expected soon for an ambitious R80 million ethanol plant which will sustain 20 000 jobs and provide a major boost for sugar farmers and Natal business.

SA Sugar Association (SASA) chairman John Chance said the industry is expecting a “positive statement” shortly.

He was confident that the Cabinet, which had the final say, would give its go-ahead.

He told the annual conference of South African Sugar Technologists in Durban yesterday that the National Energy Council had asked SASA to reaffirm its interest in ethanol production under a set of parameters which the executives had supplied.

SASA had given its confirmation, with a few minor qualifications, “and we therefore expect that a positive official announcement on the future of the project will be made shortly.”

Mr Chance said rapid progress had been made in bringing the association’s ethanol fuel project — for which Richards Bay was considered the optimum area — to fruition.

Although extensive experience in a number of countries proved there were no technical problems with ethanol blends of 20 percent, SASA was considering the implementation of a 15 percent blend to be conservative.

A 150 million litre plant would provide for the present requirements in Natal “up to the Sasol interface”. This would create a contiguous alcohol blend from the PWV through to the Natal coast.

A plant near Richards Bay would have access to an abundant supply of raw material and the effluent could be readily accommodated through the existing ocean outfall pipe. The effluent was non-toxic and would create no marine environmental problem.

“The plant will use upgraded molasses equivalent to 200 000 tons of sugar and 150 000 tons of final molasses.

“The production of ethanol will sustain 20 000 jobs supporting about 100 000 people in KwaZulu and it will make a significant contribution to the economy of Richards Bay and, in fact, the whole of Natal.

Most of the equipment for the plant would be manufactured in South Africa — saving many millions of rands in foreign exchange.

Explaining the motivation for the plant, he said sugar export prices would remain below the cost of production for even efficient producers “for the foreseeable future”.
Overproduction will cut prices

Wheat farmers land up in costly trouble

PRETORIA — Wheat farmers are producing themselves into a costly crisis which would lead to a drastic reduction in the wheat price, Wheat Board GM Denis van Aarde said last night.

He said it was as a result of maize farmers switching to wheat production on a large scale.

This was happening to such an extent that a serious shortage of wheat seed had developed.

The Central Western Co-operative reported last year 165,000 pockets of wheat seed had been sold to farmers in the western Transvaal and western Free State. This year's sales had increased by more than 100% to 220,000 pockets.

Van Aarde said the prospect facing farmers was that on top of this year's more than three-million-ton crop — local requirements were only 2,4-million tons — the new crop could reach 3,5-million tons under favourable conditions.

This would mean a surplus of more than a million tons which would have to be exported at a loss in terms of current prices of more than R200m.

Van Aarde said: "And we haven't got that kind of money. The load would have to be carried by producers in the form of substantially lower prices."

On the price of bread, Van Aarde said in spite of the fact producers would have to accept a big price cut unless government raised the subsidy, the bread price would have to be increased in October.

The milling and baking industries' margins would have to be adjusted.

The R100m bread subsidy was due to run out at the end of September.

Van Aarde said government would have to provide at least another R100m to maintain the bread price at current levels until the start of the new financial year in April.
Race bias hinders coloured farming

James Swigelaar (LP Duysseldorp) said yesterday.

Speaking in the House of Representatives, he said government did not have the vision to deal with a troubled agricultural industry.

It was impossible to pursue deregulation while continuing with restraints on land possession, namely the Group Areas Act permit system for coloured farmers.

The permit system, a difficult and lengthy process, was holding coloured farmers back from the free enterprise system.

Immigrants could buy farms anywhere but people born in SA did not have this right.

There were 23 different aid schemes for white farmers but none for coloured farmers, he said.

Agriculture Minister Greyling Wenzel said the coloured agricultural industry had to develop itself from ground level if it was to achieve the status it desired.

It could be represented on the executive committee of the SA Agricultural Union only once it was sufficiently developed.

Rightly or wrongly, there were historical reasons for the fact that most agricultural land belonged to whites.

The permit system should not be over-stigmatised because before the establishment of the Group Areas Act, there was a free-for-all with whites buying up all the land.

Coloured farmers should realise that if the permit system was scrapped, restrictions on white farmers buying into any of the 23 areas set aside for coloured farmers, totalling 2-million hectares, would also have to go.

Coloured farmers would end up with less land than they had now.

It was government policy that there should be equal opportunities for all people at all levels. However, the ability of different communities was a factor. — Sapa.
Tax dodges attacked

More Farm

Teaching brain-drain picks up speed

Debt woes

VARITIES DISCUSS SPEECH FREEDOM

TRADE WITH SA OK

CORRUPTION

ALWAYS LOOK FOR THE CONTEXT OF INTEGRITY

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DISCUSSION OF MOST RECENT GOVERNMENT

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Boshoff quits to save "Volk"

PRETORIA. — The "dark future" of South Africa has moved Professor Carel Boshoff, leader of the Afrikaner Volkswag, to resign his chair in theology to devote himself to saving the Afrikaner "Volk", he said yesterday.

He dissociated himself from a statement at the Reformed Ecumenical Synod in Harare yesterday by the Moderator of the Ned Geref Kerk, Prof Johan Heyns, that the church "had confessed its participation in apartheid with humiliation and sorrow". — Sapa
Langeberg bus disaster a tragic loss to workers

CP Correspondent

THE BUS disaster on June 2 has left the entire Langeberg work force, their families and friends, together with their union — the National Union of Food Workers — in deep mourning.

This was said by the president of the NUFW, Nonkohlakalo Mkhonjwa, in a written statement.

Four workers died in the disaster, and 43 others were injured, of whom 29 were treated and discharged on the same day.

Five were discharged last Friday and nine are still in hospital.

Those who died are Nkengs of 283 NU10, and Nontlhalako Ncube of 657 NUSA Mdantsane.

Mkhonjwa said this was a very tragic loss, not only to the Langeberg workers, but to the entire working class movement, as those workers had been active in the union.

They would be buried tomorrow, said Mkhonjwa.

“We appeal to the East London community to contribute, in whatever form, as this is not only a loss to the workers alone but to the East London community as a whole,” said Mkhonjwa.

All inquiries could be referred to the general secretary of the NUFW at telephone number 22030 in East London.
Free market system for agriculture

Farmers given bold new plan

INCREASING agriculture's profitability and self-sufficiency was the main objective of a strategic new plan for the development of a sound industry, SA Agricultural Union president Kobus Jooste said in Durban yesterday.

The attainment of the objective, he said, was by way of a market-oriented system, with a well-ordered market economy.

Releasing details of the plan at the SAAU's co-operative conference, Jooste said he was not pleading for a "licentious" free market that had no rules and laws.

The plan rejected control for the mere sake of control.

It drew a distinction between economic and socio-economic objectives.

It dealt with the issue of compensation for socio-economic services rendered by the industry.

The plan stressed the void between the strategy for the co-ordination of production and marketing.

"The plan is aimed at the commercial agricultural sector and is based on the central importance of the farmer as independent entrepreneur, while always bearing in mind the realities in respect of affordability and feasibility," Jooste said.

He said it concentrated on areas where the industry could progress on its own, reports SAPA.

Other aspects addressed include maintaining strategic supplies, the utilisation and conservation of natural resources, labour productivity, labour relations, and capital and financing structures.

In addition, credit policy, structural adjustments, farming unit size, the market value of land, the handling of agricultural debt and the subsidising of production aids were addressed in the plan.
TWO people were shot dead and three wounded in a hail of bullets after two youths opened fire on workers on a Paarl farm early yesterday.

Boland Police Liaison Officer, Captain Gys Boonzaier, said at Paarl yesterday that two coloured youths approached labourers' houses on the farm, Silver Lining in Franschhoek Road at 6.55am and demanded money from a 28-year-old black man.

When the man refused to hand over money, the youths opened fire with a .32 revolver, killing the man and a 20-year-old woman.

The shooting continued and a 60-year-old man was seriously injured. Soon after the incident, he was taken to the Tygerberg Hospital in Bellville.

Two other black men were shot and are being treated in the Paarl East Hospital.

The police have launched a manhunt for the two coloured youths, Capt Boonzaier said. — Sapa.
Hunt for gunmen

BOLAND police were yesterday searching for two men who gunned down three migrant labourers on a poultry farm near Paarl after the workers refused to part with their money — probably only a few rand, according to their employer.

Two workers were injured in the attack.
Sugar market bounces back

By Dave Canning

As sugar prices hit a five-year high on international markets the South African sugar market is finally showing promising signs of growth and price advancement, says Sugar Mills Association chairman Glyn Taylor.

With a spot price on world markets of 12c a pound "within easy reach" and international consumption on the rise, "the only cloud on the horizon is the possibility of further sanctions," he said at the annual meeting of the association yesterday.

A good crop and the fruits of a successful domestic marketing drive meant the industry could well set aside more than R100 million this year for repayment of loans — a considerable advance on the R70 million spoken about at the Canegrowers annual meeting last week.

"Improved marketing combined with the upturn in the economy and a price increase held below the rate of inflation, led to falling sales being reversed and turned into a five percent real growth.

Manufacturers using sugar were offered incentives and promotions were introduced at wholesale and retail level, said Mr Taylor.

Vice-chairman of the association, Dick Ridgway told members to guard against complacency in the long-term. Sanctions still loomed "ominously" and the considerable ability of world producers to grow more when prices were rising meant bull markets did not last long.
Top paid at R80 a month

IT was Saturday afternoon. The sun was high and Koos Cloete was stalking baboons on the farm Brakputs, near Kamieskroon in the Northern Cape.

Cloete was manning a special trap used to catch baboons. Anything touching a rope attached to the trap would be shot by a shotgun-like device.

Cloete was determined to wipe out the pests which had been killing sheep and destroying wheatfields.

His mind wandered. In a few hours he would be able to go home and rest.

"Suddenly I touched the trap and almost blew off my left arm," Cloete said at Conradie Hospital this week.

"I don't know if I will ever be able to work again. I will only know what the future holds when I leave the hospital."

He has been in hospital for more than three weeks and is uncertain how long he will have to stay.

Cloete, 32, said he did "a little bit of everything" on the farm and earned R80 a month.

"I am one of the highest paid workers because I have the longest service. I can do anything that needs to be done, including driving tractors and doing spadework."

A worker with little experience earned about R50 a month. This compared with what workers earned on other farms, he said.

"I was born on the farm. My father worked on the farm until his death about two years ago."

"I never learnt to read or write. I did not go to school because I stuttered. I have been looking after sheep and doing small jobs on the farm since I was about 16 years old.

"I don't think I will be able to drive a tractor again."

Cloete said he normally started work before sunrise at about 5am and continued working until after sunset, depending on the workload.

He lives in a single-roomed house on the farm. He does not pay rent and gets flour, meat, wine and cigarettes as part of his "payment."

He uses his R80 to buy coffee, tea, two packets of cigarettes, four packets of tobacco, two packets of matches and food.

"The only time I really have money to buy clothes is at Christmas when I get a bonus of between R150 and R300, depending on the harvest."
**Conflicting signals**

Sugar prices are firming on the international market and prospects for the crop are brighter than they have been for years. Ironically, even under this improved scenario, the outlook for SA growers is little improved.

Cane farmers considering increased plantings are coming under a barrage of conflicting market signals. Making the right decision will not be easy.

Worldwide, sugar consumption continues to rise steadily, eating into export stock levels. Domestically, consumption is stable and aggressive marketing techniques show promising signs of boosting sales.

In addition, news abounds of developing crop failures worldwide and international spot prices for sugar are surging (Business May 20). Monday's London sugar price of US$240/t (fob) was 6% up on the previous fix, 12% above the May price of $214/t and 64% above the June 1987 price of $146/t.

It all adds up to a very positive scenario for those with room to grow. But despite the bullish climate, SA cane growers have been warned against "over-optimism."

Potential constraints on world prices and consumption dominated an address by chairman Laurie Gordon-Hughes to the annual meeting of the SA Cane Growers' Association in Durban last week. Among the downsides were:

- The limited ability of LDC importers to finance price rises — at last count their share of imports had risen to 60% of world trade;
- Considerable potential for increased production in the USSR — currently a major importer — as well as China. Gordon-Hughes warned that a major aim of perestroika was the stimulation of agriculture, and;
- The possibility of extended sanctions against SA.

On the domestic front, he noted that the proposed ethanol plant at Richards Bay was intended to absorb only part of the country's export surplus — not expanded production — and there was a mistaken belief that the time was ripe to correct the swing from cane production to timber.

"This is certainly no time to be thinking of any expansion of production. On the contrary, I believe that a policy of careful consolidation, based on the true economic value of export production as reflected in B pool prices, is still appropriate," he warned.

The short-term benefit from current, though fickle, price levels would be additional repayments of the loan burden accumulated to support prices in the past. A payment of R46m was made in April, reducing the debt to R281m. Moreover, Gordon-Hughes claims present indications are that a further amount "in excess of R70m" could be available for repayment later this year.

Adding to the farmers' quandary is that they were presented with a somewhat contradictory view at the SA Sugar Millers' Association annual meeting held later this week. In his address chairman Glyn Taylor took a strongly bullish view of the future.

"Sugar is on the recovery track, with increasing excitement running in both our domestic and the world markets... indeed, I believe that while we may have entered the decade with a whimper, we could well leave it with a roar," says Taylor.

Yet anyone who has been in sugar for any length of time knows the notoriously cyclical nature of the industry. Past experience has shown that farmers who make a snap decision on plantings now could learn to regret it later.
Dogs mauled us, court told

By YVETTE VAN BREDA
Court Reporter

WITNESSES told the Regional Court yesterday that they were mauled by three dogs which allegedly killed two people on the Paarl farm of a pilot and stock car driver.

Mr Flip Smit, 66, of Fransgelegen farm, pleaded not guilty to two counts of culpable homicide and five of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

The state alleges that on July 3 last year Mr Smit’s dogs, Shaka, Brutus and Kafir, killed Mr Johannes Pekeur, 67, and that on April 4 last year they killed Mr Pekeur’s 15-year-old grandson, Bool.

It is also alleged that the dogs attacked and injured five other people on the farm. Most of the incidents occurred on a farm road also used as an aircraft runway.

Mr Jacob Wyngaardt, in his late 60s, said he had worked on the farm for many years and groomed and fed the dogs. In April last year he was on his way to the farmhouse in the morning when he saw a blue jacket about 80m from the house.

As he bent to pick it up, he saw the naked and bloodied body of Bool. He called the foreman and later the police and ambulance arrived.

Mr Frederick Truter, a warder at Victor Verster Prison, said that in July last year he had come to visit the Smits, when he saw a body lying in the middle of the farm road. The man was topless and his trousers were around his ankles.

After noticing the body was motionless, steaming and bloody, he drove to the farmhouse and told Mr Smit. Mr Smit called the dogs before they set off for the road. Mr Truter said he did not see blood on any of the dogs.

The man was identified as Mr Johannes Pekeur.

The hearing continues today.

Mr A.J. Burger was the magistrate. Mr M. Steyn of the Attorney-General’s Office prosecuted Mr D van Houten, appearing for Mr Smit.
Govt gets stern with farmers

CAPE TOWN — Government has given farmers notice that one-channel marketing of agricultural products must come to an end and that the sector can no longer depend on "fat" subsidies to support pricing structures incompatible with what normal market forces dictate.

This new, sterner treatment of the agricultural sector comes in the wake of growing concern over the mounting debt burden incurred by farmers, which is well in excess of R13bn.

In recent weeks, the message has come in different forms from Finance Minister Barend du Plessis, Finance Deputy Minister Org Marais and Agricultural Minister Greylng Wentzel.

It may well spell the end of the tight grip many of the agricultural boards have on this industry.

In short, it declares SA can no longer afford feather-bedding a farming community which is essentially production driven and has displayed an alarming insensitivity to marketplace needs.

This ministerial resolve emerges out of a decision to accept the advice of the Economic Advisory Council (EAC), which called on government to promote a more market-orientated approach and initiate a major reconstruction programme for the sector, Marais explains.
**Court hears tragedy of boy killed by dogs**

**BY YVETTE VAN BREDA**

WHEN a farm labourer approached his employer and said: “Boss, boss must come and see your dogs have bitten my child to death,” the man turned away and walked into a store, the Paarl Regional Court heard yesterday.

Mr Absalom Mouriës was giving evidence in the trial of Mr Flip Smit, 66, of Fraaigelegen Farm, who is a pilot, stockcar driver, former racing driver and farm owner. Mr Mouriës worked for Mr Smit and lived on the farm.

Mr Smit pleaded not guilty to two counts of culpable homicide and five of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

The State alleges that on July 3 last year, Mr Smit’s dogs, Shaka, Brutus and Kafir, killed Mr Johannes Pekeur, 67, and on April 4 last year killed Mr Pekeur’s 15-year-old grandson, Bool.

It is also alleged that the dogs attacked and injured five other people on the farm. Most of the incidents occurred on a farm road also used as a runaway.

Mr Mouriës, Bool Pekeur’s father, told the court that on April 3 his son had left their home to visit his aunt on a neighbouring farm. On April 4 Mr Mouriës was informed that the body of his son had been found.

Detective Warrant-Officer Raymond Simpson said he was called to the scene where he saw the naked body of Bool Pekeur on the side of the road. “There were various bite marks all over his body and pieces of scalp were on the ground.”

The hearing was adjourned to September 1.
JOHANNESBURG. — Unions had started to organize farm workers into a force that could cripple the agricultural industry unless it sets up fair employment standards, Mr. Phillip van Welbergen, a labour relations consultant, said yesterday.

"And unless South African agriculture can set some fair and professional employment standards, unless some dramatic changes are made now, it could lead to the complete disruption of South Africa's agricultural industry," he said.

The more than one million farm workers were poorly paid and educated and lived a serf-like existence.

"Should they lose their jobs, they lose home and hearth with it — and they have no recourse to complain."

"They have been excluded from the Labour Relations Act, which means they cannot go to the industrial courts, which means they are effectively excluded from the collective bargaining machinery," Mr. Van Welbergen said.

Farmers did not believe they were anything like big business. But the average farmer had nearly Rm tied up in assets, at replacement value, working on a return on assets of 12%.

His workforce would be between 20 and 30 permanent workers and more temporary employees.

Unions were "stepping up the pace", specially in the Orange-Vaal region, Northern Free State, Western Transvaal and Vaal Triangle, Mr. Van Welbergen said.

"The unions know the farmers have no way to combat any union activity."

"But what can unions promise the farm workers other than moral support?"

"The unions can take matters to court on common-law principles, basically contractual breaches."

"But in most cases there are no written contracts."

The urban employer had access to the Industrial Court, where he could charge workers with unfair labour practice, and indirectly get a claim against the union if shop stewards were involved.

Some corporate farms had a manpower policy.

"This means that there is a standard written code of practice in management."

"Hiring, job descriptions, appraisals, disciplinary and grievance procedures are all laid down and for all to see. It is binding to both boss and worker."

"There is a lot that farmers could do. They could learn how to set up fair and professional employment standards and sound labour relations."

"If this is delayed much longer, the agricultural industry could be faced with major unrest on a massive scale."

— Sapa
No pension for farm worker of 33 years

MR CE Mathebula of Acornhoek is concerned about his elderly uncle's pension. His uncle has worked for the same farmer for 33 years. This year the farmer told him this would be his last year on the farm. The farmer told him he should not expect to get a pension from him—not even a cent. Mr Mathebula said his uncle is already getting an old-age pension from the State. Unfortunately, there are no laws to protect farm workers— even those who have worked for a lifetime on the same farm.

If the farmer does not want to pay a pension, there is nothing the farm worker can do.

If the old man is already getting a government pension, he cannot claim anything else.
3 in court after 3 farm deaths

West Rand Bureau

Five men will appear in the Westonaria Magistrate's Court today following the death of three black farm labourers and the attempted murder of a woman on a Westonaria farm on Sunday morning.

A West Rand police spokesman said the farm labourers were attacked by a group calling themselves the "Marussians" on Kloof farm.

Three men were killed, in the apparently unprovoked attack, and one woman was shot in the upper leg, before the "Marussians" fled.
3 FARM LABOURERS KILLED IN GANG SHOOT-OUT

FIVE men were arrested on Sunday afternoon after police discovered earlier in the day a wounded woman and the bodies of three men on a farm in the Westonaria district on the West Rand.

West Rand police spokesman Major Tienie Halgrya said five men, allegedly members of a gang called "The Russians", were arrested in connection with the deaths of three men and the attempted murder of a 26-year-old woman.

All three men died of bullet wounds.

Halgrya said the gang stormed the labourers' quarters on a farm called Kloof about 7am on Sunday.

"A fight broke out between the farm labourers and The Russians. Shooting took place and three farmworkers were killed and a woman was shot in a leg.

"Police immediately launched a search and arrested five men the same afternoon. The identities of the dead men are not yet known."

Halgrya also said an Everton, Sebokeng, woman and four of her children were killed at 10pm on the same day when lightning struck a house, setting it alight.

He said Lisa Lolwaza, 34, and four children aged 16, 12, four and three were burst to death when lightning struck their house on Sunday night. Her husband Goodman and a son are in the Sebokeng Hospital undergoing treatment for burns.
Big inroads into farming
Trade unions are making

FROM MALCOLM

8/11/71 5944259
Families pushed into the cold

CHIEF TIMES STAFF REPORTER

THREE families — including a four-month-old baby — this week saw the roof ripped off the Philippi stable they have called home for the past several years.

The three families — a total of 13 people — spent yesterday huddled from the driving rain under plastic sheeting donated by the Western Province Council of Churches. The children slept under a tarpaulin.

When the Cape Times visited the farm Frylinks Poort yesterday, their furniture and possessions were stacked outside while a bulldozer levelled the ground around the building.

The tenants were told to get off the land this week when a new owner took over Frylinks Poort.

And the roof was removed on the instructions of the owner — while their furniture and possessions were still inside.

Mrs Katie Williams said her husband Roy had lived and worked on the farm for 25 years, while she had lived there for 25 years. All five of their children had been born on the farm, she said.

"I do not know where we are going to live now, we have nowhere to go," Mrs Williams said.

A spokeswoman for the Black Sash, who visited the farm, said there were conflicting legal opinions as to whether the notice given the tenants was adequate or if they should have been given more time to find another place to live.

The new owner of the farm — transfer was taken July 1 — yesterday declined to be interviewed and forbade the Cape Times to take photographs.
NINETEEN workers on the Anglo American-owned Vergelegen dairy farm in Somerset West have been dismissed.

The Somerset West Advice office says many of the workers are aged and some have been employed since 1955. One worker was sacked after 33 years service.

In addition, the sacked workers were told to leave the farm and now stood to lose their accommodation.

Paid off

Confirming the dismissals, Mr Mark Allan, manpower resources manager for the Anglo group, said most of the dismissed workers had relatives living on the farms which meant they could stay on in the homes.

He said the 19 were casuals working on a contract system and were paid daily.

"Some of these workers might have stayed here for a long time but they knew they could be paid off anytime when the work was finished," Allen said.

A spokesperson for the Somerset West Advice office, Ms Cathy Rickard said many workers worked under the contract system and some had been on the farm since 1955.

Mr Xolisa Nobatinana with 33 years and Mr Sindelini Maba with 26 years had the longest service.

Nobatinana went to Transkei for two months because he was ill. When he returned he was paid R48 and told that he and all the other dismissed workers should leave the farm by Sunday.

"Now they are old they are dismissed and sent home. Younger people are now employed on a casual basis," she said.

Rickard said the dismissals began after Anglo American took over the farm at the beginning of the year and started a new work programme.

"Some of those who have been working on the farm for more than 20 years were still paid R32 a week," she said.
Land-scheme change

PRETORIA — Government's land conversion scheme has been amended to make it more acceptable to farmers.

Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentzel said yesterday the scheme was part of a long-term strategy to promote structural changes and market-oriented production. It was also intended to relieve pressure on natural veld as part of the grazing strategy.

Wentzel said some farmers had been reluctant to take part in the scheme.

The amendments include: "A participant will receive R400/ha in the first year."

Confusion over Nafcoc chamber

THE resignation of Inyanda Chamber of Commerce president PG Gumede and the subsequent formation of a new chamber in KwaZulu-Natal, has left the biggest region of the National Federated Chamber of Commerce (Nafcoc) in a state of confusion.

Gumede, a former president of Nafcoc, resigned from the Inyanda presidency earlier this year, leaving it floundering for leadership.

This week he said the new KwaZulu-Natal Chamber of Commerce, under the presidency of James Mhlungu, was formed at the instigation of KwaZulu Legislative Assembly members and was undesirable since the Inyanda chamber had not been dissolved.

Mhlungu said the decision to form a new organisation was taken at a meeting on July 13. He said Gumede was present at the meeting.

Mhlungu said the new organisation had not been in contact with Nafcoc yet. The executive would present a new constitution to the general membership.
Bill threatens farm workers' family life

BLACK farm employees would become migrant labourers under the proposed Prevention of Illegal Squatting Amendment Bill, Legal Resources Centre attorney Geoff Budlender said on Friday.

He was speaking at a conference called by the Black Sash and other groups to outline the effects of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Amendment Bill, the Group Areas Amendment Bill and the Slum Bill.

All three Bills will be tabled in Parliament in August.

Budlender said if the Bill affecting squatters was implemented, the dependents of farm workers would no longer be able to live with them and farm employees would become migrant workers.

He said the squatting and group areas Bills sought to reverse the onus by making an accused person prove his innocence.

The courts would be obliged to order the ejectment of an offender or demolition of a building on conviction. They would no longer have discretion.

A sentence would not be automatically suspended by an appeal to the Supreme Court under these two Bills.

There would no longer be provision for an individual to obtain an interdict to prevent his eviction or the demolition of a building, even if he knew his tenancy was lawful.

He said the Bills were reminiscent of the emergency regulations because they placed wide powers in the hands of administrators, introduced wide prohibitions with sweeping penalties and were a systematic attempt to exclude control through the courts.
JOHANNESBURG. — Black farm employers would become migrant labourers under the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Amendment Bill, according to Legal Resources Centre attorney Mr Geoff Budlender.

He was speaking at a media conference called by the Black Sash and other groups on Friday to outline the effects and consequences of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Amendment Bill, the Group Areas Amendment Bill and the Slums Bill.

All three bills are due to be put before Parliament in August.

Mr Budlender said that if the bill affecting squatters was implemented, dependents of farm workers would no longer be able to live with them.

This meant farm employees would in effect become migrant workers.

Mr Budlender said the courts no longer had discretion and were obliged to order the ejectment of a person or demolition of a building on conviction under the squatting and group areas bills.

A sentence would not be suspended pending an appeal to the Supreme Court under these two bills.

The punishment would thus be carried out even though the appeal had not been heard.
We are not people who are waiting or people who are passing through. We were born here. Another place we have not seen. We were born right here on this farm.

These words, said by farmworker Mr. Aaron Zuma, are recorded in a publication of the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (TRAC) entitled *A Thorn in the Land*, May 1988.

Mr. Zuma, not his real name because he still works on the farm, is one of the millions of blacks directly affected by the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Amendment Bill, the Stomps Bill, and the Group Areas Amendment Bill presently before Parliament.

The Bills deal with housing and the resettlement of people in the rural areas and in the cities.

In its publication TRAC quotes a farmworker who is part of a generation that has lived on the farm and who does not want to leave for the cities.

"The blacks were on the farm first. The Boers came later. They got the land by fighting through the Naps."

"They arrived and found our homesteads and made the law that we should work under them. The men must plough and the women must work in the kitchen."

"The law became 'hey you, come and load the trucks.' Yet you don't get a cent for that and you must wake up in the morning and sleep late."

The Black Sash Urbanisation Group in its analysis of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Amendment Bill concludes that families of farmworkers are now threatened with evictions, not only because they are now legally dangerous than they have experienced before.

The group says that at the moment it is an offense to enter land or a building without lawful reason and to remain there without the permission of the lawful owner. "This is an absolute denial of the principle of law and justice that the State must prove the case against an accused," says Black Sash.

The amendment completely changes this. The accused will have to prove he did not have lawful reason for entering or remaining on the land. "This is an absolute denial of the principle of law and justice that the State must prove the case against an accused," says Black Sash.

Black Sash Urbanisation Group.

TRAC says: "The effects of this amendment are that people in rural areas who lose their jobs will be vulnerable to eviction and criminal prosecution while they look for other jobs."

"The law is misconstrued but it is most unlikely that the committees will order the evictions of white non-workers who live in the rural areas."

"After all, all white pensioners, farmers, contractors and unemployed people will vote and the vote must be respected and respected."

TRAC comments further: "We fear that the Bill will be used effectively to evict people and that it heralds a return to the Nationalist dream that only those blacks who are economically active should be allowed in the "white areas.""

The Black Sash says more than five million people in the country are homeless. More than one million families do not have proper shelter.

"Homelessness is arguably the most serious problem in South Africa at this time and as Africa at this time and as the Government does so much about it, and the organisation asks: "Is it prepared to deal with the problem by:"

- Breaking down houses.
- Removing people from where they are without providing any other place for them to be.
- Re-introducing influx control with increased severity.

The Black Sash says the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr. Chris Heunis, as saying in Parliament in June that there was a shortage of 60,700 houses for blacks outside the homelands.

"That means that 60,700 black families have no adequate shelter. Other authorities have estimated the shortage to be over 80,000," says the Black Sash.

It says this means one out of every six South Africans is without shelter or is living "illegally somewhere where he or she is not supposed to be."
BLOEMFONTEIN — The amount realised from the sale of livestock when a farmer retires from farming because of poor health or advanced age should not be taxable, J. Neethling of Smithfield told the 80th congress of the National Wool Growers’ Association of SA in Bloemfontein yesterday.

If this was not possible, the amount realised should be treated in the same way as the gratuity of a salaried person: that the first R30 000 is tax deductible and the balance taxed the next year at the average rate applicable to the taxpayer over the previous three years.

Neethling said when a farmer reached the end of his career he usually did not incur noteworthy expenses in the last year. Thus, his taxable income was relatively high.

With the realisation of the livestock, he possibly wished to buy a house or flat in which to retire or to invest the money to provide an income from the interest.

At present he had to pay income tax at the maximum rate, which meant that he would only receive 55% of the amount realised at present tax rates.

The stock with which a farmer was farming when he retired — or the average over the last three years — should be regarded as a capital asset, not taxable when farming ceased. — Sapa.
Farm Workers March

Workers at disappearing agricultural college march on management offices yesterday to protest against the impending eviction of a family who have lived there for 32 years.

Workers said their families had been evicted to make way for a new research facility that will be built on the site. The workers said they were forced to leave their homes and that they were not compensated for their losses.

The workers marched unarmed, carrying signs and banners. They chanted slogans and sang songs of protest as they made their way to the management offices.

The family of the farm workers was threatened with eviction if they did not leave the property. The workers said they had no choice but to march to protest the eviction.

About 50 workers marched on the farm yesterday afternoon, demanding that the family be allowed to stay. The march was peaceful, with no incidents reported.

Stop Family's Eviction

Farm Workers Gather to

[Signature]
Search for ways to shed the red

Farmers have been told to cut their umbilical cord to the State for aid and become more financially independent.

Mr. Gries Bries, president of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, told them last week not to expect others, notably the State, to bail them out when “cash got tough”.

Many farmers support his call. They see greater involvement in the processing and marketing of products — and thus a share of the profits — as a new hope to pull the industry up by the bootstraps.

Many farmers are in dire financial straits, and all ways to gain greater independence are being discussed increasingly in organized agricultural circles.

This week the Orange Free State Agricultural Union is thrashing out a strategic plan at its congress in Bloemfontein for financial survival. On the agenda are suggestions to improve productivity, financial planning and farm management.

Citrus coup

Mr. Bries says it has become imperative for farmers to seize the initiative in processing and marketing agricultural products. Losing control of produce at the farm gate means farmers allow others to reap substantial profits.

He says farmers should use the existing infrastructure of co-operatives to enter marketing.

Farmers should also start new co-operatives. He cites the example of citrus farmers at Letaba, who have started their own packing co-op.

When the price of packaging paper became prohibitive, they formed their own co-op to supply a cheaper alternative. This was followed by a co-operative to make cheaper cartons.

The initiative saved them money, and also the consumers, said Mr. Bries.

The enterprising Letaba farmers also realised soon that the juice extraction industry was controlled by vested interests.

They negotiated a deal with an independent company, became stockholders, and now earn R200 for a ton of oranges. This is 70 percent more than the R27.5 a ton they earned previously by delivering oranges to one of the major processors.

The historic shape of the citrus was made when the central agricultural co-operative for processing and marketing was formed.

Today, with an annual turnover of about R1 billion, it represents about 40,000 stock farmers belonging to 43 primary (local) co-operatives.

Mr. Hendrik de Kock, Vleiensental’s public relations manager, says this co-op is an object lesson in what can be achieved if farmers become organised.

Other examples are ostrich farmers who process and market their products under their own trademark, and citrus farmers who own and control the Citrus Exchange, with its internationally-known “Outspan” label.

South African Agricultural Union economist Mr. Johan Pieterse maintains that this new trend must not be seen as the final solution to all of agriculture’s financial problems.

Detailed feasibility studies to determine the profitability of capital-intensive processing ventures need to be undertaken.

But, he says, the time has come for farmers to become more businesslike and to shed the traditional image of menial, hard-working tenants who seek the State’s shelter in tough times.

Cash dilemma

The question remains whether agriculture can afford to help itself out of its present financial dilemma.

Total agricultural debt is R14 billion, of which about 85 percent is owed to co-ops, the Land Bank and commercial banks.

Who will finance such capital-intensive ventures? Funds are available, says Mr. Pieterse.

Many sectors of the industry, notably those who export produce, have sound balance sheets.

Others with heavy debt burdens are nevertheless basically sound and will have no difficulty getting further loans to set up infrastructure for new ventures.

Co-operatives, or farmers setting up close corporations, will be able to secure loans from the Land Bank and commercial banks.

Those who plan to set up industries in designated industrial growth points could also approach the Decentralisation Board for concessions, says Mr. Pieterse.

Now it’s over to the farmers.
Tractor crushes worker

A MAN was crushed to death yesterday when the tractor he was driving overturned on a Greyton farm. A Boland police spokesman said Mr. Basil Jacobs, 32, of the farm Lusmore, was killed when the tractor he was driving up a steep incline suddenly rolled backwards and overturned, pinning Mr. Jacobs underneath.
Creating new jobs on farms ‘difficult’

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The agricultural industry had a key role to play in the national economy as well as in providing jobs for about 1.3-million workers, Rural Foundation chairman F J Malan said yesterday.

Speaking at the foundation’s AGM, he said when dependants of the workers were added, the total supported by the industry was around 6-million.

Malan said because of fast-rising input costs, the increasing debt burden, as well as a declining overseas market, it had become difficult to create new jobs in the agricultural sector.

He stressed the need for innovative thinking in the establishment and growth of small businesses in rural areas. The foundation was receiving increasing requests and proposals on small business development.

During the year the number of farm workers receiving in-service training more than doubled to 16 000, and about 186 000 farm people were involved in about 3 000 courses.

Employers had spent about R15m on improving workers’ housing.
Boy dies after scalp ripped off: Owner of dogs in court

From ANDREA WEISS
Staff Reporter
PAARL. — The dogs that allegedly killed 15-year-old Bolo Pekeur, on Fraaneleglen Farm near Paarl must have had big, strong jaws, Dr Martin Carel Muller told the Regional Court here today.

Dr Muller, who has been district surgeon in the area for 10 years, was giving evidence in the trial of Mr Flip Smit, 66, of Fraaneleglen Farm.

Mr Smit has pleaded not guilty to two counts of culpable homicide and five of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

The State alleges that on April 3 last year Mr Smit's dogs, three Rottweilers, killed Bolo Pekeur and on July 3 they fatally mauled his grandfather, Mr Johannes Pekeur, 67.

Dr Muller said Bolo's scalp was torn off; both upper arms were mutilated and there were lacerations and punctures on his limbs, torso and face. There were 40 punctures mark for each 100 square centimetres. There was also evidence of brain haemorrhage.

LEOPARD
Although the brain injuries could have been caused in a fight, the cause of death was due to loss of blood from the multiple injuries. Two major arteries in the upper arms were torn.

When asked if it was possible for a leopard to have caused these injuries, Dr Muller said that in 10 years' experience he had seen no such case, but it was theoretically possible.

There were no signs of an animal having eaten the body after death as would be expected in the case of a leopard attack. He did not wish to speculate on what breed of dog caused the injuries.

Under cross-examination Dr Muller said the dogs would not necessarily have had blood on them after the attack. He was not an expert on dogs but had seen dogs clean themselves with their tongues and by rubbing their bodies on the grass.

Dr Elisabeth Schoning, the State pathologist who examined the body of Mr Pekeur, said death was caused by multiple tears and bites. The body was covered in bite marks.

"BEWARE OF DOG"
It was difficult to say what size dog caused the injuries but she presumed it was a strong animal.

The court viewed a video showing struggle marks and dry blood on the farm road. A sign, "Beware of Dog" was displayed on a fence.

On the video Mr Smit said area was the dog's domain. He alleged that fuel had been stolen from the tank of an aircraft on an adjacent airstrip and tyres had been cut by people wishing him harm.

(Proceeding)

Mr A J Burger is on the Bench.
Mr M Stowe of the Attorney-General's office is prosecuting and Mr D van Niekerk appears for Mr Smit.
‘Killer dogs’ not hostile, says owner

BY YVETTE VAN BREDA

THREE Rottweilers who allegedly killed two people and mauled five others were friendly, not trained to attack, and less dangerous than dogs on neighbouring farms, their owner told the Paarl Regional Court yesterday.

Mr Flip Smit, 66, of Fraaigelegen farm, who is a farmer, pilot and stockcar driver, was testifying at his trial. He pleaded not guilty to two counts of culpable homicide and five of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

The state alleges that on July 3 last year, Mrs Smit’s dogs Shaka, Brutus and Kaffir, killed Mr Johannes Pekeur, 67, and on April 4 last year killed Mr Pekeur’s 12-year-old grandson, B dov.

It is also alleged that the dogs attacked and injured five farm labourers. Most of the incidents occurred on a farm road also used as an aircraft runway. The court heard that the road was used as a short cut to town and other farms.

Yesterday, Mr Smit told the court he had had Brutus put down. He said the dog was “my shadow” and the “dominant” one of the three.

“I don’t think the dogs are dangerous, I think they’re less dangerous than dogs on neighbouring farms. They’re friendly with complete strangers,” Mr Smit said he was pressurized by the press, his partner who read about the matter in the Johannesburg newspapers and his wife.

The hearing continues today.

Mr A J Burger was the magistrate. Mr M Steen of the attorney-general’s office prosecuted. Mr O van Riebeck appeared for Mr Smit.
‘Pressure’ forced death of favourite dog

By ANDREA WEISS
Staff Reporter

PAARL — A farmer whose dogs are alleged to have killed two people and bitten five told the Paarl Regional Court he had his favourite dog put down because of public pressure.

“That dog followed me like a shadow,” Mr Flip Smit, 66, of Fraaigelegen said yesterday.

Mr Smit is charged with two counts of culpable homicide and five of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

The State alleges that Mr Smit’s dogs, Shaka, Brutus and Kaffir, killed Booi Pekeur, 15, on April 4 and his grandfather, Mr Johannes Pekeur, 67, on July 3 last year.

It also alleges the dogs attacked and injured five people.

Mr Smit said he considered having the dog’s teeth removed because his wife, chairman of a women’s organisation in Paarl, was upset by public reaction to the case.

“I phoned my vet who said he didn’t think pulling the teeth would help. I had no other option but to put the most nervous dog down. I did it for my wife’s sake,” he said.

His family had received death threats and anonymous letters, he said.

Mr Smit said he bought the three Rottweilers four years ago after a number of burglaries and attacks on his property. Strange dogs had also attacked ducks and sheep on the farm.

He said petrol had been stolen from his aircraft on the airstrip where most of the alleged attacks took place.

Under cross-examination, Mr Smit said that four of the people allegedly attacked by the dogs lived on the farm.

When asked whether they had a right to be on the farm, he said they had a right to stay at home on the farm but did not have the right to be in the vicinity of the farmhouse at weekends or at night.

EMERGENCY

He said farm workers were instructed to go to the foreman’s house in the event of an emergency.

They were to use private exits at night and visitors were expected to use a northern entrance to the farm and not walk past the yard, he said.

He denied his dogs would attack without provocation.

“I don’t think I have dangerous dogs. They are no more dangerous than my neighbours’ dogs.”

(Proceeding)
Blacks farmers give a big helping hand to white cattlemen

DROUGHT-STRICKEN
White northern Transvaal farmers are over-
whelmed by a large gift of
hay from black farmers in
a neighbouring homeland.

KwaNdebele farmers have
donated 3 600 bales of fodder
to their white neighbours at a
harvest day celebration
where the Development
Bank of Southern Africa
signed a loan agreement of
R200-million with the tiny
homeland to improve agri-
culture.

Goodwill
This is possibly the first
time black farmers have as-
isted their white counter-
parts in this way in South
Africa.

KwaNdebele has had what
Chief Minister Majosi
Mahlangu said was a "large-
ly successful agricultural
season".

He said KwaNdebele far-
mers occupied 230 farming
units and had produced 20 000
tons of maize and 1 200 tons
of wheat in the past year.
About 1 400 new jobs in agri-
culture had been created.

"We have always been a
nation of farmers and all we
lacked in the past was the
necessary arable land to
practice agriculture."

Mr Mahlangu also ap-
pealed to neighbouring far-
mers to have a closer rela-
tionship with the
KwaNdebele Agricultural
Union.

The SA Agricultural Union
(Saau) which received the do-
nation at Sybrandskraal on
behalf of the farmers de-
scribed it as "a gesture of
goodwill and a hand of
friendship stretched out by
the people of KwaNdebele".

The fodder has been dis-
tributed among farmers in
the Kordosrand area of
northern Transvaal — a
stricken grazing area.

A spokesman for the Saau
said the farmers were "very
pleased" with the donation.

Asked about the racial as-
pect he said: "When your live-
stock is hungry and you re-
ceive a gift you do not look at
the hand that produces the
food.

Reverse
"In fact, the reverse is also
true. White farmers from the
Free State went into Lesotho
recently to help out farmers
there when the drought
struck and there were no
problems that they were
whites from South Africa."

He added: "In fact the
average white farmer does
not see the KwaNdebele far-
mers as blacks. We are all in
the same business producing
food for the people of this
country."

Meanwhile, the donation
has not charmed everybody.
The KwaNdebele Crisis Com-
mittee said it was ill-advised
coming at a time when some
people in the homeland had
no food "to keep their bodies
and souls together;"

"It is a decision by a gov-
ernment that is obsessed with
publicity."
Farmers get warning on big debt burden

PRETORIA — Farmers were told yesterday government was not prepared to load taxpayers with the enormous and growing burden of agricultural debts.

This was made clear in a statement by Deputy Agriculture Minister Klaas van Niekerk at the Transvaal Agricultural Union congress.

He said, according to Sapa, the state could under no circumstances write off the huge farm debt at the expense of taxpayers.

Agricultural problems had to be solved by farmers who should accept responsibility for their decisions.

Van Niekerk said farmers receiving state aid in future would have to submit their books to government every year.

Last year farmers' debts totalled R14,2bn and this is expected to rise above R15bn by the end of this year.

Commercial bank credit to the sector is expected to exceed R4bn this year.

Volkskas agricultural economist Andre Louw told Business Day last week the collective exposure of commercial banks and co-ops to short-term debt amounted to 53% of total agricultural debts.

The SAAU's Chris du Toit said that, included in farm aid this year, were subsidies on farmers' carry-over debt amounting to R95,2m and on production credit R105m.

He added that subsidies on consolidated agricultural debt would amount to about R45,4m.
PRETORIA — Uncurbed inflation since the early 1970s has gnawed away at the roots of farmers' independence, the National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo) says in its official journal. Devastating droughts in the early 1980s had further destroyed the maize producer's financial base. Spiralling interest rates had aggravated an already critical problem. Over the past two decades there had been an ever-increasing dependence on the state for survival. Aspects vital to the farmer's survival such as a stable production environment were beyond Nampo's influence.
A BOLAND farmer accused of destroying workers' property because they belonged to a "kaffir union" has challenged the workers to lay charges against him.

Mr Evert Kotze, manager and co-owner of Witstaal Verspreiders in Hermon, has denied allegations made by about 50 workers who left his employ two weeks ago.

The workers claimed they were fired after Kotze discovered they had joined the South African Allied Workers Union (Sawwu) and were planning a meeting.

They said they joined the union to improve their living and working conditions.

They alleged that after they were dismissed, Kotze, his two business partners and the factory foremen came to the hostel where they were living. Possessions were destroyed, two workers threatened with a gun and a dog belonging to one of the workers killed.

Kotze, who last week refused to comment when approached by SAWU, this week said the workers had not been fired but had "mysteriously disappeared". He had no idea why they had left.

He denied any knowledge of assaults, destruction of possessions, or the disappearance of workers' identity documents, bank books and money.

He said he had nothing to do with the hostel which belonged to his partners.

Asked about the alleged shooting and roasting of the dog, Happles, he said he had heard the dog was shot because it had bitten sheep.

"In any event workers are not allowed to keep pets," he said.

Neither he nor his foremen carried guns or other weapons since there was no need for this. "Hermon is a peaceful place," he said.

"Workers are free to approach me on any of the allegations and are welcome to lay charges against me."

Kotze told South last week that the workers had been reinstated. This week he said he had no intention of reinstating them and had employed other people in their place.

"Work is carrying on as normal," he said.

The workers are now living in the Sawwu offices in Cape Town.
Crime Reporter

THE Attorney-General of the Northern Cape is waiting for a police investigation to be concluded before he will decide whether to charge a farmer with attempted murder following the alleged shooting of four children earlier this month.

A police liaison officer, Major van der Westhuizen, said that on September 6 four children from the Longlands area were shot, while apparently gathering wood on a farm.

According to earlier reports, 12 children aged between 12 and 20 years were gathering wood on the farm when the farmer “caught” them. He then ordered them to stand still and is believed to have fired a warning shot with his shotgun.

Four of the children ran and the farmer allegedly fired a shot at them.

All 12 children were then loaded on to the farmer’s bakkie and driven to Winter’s Bush station from where the police took them to Barkly West. Four of the children were treated for shot-gun wounds in the hospital.

The children are expected to appear in court on November 8 in connection with charges of theft.

The police are also expected to have finished their investigation and forwarded their report to the Attorney-General.
Three Boland farms hit by strikes

'We've had enough!'

By GEORGE HILL

Fruit farms in Grabow were hit by strikes last week when about 80 members of the Food and Allied Workers Union protested against low wages and bad working conditions.

This week's strike is the latest by farm workers in the last month. Recently, workers have gone on strike on Friday and Saturday.

Workers, many of whom worked on farms for most of their lives, earned at least R2.80 a week.

The workers at Heidelberg, Highfields and Evenwood Farms, downed tools on Monday. Negotiations between farmers and the unions are continuing.

Sharwood workers accepted a R2.80 increase on Tuesday, which is more than double their previous earnings of R1.25 a week.

Salaries

The workers at Highfields farm have refused an offer of R4.80 a week increase.

Workers at Heidelberg and Highfields farms told SOWIN they refused to continue working for starvation wages.

Mr. Henry Pieterse, a "heavy-duty" driver at Highfields farm, said he drove in Boland, Epping, marath and Worcester up to three times a week, but was only paid R6.10.

"I sometimes have to work on the farm for this small salary."

"My wife goes to home school after teaching. I feel it because of the hardship."

"I need the small salary for my six children and seven to learn," said he.

The men at Highfields earn R3.50 a week, while the women earn R2.50.

The workers were also angry about their living conditions.

"Our income never covers our family expenses."

"The children are unhappy because they do not have the money to buy clothes."

"The workers claim their annual bonus amounts to R5, which is only paid if they worked a full year."

Mrs. Christiana Roman said the workers had decided not to return to work.

"Our treatment here is awful. We pack 45 boxes of apples a week and we get R3."

"The men must buy their own overalls. How can they manage to buy overalls with the small salary they earn?""

"We only paid R3 overnight, if work until late on 15 or 16 o'clock at night."

Farm's foreman said the women were still paid R3 a day, which was not enough to help with the family expenses.

Johana Malag, 19, a matriculant at Groenberg Senior Secondary, with her sister Cathleen Malag, 9, and brother Nelson Malag, four months.

Western Cape Mr. Potros Jepsoja, who lives with his wife on Heidelberg, has been given three days to leave.

"I will rather leave because I do not want my farm to have a bad name," he said.

A worker, Mr. Ezieel Waele, said workers had been told to pay their own medical expenses when injured on duty.

"If the farmer pays, it's deducted from our wages."

Another worker, who could not recall his name, said he had started with the present farmer's father "many years ago."

"He earns R3 a week."

The workers and their families share three toilets.

Mr. Klaasie said he had started farming in 1971 and earned R10 a week. "Sometimes, we are going to see the strike and stand together till the end," he said.

Reeves, the owner of Heidelberg, said that the union always criticized the farmers and spread "negative things" about them. He refused to comment further.

Some of the striking workers. Standing are Henry Pieterson, Philo Jacobs and Louwance Tylkose. Sitting are Owen Saisyman and Charles Langenhoven.

Ms Potros Jepsoja and her daughter Julia, 2, in the kitchen of the house.
Farmers told: Workers’ unions ‘inevitable’

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA.—Farmers will have to face up to trade unions among farm workers in future, according to Mr R. Dredge of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing.

In the January issue of Crops and Markets, published by the Directorate of Agricultural Economic Trends, Mr Dredge said that “the current turmoil in South African labour relations” — the formation of trade unions, strikes and threats of strikes — could spread to the agricultural industry.

“Farmers will have to prepare themselves for these changes in the labour field by becoming au fait with modern personnel management techniques.

RECRUITING PROBLEMS

“Farmers are able to identify and correct real labour grievances through the application of sound personnel management techniques it will reduce to a large extent conditions which encourage agitation.

“This will pave the way for meaningful employer/employee negotiations,” he said.

Farmers paid too much attention to mechanisation rather than improving productivity through sound personnel management techniques.

In spite of the high unemployment, farmers found it difficult to recruit workers because black and coloured workers were becoming less interested in farm labour.
THE government provided R19.2 million last year in financial aid for the upgrading of housing for farm workers, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, said yesterday.
Farmer dragged man with bakkie for ‘discipline’

Court Reporter

A VREDENBURG pig farmer has been sentenced to three years for dragging a farm worker behind his bakkie as “discipline” for stealing a bottle of wine and neglecting the pigs.

Jakobus Visser, 32, of Rietvlei, Aurora, pleaded not guilty in the Vredenburg Regional Court yesterday to a charge of attempted murder.

He was alleged to have beaten Mr Piet Carolus, 23, with a black plastic pipe, tied his hands and dragged him 70m along a gravel road behind a bakkie on January 3.

Visser was convicted of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm and sentenced to three years.

WORKERS ON HOLIDAY

Visser told the court that on Sunday, January 3, all the farm workers were away on holiday except Mr Carolus and his father.

Mr Carolus’s job was to look after the pigs and when he found that his collar had been broken into and a litre bottle of wine was missing, he checked the pigs and found an adult pig in the pen with eleven piglets.

He said that he had suspected the adult pig had eaten the piglets and he would have lost R1 000.

Visser told the court that Mr Carolus, who had shared the wine with his father, begged him “with tears in his eyes” not to take him to the police because he already had a suspended sentence hanging over his head.

Visser took Mr Carolus to the farmhouse and beat him with a metre length of plastic pipe “on the rump (stern) where I normally do” to discipline him.

Visser said his mother came out and told him to “stop beating Piet so hard, you’ll injure him”.

She gave him a length of rope to tie him up instead.

He tied Mr Carolus’s hands behind his back with one end of the rope and fastened the other to the bakkie railing “so he didn’t escape”.

“In the back of my mind I was planning to take him to the police.”

“CLIMB ON”

Walking to the bakkie cab he ordered Mr Carolus to “climb on” and before switching on the ignition Visser felt “Piet’s weight” on the back and drove to the pig pen with the intention of moving the baby pigs.

Visser said when he alighted from the bakkie he found Mr Carolus on the ground.

Mr Carolus did not look badly injured and he thought the man had fallen off.

He said that when he untied the rope around Mr Carolus’s wrists he felt “something damp” but it was dark and he could not see what it was.

Mrs Tessa Reunis, for the State, asked Visser why, if Mr Carolus was not injured, he did not ask him to help move the baby pigs.

Visser replied that he had “no special reason” for taking Mr Carolus straight back home instead.

Medical evidence was that Mr Carolus, who will never again be able to use his arms normally, had all the skin scraped from his arms, his elbow bones were sticking out, and he had abrasions on his head, legs and toes.

The magistrate, Mr J M Lemmer, said Visser had abused his position of authority and had intended injuring Mr Carolus, and the community would expect this offence to be suitably punished.

After sentence Visser was released on R100 bail pending an appeal.
Farmer dragged man behind bakkie

Courts Reporter

A VREDENBURG farmer was yesterday jailed for three years for assaulting his employee by tying him to the back of a bakkie and dragging him 70 metres along a gravel road as punishment for stealing a bottle of wine.

The farmer, Jacobus Visser, 32, of Rietvlei, Aurora, was convicted of assaulting Mr Piet Carolus on January 3 with the intention to do grievous bodily harm.

He had pleaded not guilty to attempted murder, but was convicted on a lesser charge.

Mr Carolus, who no longer works on the farm, told the court that he broke into the farm cellar and stole a litre of wine. That night Visser came to his house and confronted him.

Mr Carolus said he had confessed to the theft and begged Visser to take him to the police. He said Visser said: “No, I will deal with this myself.”

Visser beat him with a plastic pipe and threatened to shoot him. Visser then bound his hands and tied him to the back of the bakkie, Mr Carolus said.

He was dragged along a gravel road to a pigsty. “Bones were sticking out of my arms,” Mr Carolus said. He added that he was covered in blood and badly hurt.
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He had pleaded not guilty to attempted murder, but was convicted on a lesser charge.

Mr Carolus, who no longer works on the farm, told the court that he broke into the farm cellar and stole a litre of wine. That night Visser came to his house and confronted him.

Mr Carolus said he had confessed to the theft and begged Visser to take him to the police. He said Visser said: “No, I will deal with this myself.”

Visser beat him with a plastic pipe and threatened to shoot him. Visser then bound his hands and tied him to the back of the bakkie, Mr Carolus said. He was dragged along a gravel road to a pigsty. “Bones were sticking out of my arms,” Mr Carolus said. He added that he was covered in blood and badly hurt.
Killing: 2
farmer 2/11/84

sentenced

A WHITE farmer who killed a black labourer following the death of the farmer's two dogs was yesterday found guilty of culpable homicide and sentenced to five years. The entire sentence was suspended.

Jacobus Voster (21) and Mr Johannes Leonard (21) of Lebu, appeared before Mr Justice J J Strydom in the Louis Trichardt Circuit Court.

They both pleaded not guilty to murdering Mr Eric Sambo (35) on December 12 last year.

Mr Vorster's sentence was suspended on condition that he pay R130 a month for five years to Mr Sambo's wife and four children. Mr Leonard was sentenced to three months imprisonment or R500.

The case followed the death of Mr Sambo at Mr Voster's farm late last year. Mr Sambo had been employed as a tractor driver by Mr Voster's father. On that day, he had been sent to Voster's farm to plough.

When he returned from a lunch break on that day, he accidentally drove over two dogs that had been lying under the tractor. The two dogs died.
Farmer killed man who ran over dogs

JOHANNESBURG. A farmer who killed a labourer after he had driven over two dogs was yesterday found guilty of culpable homicide and sentenced to a suspended five-year jail term.

Jacques Vorster, 21, and Johannes Leonard, 21, of Lethu, both pleaded not guilty in Louis Trichardt Circuit Court to murdering Mr. Eric Sambo, 35, in December last year.

Vorster’s sentence was suspended on condition that he pay R150 a month for five years to Mr. Sambo’s wife and four children. Leonard was fined R500 (or three months’ imprisonment).

Mr. Sambo, a tractor driver employed by Vorster’s father, was killed on December 12 while ploughing on Vorster’s farm. He had accidentally driven over two dogs which were lying under the tractor when he returned from lunch. — Sapa
Govt rates relief for debt-ridden farmers

PRETORIA — Cabinet has decided to give farmers a measure of protection against the two percentage point increase in interest rates.

Announcing this yesterday, Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentzel said the different debt consolidation, debt carryover and production credit schemes were being studied urgently by his department in conjunction with the Land Bank and the Finance Department.

The aim was to determine the costs of additional aid.

He added agriculture had entered a recovery phase after years of drought and floods.

It was not in the national interest, he said, to delay the long-term recovery process because of a monetary measure which, it was hoped, would be of short duration.

Meanwhile, SA Agricultural Union president Kobus Jooste said the increase came at a critical time for agriculture which was in the process of recovering from the devastating impact of successive droughts and floods.

The two percentage point rise would mean an additional R200m being added to the total annual interest on agriculture’s debt of more than R14bn.

The higher rates would drastically increase pressure on the industry, Jooste said.

Interest payments constituted the largest single cost item in the industry.

Jooste welcomed Wentzel’s assurance that interest rate subsidies on government aid schemes would be raised.
UPROAR OVER SENTENCE

JACOBUS VORSTER, a 22-year-old white farmer, walked free from court last week after torturing and killing a black farm labourer in a case that is causing uproar in the black community and earning outraged comparison with the Sharpeville Six sentence.

The facts of the case are horrific. Eric Sambo was a 35-year-old tractor driver employed by Vorster's father, Piet Vorster, local chairman of the ruling National Party. In December last year, he was "lent" to Jacobus to work in the fields.

He stopped threshing for lunch and when he returned to his tractor, Vorster's two Rottweiler-Dobermann dogs were asleep under the machine. Sambo, apparently failing to notice, ran over the dogs and killed them.

He offered to have his meagre wages docked to pay for new dogs. But, according to one report, the old man warned him to leave, because Jacobus would be "livid" when he found out.

Sambo took his advice, but a month later he was spotted at the roadside by Jacobus Vorster, who brought him back to the farmstead and tied him to a tree, with his arms stretched around the trunk.

Vorster and a friend, Johannes Leonard (21), beat Sambo with fists, sjamboks and "sticks" until he was unconscious. Vorster also fired two shotgun blasts near Sambo "just to frighten him a bit."

The next morning they continued to beat him and ordered four labourers to join in.

According to the Sowetan newspaper, they held a barbecue that night in the garden where Sambo was still bound to the tree. The newspaper alleged that during the meal they whipped him against the London Sunday Times.
Union to get tough with squatters

The South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) has issued guidelines to its members countrywide on ways to deal with the "squatter problem" on farms.

Mr August du Preez, SAAU media services manager, said farmers nationwide could order squatters off their farm, and if they refused to leave, they could report the matter to the provincial administration offices and the police station.

If another farm was occupied by squatters, but the owner failed to do anything about it, the neighbour could notify the local police station and the provincial administration offices, he said.

Mr du Preez said the SAAU and the Manpower Committee realised that "squatting on farms is a serious problem". He said the 1951 Illegal Squatting Act was difficult to implement and until such time as the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Amendment Bill was passed, these guidelines had been drawn up to assist farmers.

This announcement was broadcast in a radio report yesterday.

The announcement has been criticised by various organisations and legal representatives who specialise in squatter issues.

Mr Geoff Badlender of the Legal Resources Centre, said: "The announcement is worrying because it indicates a more active role by the Agricultural Union to encourage its members to remove squatters, which will only increase homelessness."
Union issues ‘guidelines’ on squatters to farmers

The Argus Correspondent

Johannesburg. — The South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) has issued guidelines to its members countrywide on ways to deal with the “squatter problem” on farms.

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Mr du Preez said the SAAU and the Manpower Committee realised that, “squatting on farms is a serious problem”. He said the 1951 Illegal Squatting act was difficult to implement and until such time as the Prevention of Illegal Squatting amendment Bill was passed, these guidelines had been drawn up to assist farmers.

Mr R Malan, SAAU general services assistant manager, said the guidelines were issued on behalf of the Manpower Department.

Criticism

He said the union hoped that the new Bill, when enacted, would, “help solve the problems of illegal squatting on farms”.

“Once the matter is reported, there are certain actions which authorities may take, but they vary depending on the area,” he said.

The announcement has been criticised by various organisations and legal representatives who specialise in squatter issues.

Mr Geoff Budlender of the Legal Resources Centre said: “This announcement is worrying because it indicates a more active role by the Agricultural Union to encourage its members to remove squatters, which will only increase homelessness.

“It is a mystery why they think they need even greater powers than they have already,” he said.

The existing Illegal Squatting Act already authorised the owner of the farm, the local authority, or provincial administration, to demolish the homes of squatters, he said.

Mr Budlender said farmers could not take action against squatters settled on land that did not belong to them.

Mr Alan Morris of the Transvaal Action Committee (Trac), said: “When looking at so-called illegal squatters, one must look at the history of the worker, and how long they or their family have lived on the land, and whether they have previously had permission to live on the land. One finds they often have the right to be on the land … a century ago, the land belonged to blacks.

“They or their family have often lived on the farm for generations, and have previously worked for the farmer.”

Looking for laughs: This four-week-old hyena hits out with its mother to face the audience at the Pretoria Zoo.

Birthday fun in Pinelands and Milnerton

PICK ’n Pay stores in Milnerton and Pinelands start birthday celebrations this month. It is the Milnerton store’s 14th birthday while Pinelands celebrates 10 years.

The managers of both stores — Glen Buckett in Milnerton and Manuel de Andrade in Pinelands attribute the success of their stores over the years to the loyal support they have received from the community in which they trade, and both pledge to continue to offer excellent service in the years to come.

Fun and Games

Guess-the-weight contests are being held at both outlets.
RS Sarah Sambo (31) is the mother of five. The ages of the children range from nine years to 21 months. She lives at Ha-Mathau, about 20km from Ermelo, Hospital east of Louis Trichardt.

Mrs Sambo lives in two dilapidated huts which are in dire need of repairs. They are in disrepair that are unlikely to be made as she has no money. The children wear dirty, tattered clothes with no shoes. But then shoes in this family count as luxuries.

She works as a domestic servant at a Levubu farm where she earns R10.00 a month. This represents the sum total of the family's monthly income. The family is destitute.

She is a stay-in servant and only goes home once a month to see the kids.

She is a widow. Her husband, Mr. Eric Jumara Sambo, was killed last year by a whisky farmer. He had allegedly caused the death of two doberman dogs belonging to Jacobus Vorster (23), a farmer.

**Shocked**

Vorster and his friends were recently sentenced to suspended sentences or fines. Vorster was also ordered to pay R100 a month to Eric's girlfriend who was in court when the matter was finalized. Mrs Sambo was at work on the same day.

The sentence imposed by the court has shocked many.

But for Mrs Sambo, whether the two got death sentences or not is immaterial. Eric is gone and she has five kids to feed, clothe and rear. The death of these two dobermans caused her husband's death.

Who was Eric Sambo? He lives in the Levubu Farms about 30 years ago, Eric grew up among the Levubu banna. His father died at an early age, leaving his younger sister, Maah, still being breastfed.

He worked for several farmers in the area until he was hired by Mr. Vorster, a former director of Agriculture at Thohoyandou, and owner of the farm.

Eric would bring some money to his mother at his sister's cottage where she stays every month before heading for Ha-Mathau to see the children and bring them food.

His tale begins in October last year when he accidentally caused the death of the two dogs belonging to Jacobus Vorster. The dogs were hit by a car and killed on the road.

**Fate**

Eric in the meantime had gone into hiding with Jacobus searching high and low for him. At one stage in November, according to Maria, Jacobus came to her and demanded that she tell him where Eric was. I told him that I did not know he said to me, "When I find him, I will kill him. He killed my puppies and I will knock him down with my car or shoot him dead."

Maria said.

White farmer gets off with light sentence

**How an accident in which two dogs were killed cost Eric Sambo his life**

I By MATHATHA TSEEDU

Vorster. So scared was Eric that he run away from the farm and he ended up in a jail cell.

It happened that he ran to Jacobus' father and pleaded that money be deducted from his wages to pay for the dogs. Maria says that at the Levubu Farms, he got money to pay for the dogs and sent it to Maria.

His tale begins in October last year when he accidentally caused the death of the two dogs belonging to Jacobus.

**Beatings went on during drinking spree and braai**

Time and luck ran out for Eric and fate led him to the main road on the evening of December 11, where Jacobus, travelling in another car, met him.

**Fate**

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**Political comment in article by Aggrey Kiakia and Sam Mhle, sub-editor, When and partner by Sydney Mathabatha. All of 61 Mansen and Hacondu Regt, Johannesburg.**
Death of Eric Sambo
MAN WHO SPOKE FOR FARMER

October 31 this year. Two witnesses were called to testify while others, including Eric's sister Maria, were waiting outside the court. The prosecutor, Mr W. Mahtao of the attorney's office, accepted a defense offer to plead guilty to a lesser charge of culpable homicide. With the deal struck, the need for further witnesses fell off.

BY MATHATLA TSEBUL

Jacobus Vorster gave him a plot

Justice Strydom passed sentence to Eric's father at R7600 to Eric's girlfriend in 60 installments of R130 a month.

Leonard was found guilty of assault and sentenced to three months or R900. This was after the judge had heard the community's desire for justice and law and order did not mean that Jacobus should go to prison for Eric's death. Eric, born breadwinner for his aged mother, wife and five children, had been killed between two Dobermans. His killers were tried and fined for that crime, and he, says, has been disowned.

As the crowd shuffled out of court, Maria had a Maria points to the grave of Eric Sambo.

Political comment in this issue by Aggrey Klaaste and Sam Mathe. Sub-editing: headlines and posters by Sydney Mathabala. All of 61 Commando Road, Industria West, Johannesburg.

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R3 000 homicide judgment will
be studied by Attorney-General

By Claire Robertson
Pretoria Bureau

The Transvaal Attorney-General is to study the
judgment in which a man who beat a farm labourer
to death for killing his
dog was fined R3,000 for
culpable homicide.

His crime will also
cost Jacobus Vorster (23)
a total of R7,800 over the
next five years because
he was ordered to pay
compensation of R120 a
month to his victim's
widow.

The amount of R7,800
was described yesterday
as a "heavy compensa-
tory fine" by the Attor-
ney-General, Mr. Don
Brunette.

REACTION

Vorster also received a
five-year jail sentence,
suspended for five years.
The case has drawn
outraged reaction from
members of the legal
profession.

Mr. Brunette confirmed
yesterday that he would
study the Louis Trichardt
Circuit Court judgment,
but pointed out that the
sentence was "out of the
hands of the State" al-
though it was possible to
take a judge on appeal
for "unreasonableness".

The State could object
to a judgment on a point
of law, he said.
Farmers welcome new labour rules

By Clyde Johnson
Lowveld Bureau

NELSPRUIT — Lowveld farmers have welcomed Manpower Minister Mr Pietie du Plessis' announcement that the employment of Mozambicans is to be allowed.

Although no employment conditions have, as yet, been announced, the mere fact that farmers can again legally employ Mozambicans has been described as good news.

During January this year, farmers were warned that unless documented lists of Mozambicans still in their employ were submitted within two weeks they would face heavy fines.

The ruling then was that no Mozambicans whatsoever were allowed to be employed.

Internal Affairs authorities said they had, at that stage, received little or no cooperation from farmers.

SMALL RESPONSE

In the Barberton area only 51 percent of the region's 96 farmers had made their lists available. Likewise, only half of Komatipoort's farmers cooperated.

Nelspruit was considered a problem area where only 10 percent of the farmers responded.

Southern Lowveld Farmers Union representative for Mozambican labour, Mr Willem Joubert, welcomed the announcement.

"Mozambicans, traditionally, since 1958, have been an integral part of the Lowveld's agricultural labour force and farmers experienced great difficulty doing without them during the past year," Mr Joubert said.

Some farmers, who have employed Mozambicans since 1964, said it was physically impossible to repatriate them. These people had in, the meantime been married, raised families, and in fact had no ties in Mozambique.

See Page 7.
be alive!

Lucky to

when you have been footprinted by others

Worker rights are human rights

Broken bones are not broken bodies

"When the mind is free, it can be creative at

Limited rights for workers

SOUTH 20:12 to 30 1988 4

FEATURE
A READER has written to the Cape Times questioning the description in last week’s column of South Africa as a violent society in which the victims of brutality are frequently poor and black — “such as farm labourers who are beaten mindlessly and mercilessly by their employers, to the point of death”.

Mr Tom Cleary of Rondebosch suggests I owe it to readers to disclose publicly the facts on which this perception is based.

The information he seeks is to be found in the court records of this country in every province since the time of Union and in the records of the Cape Colony going back to the notorious Black Circuit in the early 19th century.

Some cases of assault of farm labourers do not come to court and some which do are not reported in the newspapers. Here is a brief sample of cases reported in recent years:

◆ November 1988, Louis Trichardt Circuit Court: Jacobus Vorster (25) fined R5 000 with a five-year suspended sentence for culpable homicide. He tied a farm labourer to a truck and beat him to death. The court also ordered that he pay the labourer’s widow R130 a month for five years.

◆ August 1988: A Still Bay farmer, W. Nel (38), who clubbed a farm labourer to death, was found guilty of culpable homicide and sentenced to five years’ imprisonment, three of them suspended for five years.

◆ April 1985: Three Breede River farmers and a wine-maker were each fined R200 in Worcester Magistrate’s Court for assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm. The victim was beaten with a pickaxe handle and a length of hosepipe.

◆ November 1984: A Van Rhynsdorp farmer (36) and two prison warders were each fined R1 000 and sentenced to four months’ imprisonment (suspended for four years) after a convict labourer died two weeks after they assaulted him.

◆ July, 1982: The Appellate Division ordered an increase in damages payable to a Transkei contract labourer by a farmer from Rawsonville, Cape — described as “sadistic” by the Chief Justice — who assaulted two labourers. They were hung from beams in a packing shed and beaten. One died.

How is this kind of thing explicable in a law-abiding, church-going agricultural community?

A two-year study in the four provinces completed in 1981 by Mr Eugene Roelofse, an independent ombudsman, concluded that both farmers and employees in certain communities accepted cruelty to labourers as part of agricultural life and that light sentences for offenders compounded the scandal, which was endemic.

Mr Roelofse, who compiled a weighty dossier of case histories, campaigned for possession of a sjambok to be declared illegal. He argued that cruelly to farm labourers rooted in the old slave-holding culture of the Cape?

Mr Neville Fleurs, an inspector in the Department of Education and Culture, believes so — and has said as much in a postgraduate thesis at Unisa.

Mr Fleurs found that some farmers in that era were cruel and vindictive towards their slaves, over whose lives they had absolute control on their isolated farmsteads. “Short of murder,” he concluded, “the power of the master was absolute.”

It seems that in a frontier society, far from the support or the reach of the law, farmers believed it was their right and duty to punish their labourers, as they were entitled to punish their children, for their own good.

This customary attitude, rooted in the lawless colonial frontier and a paternalistic, slave-owning era, persists today in parts of rural South Africa.

There is another side to the picture, of course. There are many model employers among the farmers of the south-western Cape, as their employees will testify, and as anyone who has visited an estate like Drie Jonge Gezel- len in Tulbagh will confirm.

The Rural Foundation is also doing first-rate work in raising standards of housing and education, pensions and health care. Much headway has been made.

But the shadow remains. And there is no area where reform has been more fiercely resisted.

The findings of the Manpower Commission into domestic and farm labour, completed in 1983, have yet to be tabled. A draft bill has been promised but farm labourers are still excluded from the benefits and protection of the Labour Relations Act and are defenceless against exploitation. The Government hesitates to act.

Yet what happens in South African agriculture is being closely monitored abroad. With our wine and fruit exports vulnerable to sanctions, the Government’s timidity is potentially disastrous for farmers and labourers alike, for the Western Province — and for South Africa.

* Your Guide to Farm Workers and the Law, Cape Town, 1988. (Sponsored by the Black Sash.)
Workers 'evicted from land of their birth'

MARITZBURG. — Hundreds of farm workers in the Weenen area claimed they had been evicted, their cattle impounded and their homes destroyed by absentee landlords and other farmers.

Farm workers, about 200 of them in tents, are living in makeshift accommodation in an emergency camp on the outskirts of Weenen.

The farm workers claim that on the slightest pretext they are being chased off the land where they, their parents and their grandparents were born.

However, the farmers say those evicted are growing dagga on the farms, are lazy, often drunk, steal cattle and allow their hards to wander unchecked.

Mr Amos Majola, 39, claimed he was given two months' notice to get off former PFP MP Mr Graham McIntosh's farm, Zyperfontein, after Mr McIntosh accused him of stock theft.

'Said Mr McIntosh said the workers' claims were grossly exaggerated'.

"Are you suggesting I am not allowed to terminate the services of workers who openly steal from me, who are lazy, who are always drunk and who grow dagga on my farm?" Mr McIntosh asked. — Supa
EX-MP in evictions row

BY SHAWN ANGIE

Workers member of PRP actions by upset by

PHILIP

Notices

For years the couple had been

A FIGHTER FOR PROSSERS REGULAR

DENNIS WARD

Workers member of PRP actions by upset by

it's hard to believe that this is happening. The struggle continues, however. We need your support to keep the pressure on. Your donations will help us to continue our fight for justice. Please donate today! www.fightforjustice.com

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JUNE 1998

EX-MP in evictions row

BY SHAWN ANGIE

Workers member of PRP actions by upset by

PHILIP
EX-MP in Evictions Row

BY SHAWN HARRIS

Arson not suspected

In Cosatu

in Ex-Members Row

Member of PPFacciones upset by Workers

PICTURED

A FORMER PROTESTANT REFORMED
MINISTER Devoted to the Work of the Church

Home a Sustained Witness to the Truth

BY THOMAS WRIGHT

Abandoned Church the Work of a Religious Pastor

The Church is a House of Prayer for All People

The building and the people were

— Zeno Carboni

— Zeno Carboni
From page 1

Johannesburg. — Big business yesterday prepared to hit back at Boksburg — South Africa's new apartheid town.

With 40 Conservative Party-controlled municipalities in the Transvaal ready to follow Boksburg's lead in turning back the apartheid clock, commercial giants led by OK Bazaars and Tragedgro joined the growing row, threatening to drag the government along with them.

OK Bazaars managing director Mr Gordon Hood said the indications were that Boksburg's black residents were already taking their business to neighbouring towns.

Sales at the Boksburg outlet were markedly down, while other East Rand stores have improved.

"If a race group decides it is not wanted in town, it may boycott the business in that town," Mr Hood said. "It has happened before."

Tragedgro chief executive Mr Donald Masson said his group would not make any new investments in towns like Boksburg where CP councils re-imposed old apartheid measures.

Financial sabotage

Both men voiced total opposition to the CP's actions. Mr Masson said he was convinced the government will take steps to counter the CP's move.

Tragedgro would maintain its existing investments in Boksburg, mainly in the form of retail stores like Dinkys, but would not stand for any discrimination in its stores, he said.

The Boksburg Chamber of Commerce condemned the town's prejudice as "financial sabotage" and predicted that massive disinvestment of overseas companies could result.

The president of the chamber, Mr Johan Viljoen, said the decision to segregate amenities would only apply pressure to multinational companies operating in the industrial Boksburg and give them the excuse to disinvest.

Some of the multinationals who had promised to remain in South Africa could be "pushed over the edge."

"We are very concerned at the effects that the decision will have on the welfare of the town. It could cost millions of rands."

"Not only will South Africa lose, but the people of Boksburg will suffer in lost jobs and reduced buying power."

Interluser chairman Mr Ian Heron, whose firm runs a string of fast-food outlets and restaurants including Bimbo's and Captain Dorago, said Interluser was "totally against racism".

Even if the CP only managed to reimpose apartheid on property controlled by CP councils, Interluser would "make the strongest representations to government."

Mr Raymond Ackerman, chairman of Pick 'N Pay — which has one supermarket and one hypermarket in Boksburg — has promised to lobby for change and possibly discuss the Separate Amenities Act with the government.

"Through our own efforts and those of business organisations we will try to have their action reversed."

The action could mitigate against the positive overseas reaction to South Africa's following government moves over Mr Nelson Mandela, the Sharpeville Six and Angola, he said.

The managing director of leading multinational Colgate Palmolive, Mr Gerald Kock, said the situation was "just ridiculous" and vowed to do everything to convince those people they are not doing the right thing. Disinvestment was not an option, his organisation might decide to support an increasingly popular idea to have their factory re-opened to nearby Benoni.

But even at the volume of protests against the CP's return to old-style apartheid grew yesterday, the recalcitrant Boksburg town council said it would stick to its guns.

The chairman of the Boksburg town council management committee, Mr Gideon Fournier, said the CP represented most of the town's wards and would carry out its mandate from last month's elections.

He also announced that a new suburb, Wolswier Park, would be proclaimed for exclusive white residence and Indian families living in the area would have to move out.

Meanwhile the PFP is expected to join Boksburg's outraged black residents in taking court action against the right-wing council's move to restore Verwoerdian-style apartheid.

A party source said the matter was being considered by the Boksburg PFP, though local chairman Mr Tony Dutton could not be reached yesterday for confirmation.

Black residents have indicated they are investigating the feasibility of an urgent court application to set aside the council's apartheid measures.

A municipal by-election is expected to give an indication of whether Boksburg residents believe their council has gone too far.

Parties to the left of the CP have rallied around independent candidate and president of the S.A. Amateur Swimming Union Mr Issy Kramer, who is fighting the election with the unofficial backing of the NP and has also been offered support from the PFP.

A major protest meeting in the town is being planned by numerous sports bodies for Thursday.

CP leader Dr Andries Treurnicht will address a public meeting in the town next week when he is likely to insist that the party continue to implement its policy at local level, regardless of the reaction.
Farmers warned on aid cut-off

PRETORIA — Farmers have been warned they can expect little further financial assistance from government.

At a meeting with the National Maize Producers’ Organisation (Nampo), Deputy Finance Minister Org Marais made it clear it would be difficult for government to extend further financial support for the industry.

Nampo chairman J H Viljoen said farmers could not look down this road for protection against adverse economic conditions.

Maize farmers would have to scale down production and look urgently at other crops and activities with more viable profit margins.

This was their greatest hope for survival, otherwise falling prices and the threat of financial ruin would force them to change their strategies.

Marais was told the financial position of farmers continued to deteriorate as the inflation screw turned tighter.

Stressed was the serious impact of two successive fuel price hikes, rising interest rates, higher vehicle licence fees and other rocketing costs.

These could not be foreseen by farmers as they were not directly related to market forces, Viljoen said.

Farmers were being pressed deeper into financial distress by the input spiral and it was clear the foundation of the agricultural industry would weaken further. Its infrastructure would also be threatened.
Domestic, farm workers seeking a better deal

NEW Manpower Director-General Joel Fourie says that domestic and farm workers should fall under the Labour Relations Act.

Considered to belong to the category of enlightened officials, Mr Fourie should make a contribution to workers' interests, furthering that made by Piet van der Merwe.

Mr Fourie's attitude to farm and domestic workers should be applauded. As two of the most exploited sections of South Africa's workers, they need attention.

There are more than a million black farm workers, most of whom are poorly paid and uneducated. They earn between R50 and R200 a month.

Losing their job means they lose all. They have no route to follow, having been excluded from the Labour Relations act. They cannot go to the Industrial Courts for redress and are effectively excluded from the collective bargaining machinery.

Farm workers are also excluded from protection under the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, the Unemployment Insurance Fund, minimum safety regulations governing working conditions and legal protection from victimisation for trade union activities and the right to form registered unions.

Domestic workers are as badly off as farm employees. Central Statistical Services figures show that SA's estimated 1.5-million domestic workers are paid between R105 and R180 a month.

Reports of assault, sexual abuse and starvation wages are rife. The SA Domestic Workers Union (Sadwu) takes thousands of employers to the Small Claims Court each year for these offences.

In an attempt to alleviate the problems of domestic workers, Sadwu has set a minimum wage of R350 a month.

The problems facing farm and domestic workers are huge, and the exploitation obvious, but answers are hard to find.

Although urging that they should fall under the LRA, Mr Fourie acknowledges that it cannot happen overnight — might not even occur.

Mr Fourie says: "We are negotiating for the agricultural sector to fall under the LRA, but there is much opposition. There are other problems and it will take time to solve them."

"Because there is no real need for domestic workers, it has been proven time and again that the moment you bring them under the LRA, there are fewer employed."

Farmers are generally opposed to unions. They see that unions have made farming the next target.

Unions are stepping up the pace, especially in the Orange-Vaal region, Northern Free State, Western Transvaal and Vaal Triangle.
A good year for farmers, says Wentzel.

PRETORIA — The country's agricultural industry had started to pick itself up from the floor after the devastating blow of four successive drought years with a fine performance in the year-ending September. Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentzel said at the weekend.

He said net farming income for 1987/88 totalled R4,61bn — an increase of 20% over the previous year.

The agricultural sector's contribution to the gross domestic product amounted to 9%.

The gross value of agricultural products increased by 19% with a similar increase in gross income in the year-ending September.

Wentzel said spending on intermediate goods and services increased by 15%, with sharp increases in fertilisers and fuels during the year.

The higher expenditure level could be attributed to an 11% increase in the cost of farming inputs.

By far the largest price rise was in fertilisers — 20%.

Wentzel said the value of capital assets in the industry at the beginning of the year was estimated at R48bn.

At the end of last year, accumulated farmers' debt amounted to R13,3bn.

Investment in machinery, implements and vehicles rose sharply by 13%, compared with less than 1% the previous year.

Wentzel said consumer spending on food continued to increase steadily.

In the 12 months to end-September, it rose by 15%.

Prices of food in the period rose by 15% against an increase of 12% in non-food items.
The Last of a Dying Breed
By REVELATION NTULULA

THE death of a farmhand allegedly tied to a tree and flogged to death over two days had a sequel in the Louis Trichardt Magistrates' Court when two white farmers and four black farm labourers appeared in connection with the killing.

A spokesman for the Police's division of public relations in Pretoria confirmed that the six, Jacobus Vorster (21), Piet Lennert (20), Wilson Osau (53), Samuel Nomakhwana (28), Petrus Nokhwevha (52), and Wilson Muhanelwa (30), all from the Levubu district near Pietersburg where the killing is alleged to have taken place, have been charged.

They were not asked to plead and the two farmers were released on their own recognisance while the labourers were granted bail of R200 each. They will appear again on January 8th.

Labourer Eric Sambo (35), was allegedly tied to a tree after accidentally killing two dogs belonging to a farmer by running over them with a vehicle. He was allegedly punched and sjambokked for two days while tied to the tree.

News of the killing has shocked the Louis Trichardt-Pietersburg farming community.
AGRICULTURE - LABOUR

1989
**Woman dies: Youths fined for assault**

PRETORIA.—Two teenagers, accused of assaulting a farm worker who apparently died of injuries sustained, were yesterday convicted in the Pretoria Magistrate's Court on a charge of assault with intent to commit grievous bodily harm.

Leonard De Beer, 18, of Plot 124, Haakdoornboom, and a 17-year-old youth, were fined R500 (or six months), while a further 12 months jail was conditionally suspended for five years.

The accused admitted assaulting Mrs Betty Mahlangu during December 1987, who died in hospital shortly after the assault, but pleaded not guilty to a count of culpable homicide. — Sapa
the electric tokoloshes
Tales of torture with slaves - Farmworkers
We are treated like

By Dan DiMaggio
200 teachers withdrawn

THE Department of Education and Training (DET) has withdrawn 200 teachers from five high schools in Diepkloof, Soweto, after attacks on headmasters and other teachers by former pupils last week.

At least one teacher was stabbed in an attack.

This was announced yesterday by the DET's acting director of the Johannesburg region, Pret Struwig.

Struwig said the teachers, including headmasters, had been withdrawn and would be kept away until parents and other community members undertook to ensure their safety.

Struwig said the teachers were withdrawn on Friday after former pupils attacked them because they had been refused admission.

Farmworker wins back right to home

CAPE TOWN — A Stellenbosch wine farmer was ordered in the Stellenbosch Magistrate's Court to restore a man with throat cancer to the farm cottage from which he had been evicted.

Gideon Ndewa, who has had cancer for 10 months, was evicted from a cottage on the farm Montemossa, belonging to F O de Franchi, just after New Year.

In an affidavit before the court, Ndewa said although he had been operated on and was still being treated, it had not prevented him from working, but on January 4 he had been ordered to leave.

The magistrate granted an interim interdict restoring Ndewa to the cottage. — Sapa.

Zach is tops says Gibson

was found dead on arrival. — Sapa.
Farmers ‘must accept unions’

THE agricultural sector should prepare itself for the emergence of stronger labour organisations, Manpower and Public Works and Land Affairs Minister Pietie du Plessis said in the latest edition of the SA Agricultural Union’s (SAAU) publication The Farmer.

In one of the most overt recommendations for the incorporation of agricultural trade unions into state industrial relations machinery, Du Plessis said farmers had to accept the changing times in which they lived.

He said it would be prudent for a modus operandi for the orderly handling of trade unions to be worked out. In September 1987 Du Plessis said draft legislation to protect agricultural workers could be expected soon, but nothing has been forthcoming since then.

The National Manpower Commission’s report, which was drawn up in 1984 and focused on the agricultural sector, has not been released.

Farmers would be forced to put their relations with workers “under the magnifying glass” as union activity intensified, Du Plessis said in the report.

Farm workers have been excluded from labour legislation such as the Labour Relations Act, Wages Act, Basic Conditions of Employment Act and the Unemployment Insurance Act.

Farmers must prepare themselves for the “conceivable pattern of events”, he said. “The way must be prepared for inter-action with worker groups.”

He said the following points should be considered:

- Improvement of farmer-worker relationship;
- Provision of suitable accommodation and housing;
- Minimum conditions of employment, including a living wage, holiday and sick leave benefits and maximum hours of work;
- Involvement of workers in farming operations to improve job satisfaction and loyalty;
- Attending grievances before they can develop into trade union action, and
drawing up a contract of service.

He acknowledged these were the main demands of trade unions and areas that could result in difficulties for employers if they were not attended to.

Trade unions would have power because many agricultural goods were perishable and this was a threat which could not be ignored. This, and possible industrial action abroad, such as refusals to offload SA goods, could not be ruled out if changes were not made.

Closer economic ties with the rest of Africa were certain to develop and were closely linked to “the unfolding constitutional developments”.

“The path to the future runs through Africa,” said Du Plessis.
Court victory for elderly workers turned off farm

One month notice ruled unlawful

Two grey-haired men in the dock last week stared unbelievingly as the magistrate declared that one month was a totally inadequate period of notice to give to farmworkers who had laboured for decades on the same farm, never receiving wages for their work.

"The court finds that the notice which the complainant gave to the two accused was insufficient... unreasonable and unlawful. The court finds both accused not guilty of trespass," declared magistrate Mr. M.C. Prinsloo of Wakkerstroom.

The case was over. But the accused, Mr Johannes Mpali (74) and Mr Kleinbooi Nene (74) of Klippruit farm, scarcely stirred. Slowly, after the magistrate had departed, they turned, the success of their defence gradually dawning on them.

Not wanted

Both knew they were still not wanted on the farm by its owner, Mr E van der Merwe, and in due course adequate notices might be given.

"I don't think it's going to simply be easy now," Mr Mpali said. He indicated that relations with the farmer might be strained. "If you light a fire you can't easily put your hand in the fire."

He added that receipt in October of a warning not to plough and formal notice to vacate their homes at the start of November had deterred them from planting their annual crops.

"We'll just rely on God to help us eat this year."

Mr Mpali remained incredulous that Mr van der Merwe, whom he had watched growing up and for whose grandmother he had worked, should even think of turning him off the farm.

By Jo-Anne Collinge

Mr Mpali was born on Klippruit and Mr Nene had worked there for more than 30 years, according to court evidence. In return for the right to remain on the farm, keep stock and plant crops they, or members of their families, provided free labour for Mr van der Merwe.

Differences arose when Mr Nene was no longer able to offer one of his sons as a labourer and was obliged to continue working himself. He was, the court heard, no substitute for a young man.

The prosecution argued that farming was a demanding pursuit and the farmer could not go short of labour. The old men would have to go so that new workers could be taken on.

All their lives

The defence said it was reasonable and humane that farmworkers should live out their days where they had worked all their lives.

Mr Prinsloo tended to the view that it was the sons of Mr Tlali and Mr Nene who were leaving them in the lurch, not Mr van der Merwe. But he ventured to think the Supreme Court of the sale in the Tshwane case, in which it was held that a month's notice to a labour tenant is no notice at all.

Book helps farmworkers

"You're not very happy... Mr Johannes Mpali and Mr Kleinbooi Nene pose outside the Wakkerstroom courthouse, their fate in a farmer's hands."

Staff Reporter

While the Government continues to drag its feet over farmworkers' conditions, organisations in the private sector are making modest progress in establishing rights of farmworkers.

A recent contribution to this process is the publication of the first volume of a guide to "Farmworkers and the Law."

Published by the Rural Legal Services Project, the book is written in simple English. Editions in Zulu, Xhosa, Sotho and Afrikaans are in the pipeline.

"The purpose of the work is set out in the foreword: 'The book affects people every day. More and more oppressed people are starting to take control of their own lives so they want a better understanding of the law and how they can use the law.'"

The book tells how the courts function and outlines the law in various situations. It contains a list of organisations which assist farmworkers - legal aid services, advice offices, trade unions.

The authors say the section on employment compares some of the industrial laws to the law for farmworkers, making it easier to see the differences and what changes in the law farmworkers ought to seek for.
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Farm death: Outrage over light sentence

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The sentence imposed on farmer Jacobus Vorster for his part in the death of a labourer in 1987 was "so grossly inappropriate as to induce not simply a sense of shock but one of outrage and concern", the Johannesburg Bar Council said yesterday at a press conference.

Vorster was given a wholly suspended five-year sentence for his part in the murder of Mr. Eric Sambo in December 1987.

He and his co-accused Petrus Leonard were charged with murdering Mr. Sambo by assaulting him on December 11-12, 1987.
Statement against the judgment

The Bar Council statement reads: “According to the transcript of the judgment of Mr Justice Strydom, it was Vorster's youth and the rashness (on-besonnenheit) which goes with it, plus a small amount of liquor abuse, which landed Vorster in this problem situation.

“In fact, however, Vorster was 22 years old at the time of the crime and farmed on his own farm.”

“The record shows that liquor had at most a minimal effect.”

The Bar Council also remarked on Mr Justice Strydom's finding that Vorster would suffer “embarrassment” resulting from a criminal conviction, so that whenever he applied for a passport he would have to state any previous convictions and the punishment therefore.

“Apart from the fact that the record contains no reference to any evidence along these considerations, it seems hardly relevant, if compared to the fact that this person had been the cause of the brutal death of the deceased.

“The judge also took into account that when the accused applied for a firearm licence, he would have to make a similar revelation.

“The connection between these factors and an appropriate sentence in a case like this is not one that has previously been judicially discerned,” the statement said.

The statement said the court found that some of the blame lay at Mr Sambo's door.

There was a reference in the facts agreed to by the State and defence, that about two months before the killing Mr Sambo, who at that time worked for Vorster's father, switched on a tractor which was connected to a bushcutter, even though Mr Sambo knew two puppies were there, and he had been warned not to switch on the tractor.

Because he did so, one pup was maimed, the other killed.

“The judge held that if the deceased had heeded the warning, this incident would never have taken place. This conclusion is inexplicable, since the record reveals no evidence that the incident with the puppies, two months before the killing, played any part in motivating either of the accused.”
Man killed, farm foreman fined

Own Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH — A former Cradock farm foreman who was alleged to have beaten a black man to death, was fined R200 (or 10 days) by the Regional Court here. He was convicted of assault.

Lourence Jacobus Prinsloo, 30, was charged with culpable homicide arising out of the death of Mr. Mncedisi Alfred Bangani.

Mr. Bangani died on December 23, 1987, allegedly of injuries he had received in an assault on Langkloof Farm on November 26, 1987.

Prinsloo pleaded not guilty to the charge, and alleged that any injuries Mr. Bangani received were inflicted when force was necessary to effect a lawful arrest for trespassing and house-breaking.

In his verdict the magistrate, Mr. P. Campbell, said there was evidence that after receiving complaints, Prinsloo had armed himself with a rifle and gone to confront Mr. Bangani.

There was evidence that Mr. Bangani was hit, kicked, trampled and struck with the rifle. Two labourers helped Prinsloo to subdue Mr. Bangani.

Helpless

On his way to the police, Prinsloo was alleged to have kicked and trampled the bound and helpless Mr. Bangani.

According to Prinsloo, he was involved in a "life-and-death" struggle with a person he suspected was a dangerous terrorist.

If this was true, Prinsloo was entitled to defend himself with whatever force was necessary, and the court had to acquit him of culpable homicide.

But the assault at the house occurred when Mr. Bangani was helpless. Prinsloo's kicking him under the circumstances was unlawful and his attitude was perhaps shown by his remark that Mr. Bangani was "still being cheeky".

He found Prinsloo guilty of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

Miss G. von Hassel appeared for the state. Mr. J. Eksteen, instructed by Coetsee and Coetsee of Cradock, appeared for the defence.
The sentence imposed on farmer Jacobus Vorster for his part in the death of a labourer was "so grossly inappropriate as to induce not simply a sense of shock but one of outrage and concern", the Johannesburg Bar Council said in an exceptional statement yesterday.

Last November Vorster was given a wholly suspended five year sentence by Mr Justice J J Strydom in the Supreme Court sitting in Louis Trichardt.

Vorster's apparently light sentence got wide publicity and this and the judge's findings were harshly criticised in the media.

The chairman of the Johannesburg Bar Council, M Labe, SC, issued yesterday's statement at a Press conference in Johannesburg. He said the council did not usually comment on judgments, and in that sense their decision to issue a statement was exceptional.

"The Bar Council felt it was necessary to make a statement," he said, "because of the fact that the sentence imposed was the subject of widespread concern".

Vorster and his co-accused Petrus Leonard were charged with murdering Eric Sambo by assaulting him on 11-12 December 1987.

They pleaded not guilty to murder, but Vorster pleaded guilty to culpable homicide and Leonard to assault. Their pleas were accepted by the State and they were convicted on the lesser counts.

Vorster was sentenced to five years imprisonment, the whole of which was suspended. One condition of suspension was that he pay Sambo's widow and children R130 a month for five years.

Vorster was also fined R5 000 (or 12 months) but the fine was payable over five years at R250 a month. Leonard was fined R500 or three months imprisonment for assault.

The two men caught Sambo on December 11, 1987, and took him to Vorster's farm. They assaulted him and after kicking him to the ground they tied him to a tree where he remained overnight. The assault was resumed the next morning after which Vorster took Sambo to the police. He died shortly afterwards.

The Bar Council statement said that according to a transcript of the judgment Mr Justice Strydom found it was Vorster's youth and rashness and a small amount of liquor which got him involved in the assault. In fact, the statement said, Vorster was 22 at the time and worked on his own farm.

Mr Justice Strydom also took into account the embarrassment which Vorster would suffer as a result of a criminal conviction.

"Apart from the fact that the record contains no reference whatever to any evidence along these lines, these considerations seem hardly relevant if compared to the fact that this person had been the cause of the brutal death of the deceased," the Bar Council said.

"If there grew up in the community a belief that such a crime could merit so trivial a punishment, the maintenance of law and order would be gravely endangered and no law-abiding citizen would be safe from violent and callous killers," the Bar Council said.
Bar Council raps judge for 'trivial punishment'

JOHANNESBURG - The Johannesburg Bar Council has criticised the sentence imposed by a Supreme Court judge on a farmer who caused the death of a labourer tied to a tree.

The Bar Council said the sentence was "so grossly inappropriate as to induce not simply a sense of shock but one of outrage and concern."

It is unusual for the Bar Council to criticize a Supreme Court judge.

The case involved Louis Trichardt farmer Jacobus Vorster, who caused the death of Mr Eric Sambo.

The trial was heard by Mr Justice J J Strydom in Louis Trichardt Circuit Court in November. The council said it called for the record some time ago but it became available only recently.

Vorster was accused of murder but was convicted of culpable homicide after the State agreed to accept his plea of guilty to the lesser charge.

Mr Justice Strydom sentenced him to five years' jail, completely suspended on conditions which included payment of R130 a month to the widow and children of the man he killed.

Vorster was also fined R3 000 (or 12 months), payable at R250 a month over five years.

The Bar Council said that if the community began to believe that such a crime could merit "so trivial a punishment the maintenance of law and order would be gravely endangered and no law-abiding citizen would be safe from violent and callous killers."

In another conclusion the statement said: "The trial judge also took into account factors in mitigation of sentence of which there was no evidence or insufficient evidence."
Suzman wants judge impeached

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Mrs Helen Suzman said yesterday that she would seek to remove a judge who gave a suspended sentence and a fine to a white farmer who beat a black worker to death.

Mrs Suzman said she would move a motion in Parliament to have Mr Justice J.J. Strydom impeached for what she said was an outrageously lenient sentence.

She said Parliament had the power to remove a judge from office under the Supreme Court Act.

The farmer, Jacobus Vorster, was sentenced last September after he tied black worker Mr. Eric Sambo to a tree for two days, beating him to death because he had run over two of the farmer's dogs.

Mr Justice Strydom sentenced him to five years' imprisonment, suspended on condition that he pays R150 a month to Mr Sambo's widow and children.

He was also fined R3 000 payable in installments.

A man who helped Vorster beat Mr Sambo was sentenced to a R500 fine or three months in jail.

The Johannesburg Bar Council attacked the sentence saying it was "so grossly inappropriate as to induce not simply a sense of shock but one of outrage and concern".

The council said the sentence was "so trivial a punishment that the maintenance of law and order would be gravely endangered and no law-abiding citizen would be safe from violent killers".

Suzman to seek judge’s impeachment

By PETER FABRICIUS
Political Staff

MP Mrs Helen Suzman said today she would seek the support of the other two houses of Parliament for her attempt to impeach a judge who gave a suspended sentence to a farmer for beating his labourer to death.

Mrs Suzman, Progressive Federal Party MP for Houghton, said today that it would not be easy to remove Mr Justice J J Strydom for his “outrageously lenient” sentence on the farmer Mr Jacobus Vorster in the Louis Trichardt Circuit Court in November.

The Supreme Court Act stated that a judge could not be removed except by the State President “upon an address by all three Houses of Parliament praying for such removal on the grounds of misbehaviour or incapacity”.

She would try to introduce an impeachment motion in the House of Assembly and would approach the other two houses to try to persuade them to introduce similar motions. These impeachment addresses must be made in the same session of Parliament.

“I don’t underestimate the difficulty of impeaching this judge, but I am certainly going to try,” she said.

She added that Mr Strydom had a “long history” and this would be brought into her motion.

Today Minister of Justice Mr Kobie Coetsee said it would be “inappropriate to comment at this time on the utterings of politicians on topics which obviously call for objective and proper deliberations.”

Vorster was accused of murder but found guilty of culpable homicide and sentenced to five years jail suspended on certain conditions and also fined R3 000 (or 12 months jail).

The Johannesburg Bar Council has taken the unusual step of criticising the judgment of Mr Justice Strydom as “so grossly inappropriate as to induce not simply a sense of shock but one of outrage and concern”.

Mr Justice Strydom today remained unbowed by the criticism and said he had done his job, reports Sapa.

He said Mrs Suzman could “with pleasure” present a motion to Parliament to have him impeached.

Concerning the sentence, Mr Justice Strydom said: “As far as I am concerned, my function in the state process is completed.

“I have done my work and am not going to defend myself against allegations made by other people.”
Mr. Hashim Samman is to be impeached in Parliament a judge who gave a

impeach judge call
Suzman will seek support to impeach 'lenient' judge

By Peter Fabricius,
Political Correspondent

The support of the two other Houses of Parliament is to be sought by Mrs Helen Suzman in her attempt to impeach a judge who gave a suspended sentence to a farmer for beating his labourer to death.

Mrs Suzman, Progressive Federal Party MP for Houghton, said today it would not be easy to remove Mr Justice J J Strydom for his "outrageously lenient" sentence on Jacobus Vorster last year.

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'LONG HISTORY' 

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"I don't underestimate the difficulty of impeaching this judge, but I am certainly going to try," she said.

She added that Mr Justice Strydom had a "long history" and this would be brought into her motion. She said she had received calls from all over the world supporting her stand.

The Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, said it would be "inappropriate to comment at this point on the utterings of politicians on topics which obviously call for objective and proper deliberations".

The Johannesburg Bar Council has taken the unusual step of criticising the judgment of Mr Justice Strydom as "so grossly inappropriate as to induce not simply a sense of shock but one of outrage and concern".
Man killed, farm foreman fined

Own Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH.—A former Cradock farm foreman who was alleged to have beaten a black man to death, was fined R200 (or 10 days) by the Regional Court here. He was convicted of assault.

Lawrence Jacobus Prinsloo, 30, was charged with culpable homicide arising out of the death of Mr Mncedisi Alfred Bangani.

Mr Bangani died on December 23, 1987, allegedly of injuries he had received in an assault on Langkloof farm on November 26, 1987.

Prinsloo pleaded not guilty to the charge, and alleged that any injuries Mr Bangani received were inflicted when force was necessary to effect a lawful arrest for trespassing and housebreaking.

In his verdict the magistrate, Mr P Campbell, said there was evidence that after receiving complaints, Prinsloo had armed himself with a rifle and gone to confront Mr Bangani.

There was evidence that Mr Bangani was hit, kicked, trampled and struck with the rifle.

Two labourers helped Prinsloo to subdue Mr Bangani.

Helpless

On his way to the police, Prinsloo was alleged to have kicked and trampled the bound and helpless Mr Bangani.

According to Prinsloo, he was involved in a "life-and-death" struggle with a person he suspected was a dangerous terrorist.

If this was true, Prinsloo was entitled to defend himself with whatever force was necessary, and the court had to acquit him of culpable homicide.

But the assault at the house occurred when Mr Bangani was helpless. Prinsloo's kicking him under the circumstances was unlawful and his attitude was perhaps shown by his remark that Mr Bangani was "still being cheeky".

He found Prinsloo guilty of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

Miss G von Hasseln appeared for the state. Mr J Eksteen, instructed by Coetzee and Coetzee of Cradock, appeared for the defence.
Foreman convicted of assault for man’s death

A FORMER Cradock farm foreman who was alleged to have beaten a black man to death was convicted of assault and sentenced to R200 (or 10 days) by the Port Elizabeth Regional Court on Friday.

Judge Jacobus Prinsloo, 30, was acquitted on a charge of culpable homicide arising out of the death of 56-year-old Alfred Bangani. Bangani died on December 23, 1987, allegedly of injuries he had received in an assault on the farm Langkloof on November 26, 1987.

Prinsloo pleaded not guilty to the charge, and alleged that any injuries Bangani received were inflicted to effect a lawful arrest for trespassing and house-breaking.

Magistrate P Campbell said there was evidence that Prinsloo armed himself with a rifle and went to confront Bangani. He then hit, kicked, trampled and struck the man with his rifle.

But Campbell said the State was unable to prove that serious injury was caused by the kick or that he was involved in the fatal injuries occurred, or who they were inflicted by.

Ciskei police deaths came
Workers trek to Cape Town after walk-out

Staff Report

A TRANSKEI worker told yesterday of his long walk from Piketberg to Cape Town after he and 45 others left a potato farm where they believe they had been unfairly treated and 27 of them headed for Cape Town.

Mr Nithuzele Maratsha, of Thaban-kulu, said he and 63 other men had been recruited as contract labourers on January 20 and brought to the Piketberg farm of Mr Gideon "Cowboy" Carstens.

Speaking through an interpreter, he said the workers had been dissatisfied with the quantity of food they had been given, with their living quarters, their working conditions and the treatment meted out to them at work. They had understood they would be paid R7 a day but after a week they had been given only R15 each. The farmer had said via an assistant that he would keep the rest of their wages until later.

A supervisor had been very angry when the dissatisfied workers approached him. He had had a gun with him when he spoke to them and told them they could walk back to Transkei if they wished, Mr Maratsha said.

The workers had held a meeting on Sunday night and decided to go to the police. The Piketberg police had told them they were unable to interfere.

"So we decided to come to Cape Town on foot," said Mr Maratsha.

"Forty-six of us left the farm but only 27 walked to Cape Town."

Mr Carstens could not be reached for comment yesterday but his wife Sally confirmed that a group of dissatisfied workers had recently left the farm. It was not the first time this had happened, she said.

The workers were under contract and the arrangement was that they get the rest of their wages "when they go home", she said.
Slain worker’s family starves

by JAAP BOEKKOOI
Weekend Argus Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG — The widow and five children of Mr Eric Sambo, the worker beaten to death by Revva farmer Jacobus Vorster, 23, are living in near-starvation in a hovel in Venda.

The Johannesburg Bar Council has unanimously condemned the suspended sentence and fine imposed on farmer Vorster, and warning has been given about a motion asking Parliament to dismiss the presiding Mr Justice J J Strydom.

Meanwhile, Mrs Sarah Sambo, 38, is as usual cutting morog (wild spinach), gathering leaves and catching fish to feed her family in a small hut in the village of Mashau.

For reasons which are not clear, Mr Justice Strydom — who fined Vorster R3 000 payable over five years for beating, kicking and whipping Mr Eric Sambo to death after tying him to a tree — did not make an order of payment to Mr Sambo’s wife and children.

Instead, he made a monthly R190 order in favour of Mr Sambo’s girlfriend, Miss Mamia Shilenga.

Last visit

“I have never seen Mamalia and I cannot see why she should receive money for the death of my lawful husband who visited us every weekend,” said Mrs Sambo.

She only knows Vorster from hearsay, and from Eric’s weekly descriptions of him “as a shocker.”

“I remember Eric’s last visit to us when he looked fearful and said: ‘The baas wants to kill me’.

Miss Maria Sambo, younger sister of the dead man, said: “Just before his death, Eric told us that the baas had promised he would kill him, no matter what — either by shooting him, or by running him down in his car — since he had accidentally run over two of his dogs with a tractor.

“We’ve never eaten any meat since Eric died, only the fish we caught and veld plants. As you see, we are very thin and the children have had no new clothes.

“I never saw Eric again, for at the funeral they did not allow me to open the coffin. They said Eric was too badly bruised for me to look at him for the last time.”

Mrs Sambo did not understand the moves to condemn the judge, but she said she was happy that Eric’s death had not been forgotten.

But Maria Sambo said: “I am very grateful for all this protest against the lenient judgment.

“Farm workers in this area are often abused, but to my knowledge my brother was the first one to die. This protest to Parliament will make farmers think twice before they assault their workers.”

Mrs Sambo said: “My neighbours are good to me and sometimes give me a piece of soap. Now they might help me to visit my mother-in-law some distance away. She had a heart attack after Eric was killed.”

The Vorster homestead is situated on the Louis Trichardt-Punda Maria road — just past a sign, proclaiming: “Last slaughter-house in the RSA ... wors and liver special.”

Jacobus Vorster, who farms pecans and macadamia nuts, arrives at high speed in his expensive BMW luxury car.

“I want to be polite to you. No pictures, please, and I’ll discuss anything with you but the case,” he says.

“I realize I’m lucky, and that if the case had taken another turn I would now be in jail. Feelings have run high in this community and I have received threats. I have ignored them, however.”

He is a young man with tanned skin, black hair and moustache and a pleasant, open face.

Halogen floodlights surround the house — which also carries a CB antenna, and about 10 dogs roam the property.

“That’s all I want to say,” Vorster says. “It’s been a difficult year for us and I will have to plant cash crops in the meantime.

“I don’t want to appear impolite, but some journalists have been here and written things that aren’t true.”

• This week the Johannesburg Bar Council said that after studying the Vorster case, it had found Mr Justice Strydom’s sentence at the Louis Trichardt Circuit Court in November “so grossly inappropriate as to induce a sense of shock and outrage.”
Slain worker’s family starves

by JAAP BOEKKOOI
Weekend Argus Correspondent

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Last visit

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She only knows Vorster from hearsay, and from Eric’s weekly descriptions of him “as a kwaal baas”.

“I remember Eric’s last visit to me when he looked fearful and said: ‘The baas wants to kill me’,”

Miss Maria Sambo, younger sister of the dead man, said: “Just before his death, Eric told us that the baas had promised he would kill him, no matter what — either by shooting him or by running him down in his car — since he had accidentally run over two of his dogs with a tractor.

“We’ve not eaten any meat since Eric last bought it, and the fish which we catch, pap and veld plants. As you see, we are very thin and the children have had no new clothes.

“I never saw Eric again, for at the funeral they did not allow me to open the coffin. They said Eric was too badly bruised for me to look at him for the last time.”

Mrs Sambo did not understand the moves to condemn the judge, but she said she was happy that Eric’s death had not been forgotten.

But Maria Sambo said: “I am still grateful for all this protest against the lenient judgment.

“Farm workers in this area are often abused, but to my knowledge my brother was the first one to die. This protest to Parliament will make farmers think twice before they assault their workers.”

Mrs Sambo said: “My neighbours are good to me and sometimes give me a piece of soap. Now they might help me to visit my mother-in-law some distance away. She had a heart attack after Eric was killed.”

The Vorster homestead is situated on the Louis Trichardt-Funda Maria road — just past a sign proclaiming: “Last slaughter-house in the RSA . . . ours and liver specials.”

Jacobus Vorster, who farms pecans and macadamia nuts, arrives at high speed in his expensive BMW luxury car.

“I don’t want to be polite to you. No pictures, please, and I’ll discuss anything with you but the case,” he says.

“I realise I’m lucky, and that if the case had taken another turn I would now be in jail. Feelings have run high in this community and I have received threats. I have ignored them, however.”

He is a young man with tanned hair and mustache, and a pleasant, open face.

Halogen floodlights surround the house — which also carries a CB antenna, and about 10 dogs roam the property.

“That’s all I want to say,” Vorster says. “It’s been a difficult year for us and I will have to plant cash crops in the meantime.

“I don’t want to appear impolite, but some journalists have been here and written things that aren’t true.”

This week the Johannesburg Bar Council said that after studying the Vorster case, it had found Mr Justice Strydom’s sentence at the Louis Trichardt Circuit Court in November “so grossly inappropriate as to induce . . . a sense of shock and outrage.”

Mrs Sarah Sambo and her family, who are starving at their home in Mashau, Venda, after her husband was beaten to death by his farmer employer.
This week the news has been filled with stories of famous people who have been involved in crimes or scandals. The latest headline is about a politician who was caught in a sexual misconduct scandal. The public is shocked and angry, and there are calls for his resignation.

In other news, the economy is struggling. Unemployment rates are rising, and many businesses are closing. People are feeling the pinch, and there is a sense of uncertainty in the air.

Meanwhile, on the personal front, I have been busy with my own life. I have started a new job, and I am enjoying the challenges it presents. I am also spending more time with my family, which has been a welcome break from the stresses of work.

In summary, it has been a week of mixed emotions. While news stories may capture our attention, it is important to remember that life goes on, and we must find ways to make the best of our circumstances.
PRETORIA — Agriculture could not escape trade union involvement in the industry. Deputy Agriculture Minister Kriall van Niekerk said at the winding up of the Agricultural Outlook conference here this week.

He stressed there were still deficiencies in labour conditions on farms and these should be put right to avoid clashes with antagonistic labour unions. Speaking at the conference, Volkskas group MD D C Cronje said as one of the biggest employers the agricultural industry would be increasingly affected by trade unions which wanted to exercise their powers for political gain.

He stressed trade unions had become powerful political instruments. An SA Agricultural Union spokesman said the SAAU was concerned at the possible intervention of unions in the farming sector.

To pre-empt this, the SAAU was urging farmers to improve the socio-economic conditions of their workers.

The spokesman said big improvements had already taken place.
Farmers face death trial

By DAN DHLAMINI

An assault that led to the death of a farmworker was described in the KwaMashu Regional Court this week. Louis Johannes Venter, 35, and Pieter Martins Fouche, 34, are accused of assaulting Medupe Steven Mononye on March 16, 1988.

A witness described how Mononye had been tied up by the two farmers, who suspected him of having stolen cattle and then smashed and assaulted him until he died.

* Turn to Page 2
Farmworker ‘sjambokked until he died,’ court hears

Two white farmers face assault charges

By DAN DHLAMINI

SPINE-chilling events leading to the death of a farmworker unfolded this week in the Klerksdorp regional court.

In the dock before magistrate PJL Venter were Louis Johannes Venter, 35, and Pieter Martinus Fouche, 34, white farmers who allegedly brutally assaulted Medupe Steven Mononye on March 16 last year.

State witness J Nyatho told the court how Mononye, whose hands had been tied behind and a rope tied around his neck, had been assaulted by the accused.

He said Venter and Fouche had suspected Mononye of having stolen cattle and, despite his denial, had repeatedly sjamboked him until he died.

Nyatho described how Fouche had come into a room carrying Mononye on his shoulder and had thrown him to the floor.

Nyatho said the accused had warned him not to untie Mononye and had left for about 10 minutes.

He said Venter and Fouche had come back with three other farmworkers and instructed them to question Mononye about the cattle.

In response to a question by advocate E Grey, Nyatho said after David, one of the workers, had told them that Mononye denied any knowledge of the whereabouts of the cattle, Venter had sjamboked the deceased.

He said the three workers had refused to carry the deceased to a bakkie as instructed by the accused.

He said Fouche had picked up Mononye and loaded him on the bakkie.

The three have pleaded not guilty to the charges of culpable homicide, abduction and assault (two counts). The cause of Mononye’s death was recorded as brain haemorrhage.

Fouche’s defence counsel, HJ De Vos, put it to Nyatho that the deceased’s head hit the windscreen, hence the brain haemorrhage.

Magistrate Venter adjourned the matter until April 10 and released the accused on R200 bail.

The case attracted many Klerksdorp people.

Most of them said it reminded them of the much-talked-about Louis Tričardt case where two farmers beat Ernie Sambo to death for having run over two dogs. Judge JJ Strydom’s suspended sentences and fines raised an outcry in legal circles.

CP-led council offers services to townships

By DAN DHLAMINI

THE Conservative Party-controlled Potchefstroom Town Council raised eyebrows this week when it met its black counterparts and promised to help them if they needed any help whatsoever in future.

The mayor, Dr C Landsberg, offered his council’s services during a cocktail party with councillors from Ikageng, Promosa and Mohadin – Potchefstroom’s black neighbours.

The move is seen as a major shift in CP policy.

Boksburg made headlines when its CP council re-introduced petty apartheid soon after the municipal election last year.

Carletonville, Stilfontein, Potchefstroom, Lichtenburg and Sannishof followed suit on the petty apartheid policy.

The Carletonville Council informed the Khutsong Town Council in a letter that their would no longer be consultations between them.

The council also fenced off the parks in a bid to bar blacks from them.

In Stilfontein, the council has threatened to prosecute blacks found in parks.

The Lichtenburg council has eroded an earlier decision to bar buses transporting black commuters from using some streets near the shopping complex.

This was done after businessmen complained that their businesses would collapse if blacks did not buy in town.
PRETORIA. — A Pretoria judge, Mr Justice J J Strydom, on Friday declined to comment on a newspaper report claiming he had several criminal judgments against him when he was admitted as an advocate in 1951.

"I do not read newspapers and do not speak to newspapers. Those criminal judgments were before the court when I was admitted in 1951," he said.

The newspaper, Die Vrysta Weekblad, claimed Mr Justice Strydom had six criminal judgments against him and had been sentenced to hard labour for the theft of a motor-car at the time of his admission to the bar.

The judgments followed his activities in the Ossewa-Brandwag during the 1940s.

Mr Justice Strydom was recently involved in a controversy when he gave a farmer who killed a labourer a suspended sentence.
Workers rescued

POLICE at Upington have rescued workers who were stranded on an island after the level of the Orange River had risen to 5,8 m, submerging the bridge to the island. SABC Radio News reports.

A boat has also been sent Keimoes to rescue several people left stranded on small islands by the rising water. On the Kanon and Perde Islands, farmers are busy reinforcing retaining walls to prevent land under irrigation from being flooded.
Agriculture faces many changes

BY BRUCE WILLAN

With the privatization of the agricultural industry in SA, the industry must realize that there are both opportunities and hazards involved, warns Volkskas group MD D C Cronje at the recently held Agrocon '89.

Cronje said that the agricultural industry will have to be more competitive with less input coming from the government.

Farmers will have to bear the responsibility of the risks which are inherent to the industry and production areas.

Government and hence the taxpayer, will no longer have to take the risks which have been passed on by the farmers.

Cronje said that although it would be impossible to eliminate emergency measures when disasters strike such as drought and floods, subsidies on industries, production inputs and capital will increasingly be scaled down.

Competition will increase between the various fields of agriculture and labour will come under the spotlight.

According to Cronje political and social changes are beginning to affect labour as a production factor.

More attention will have to be paid to managing the labour force this year which will make agriculture more vulnerable, said Cronje.

Agriculture will have to prepare itself for joint bargaining power and pro-active action.

Unreasonable interference by trade unions and increasing wage-scale levels will affect agriculture's contribution to job creation which is one of the biggest paymasters in the country, he said.
Farmer in court after boy’s death

JOHANNESBURG — A Free State farmer and two of his workers were arrested at the weekend after a 15-year-old teenager was allegedly tortured and beaten to death on a Heilbron farm.

Chayana Radebe’s body was found with a leather thong tied around his neck. The thong had been clamped in a vice in the store-room of the farmer’s homestead, police said.

A police spokesman said ‘Chayana, of the farm Weltevrede, had been beaten savagely with a sjambok and assaulted with fists before he died.’

The farmer, Mr Prans Smith, 47, appeared in Heilbron Magistrate’s Court on the same day and was granted bail of R1 000. No charges were put to him...

The two workers, aged 23 and 33, were still in custody.” Sapa
Report on ice

Government is still refusing to commit itself to a policy on the working conditions of farm and domestic workers — more than four years after receiving a report on the issue from the National Manpower Commission (NMC).

Acting Minister of Manpower Eli Louw has told the Progressive Federal Party's Peter Soal in reply to a written question in parliament that "consultations" with "interested parties" have not yet been finalised.

The NMC was asked by government in 1982 to undertake the investigation into the working conditions of farm and domestic workers as a matter of urgency. According to the NMC's annual report for 1986, the report was submitted to government in October 1984. However, in reply to a question in parliament in 1987, Manpower Minister Piet du Plessis said he had received it "in final form" on July 3, 1985.

Du Plessis said at the time that he would respond to the report "once consultations with organised agriculture have been finalised" and a decision would then be made on whether to make the report public. The report, among others, considered the possibility of applying the Labour Relations Act to farm and domestic workers.

Most trade unionists argue that farm workers in particular urgently need the basic employment protection and minimum conditions of service laid down in current labour legislation. But tampering with existing patterns of agricultural labour exploitation have significant political consequences for the National Party and it seems that the Cabinet feels no need at this stage to take the matter further.

In March last year Du Plessis told Soal in parliament that talks with organised agriculture on the report were still incomplete. The delay was blamed on the diversity of interest groups within the sector.

"The nature of the sectors involved and the geographical diversity prevailing in agriculture necessitate drawn-out discussions and further investigation. It is consequently not possible to give a precise indication as to when finality will be reached," he said.

In his reply this month, Louw told Soal that consultations on the report are identifying issues which require further investigation and consultation.

"The consultations still have to be concluded, after which proposals which may arise from these will be cleared with interested parties at regional and agricultural sector level," he said.
Suzman will ask Parliament to investigate Judge Strydom

By Peter Fabricius, Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Mrs Helen Suzman MP (FP Houghton), who failed in an attempt earlier last week to have Transvaal judge Mr Justice J J Strydom impeached by Parliament, on Friday made a further attempt to have him censured.

Mrs Suzman gave notice in Parliament that she would move a motion today to appoint a parliamentary committee to investigate whether Judge Strydom failed in certain instances to observe the oath he took as a judge to “administer justice to all persons alike without fear, favour or prejudice”.

In the motion, Mrs Suzman referred to a number of judgments handed down by Judge Strydom, including a case heard in the Circuit Court in Louis Trichardt in November last year against Jacobus Vorster and Petrus Leonard.

The two men tied a farm labourer, who had allegedly killed a puppy, to a tree and assaulted him over a long period, resulting in his death.

Found guilty of culpable homicide, Vorster received a five-year prison sentence, suspended for five years with one of the conditions being that he pay R130 a month to the deceased’s family. There was a further fine of R3 000 to be paid in instalments.

Leonard was found guilty of assault and fined R500 (or three months’ imprisonment).

In her notice of motion Mrs Suzman said that as a result of the various judgments, Judge Strydom “has done great damage to race relations within South Africa and South West Africa, has caused widespread condemnation from abroad and has brought our much vaunted higher courts and system of justice into disrepute”.

Unions to impact on farmers

By DICK USHER Business Staff

TRADE unions have become a powerful political instrument and the vulnerability of agriculture would increase considerably, says Dr D C Cronje, group MD of Voskia.

Dr Cronje's warning follows the recent announcement by the Acting Minister of Manpower, Mr Eli Louw, that after nine years' work the inquiry about working conditions of farm labourers and domestic workers by the National Manpower Commission was not yet complete.

It also comes in the wake of serious moves by unions from both major federations, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) and the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), to organise farm workers.

At present farm and domestic workers are excluded from the provisions of the Labour Relations Act which covers all other employees in the private sector.

Dr Cronje said that pro-active and collective bargaining power must in future be applied in the agricultural sector which would have to prepare for it.

The industry remained one of the largest employers in South Africa.

"Unreasonable trade union interference and spiralling wage levels in its wake will place greater pressure on agriculture's contribution as an employer," he said.

"From the viewpoint of survival it remains important for all agricultural industries to maintain international competitiveness.

"No industry can survive if it prices itself out of the domestic and international markets in the long term," he said.

Farmers could no longer escape the fact that the prerequisite for a successful farming enterprise was the ability to manage risks efficiently and to adapt dynamically to a changing situation.

It was eventually the competitiveness of the farmer that would determine the extent to which they would be able to overcome the challenges of the national and international markets."
Row over plan to shut down cattle feedlot

By Adele Baleta

The Star Tuesday March 28 1989

17 farmworkers at a loss

The Soetveldes Farms' Uitvlucht cattle feedlot in Vereeniging is to be closed, ending the livelihood of 17 farmworkers at the centre of a wrangle between the owner of the farm, Anglo American Farms Limited (Amfarms), and the Oranje Vaal General Workers' Union (OVGWU). The workers' retrenchment will take effect from the end of this month. Both the company and the union spoke to The Star.

Amfarms says:

It was decided to discontinue the feedlot because in the past financial year operations have proved unprofitable. The increased buying costs of young livestock, which needed to gain weight quickly in order that they be profitable, made the operation unviable.

Added to this were the physical conditions of the feedlot which was over 17 years old.

Despite a booming beef market the company could not run the feedlot at a gain.

The feedlot ground had deteriorated. Its location on flat land meant that with constant feeding over the years and the removal of manure, the ground had begun to slope and the cattle could not reach the fodder in the troughs.

The costs of relocating the feedlot would be far too high. Despite there being no recognition agreement with the union, officials and workers were informed of the retrenchments prior to their effect.

We are still waiting for them to come back with proposals. We have allowed the workers to stay on the farm for a period of three months.

The retrenchment procedure, which forms part of the conditions of service, has been followed to the letter.

Out of the 40 workers affected by the closure we have managed to re-absorb 23. As a small producer the feedlot was only one link in a long chain and for that reason could not continue to exist.

The union says:

The union has rejected the retrenchments. It has pointed out that Terms and Conditions of Employment introduced by Amfarms in 1984 stated that endeavours "to avoid the need for retrenchment by considering alternative measures" shall be made.

The union believes the measures taken were drastic.

Beside the 18 farms owned by Amfarms in the Transvaal, Free State and Natal there were three other companies which had substantial shares in the AAC.

If the 17 employees could not be given work at the 18 farms they could be absorbed by either Anglo American Industrial Corporation, Vereeniging Estates Ltd/Amecon or Rand Selection Corporation Ltd.

Arguments by the company that the feedlot workers were agriculturally based and had no skills required by industry have been rejected.

We believe that management is holding on to scrapped influx control legislation which curtailed farmworkers' freedom to move from farm to industry or from rural to urban areas.

Management's claims that it is not responsible for finding jobs for the workers is a breach of Amfarms Terms and Conditions of Employment.

Referring to claims that the feedlot has deteriorated, the union said according to its sources there was no scientific basis upholding the argument that flat low conditions could result in animals' weight loss.
ORGANISED agriculture has embarked on a strategy for dealing with the growth of farmworkers' trade unions that is reminiscent of similar attempts by secondary and tertiary sector employers 15 years ago.

And since the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) and its affiliates appear to be government's main, if not only, consultants over agricultural labour legislation to be drafted soon, the strategy could well point to the direction of the law which will eventually emerge.

The SAAU's ideas are contained in a booklet circulated among farmers and drafted by Union of Business Leadership labour relations Professor D de Villiers.

In brief, they propose fairly sophisticated grievance and disciplinary procedures and the establishment of in-house workers' committees (a la the liaison committee system designed as an alternative to unions in the early Seventies).

They also contain guidelines for dealing with strikes. But the bottom line is to avoid, at all costs, collective bargaining with trade unions.

This, of course, runs counter to union pressures for the extension of the Labour Relations Act (LRA) so as to include agricultural, domestic and public sector workers who are presently excluded.

THE BOOKLET says trade unions, provided they are acting in terms of their constitutions, have a legal right to act on behalf of farmworkers, including the right to take legal action based on workers' common law rights.

However, it stresses, while this may mean farmers would have to talk to unions in these circumstances, this does not mean employers are obliged to negotiate with the union.

It strongly discourages farmers from concluding recognition agreements with unions, as this would give farmworkers "rights and powers via common law which, in terms of the LRA, were not intended for them".

It also warns against the granting of access and stop order facilities, as this would give the union de facto credibility.

THE SAAU document advises farmers to follow an initial policy of talking to strikers and allowing them to fully express their grievances: "Never be in a hurry — black people in particular need lots of time," it says.

It suggests strikers should be assured that, should the strike be resolved within a "reasonable" period — 24 hours — no action will be taken against them. Thereafter, a reasonable ultimatum of, say, half a day, should be given for them to return to work or be dismissed.

The author takes the view that, because they are not covered by the LRA, a strike by farmworkers is not unlawful. Therefore, police cannot be called to intervene unless, for example, lives or property are threatened.

A SYSTEM of worker committees, the booklet argues, is the farmers' alternative to controlling his workforce through force — the latter an approach which makes great and often impossible supervisory demands on him and usually meets with only limited success.

The other option will allow him to "obtain the goodwill and voluntary involvement of workers, in which case labourers will perform their duties with a fair degree of diligence and responsibility, without direct supervision and the consequent demands on the employer".

These committees, once properly established, would be able to deal with group and individual grievances.
Farm Worker Fired for Going to Doctor

In 1972 the government gave the National Agricultural Stabilization Board funds to improve the farming community. The goal was to provide better health care for workers and their families. The program was not as successful as expected, and the workers continued to suffer from lack of medical care. The situation was so desperate that some workers turned to illegal means to obtain medical attention. In one instance, a worker was fired for going to a doctor without permission. The worker had been feeling unwell for days and needed medical attention. The company refused to grant permission, and the worker was therefore fired. The worker's family was left with no choice but to go on strike in order to force the company to allow them access to medical care. The strike lasted for several weeks and eventually led to a change in company policy.
Zebediela Citrus to face a challenge soon

Farm workers organise

ZEBEDIELA Citrus, the world’s largest citrus estate, produces some of the world’s sweetest oranges.

The company has been the target of proscriptions lobbyists in Europe and the United States as the economic screws are tightened around this country because of political problems here.

Some of the campaign against the company have included an orange which is shaped like a baby’s head which streams blood as it is skinned. Whenever a South African saw this, one somehow felt that the matter was being slightly exaggerated — to use a familiar phrase.

But after attending a workers’ meeting near the estate, where working conditions bordering on slavery were graphically described by elderly

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workers, I am not even sure whether I want to eat those oranges any more.

The workers are members of the National Farm Workers Union, an affiliate of the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu). Over 600 workers attended the meeting which heard how:

- workers working for nine hours a day are paid R4.20 per day or R21.00 per week;
- workers injured on duty have to pay for their hospitalisation and transport and are not being paid for the period spent off sick;
- medical aid money was deducted from the wages but no cards are given to the workers. As a result, all black workers have to pay their own medical bills;
- workers are given 12 days unpaid leave per annum. As a result, many of them do not go on leave and have hundreds of days leave outstanding. The company has not told them to clear all the days before May — effectively meaning that many of them should stop working for several months with no pay to clear that backlog;
- workers are summarily dismissed with no enquiries held while some are made to sign blank sheets which later turn out to be final warnings;
- workers are paid in cash and never allowed to see their pay slips;
- the company has stopped providing food for the workers and instead gave the workers R1.47 per day which has since been stepped without any explanation.

Because the Labour Relations Act does not classify farm workers as workers, these people are covered by the legislation. This means that the company does not have to deal with the union if it does not want to.

Nactu’s regional organiser in Pretoria dealing with the issue, Mr. Moses Mphathile, has written several letters to the company complaining about the treatment of the workers. The company replies to all letters telephonically. A meeting held in Pretoria on September 3 last year between the union and the company did not achieve much.

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Government

The union said in a report that they were informed that Zebedeila Citrus was a project of the South African Development Trust Corporation which is run by the Department of Development Aid.

“We were told that the corporation could not enter into a formal agreement with the union because the corporation is a Government project. The other reason was that they are a farming concern and therefore not covered by the Act. They said they are excluded from dealing with trade unions by Proclamation R84 of 1970,” the union report said.

A 74-year-old Malawi born worker, standing with a stick, said he had started working for Zebediela Citrus in March 1942. He was still working, he said, earning R3.45 per day.

“My name is given pension. I am old. I may die anytime. If I am not given my pension now who is going to get it. Who must eat my pension”, Mr. James Nthlane said.

Workers pointed out that they were only paid for actual days worked and not for seven weekdays. This means that they get paid for between twenty and twenty-two days a month.

The resolution by the recent Workers Summit to campaign for the inclusion of farm workers in the legislation was highly appreciated by the workers.

It was noted that the workers had a two month battle to fight. On one hand was the highly exploitative management which, according to official documents, was making millions of rand in profit while underpaying the people who made the profits possible.

On the other hand was a legal problem that called for the Government to amend its laws to facilitate better working industrial relations. Judging from the mood of the workers at the meeting, the Zebediela Citrus Estate is heading for major battles in the near future.

It is a battle that the overseas campaigns are going to find very useful indeed.

An inquiry was sent to the company for their comment but no response has been received at the time of going to press.
Farmworkers bitten by 'dead' puffadder

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

A PUFFADDER bit two Robertson farm workers yesterday, after one of the men found the highly poisonous snake floating down an irrigation ditch and draped it around his neck.

According to a Robertson Hospital spokesman, one of the men saw the snake drifting in the ditch, fished it out and draped it around his neck, thinking it dead.

The man's shocked companion, seeing that the snake was very much alive, warned his friend and tried to rescue him from his toxic burden.

In the ensuing flurry between the irate snake and the men, the puffadder bit one man's left forearm and the ball of the other's thumb.

Both were given antivenom and painkillers at hospital before being transferred to Tygerberg Hospital, the spokesman said.

A mass poisoning highlights flaws in farm health codes

THE mass poisoning of migrant workers on a potato farm in the Free State this week has been linked to the indiscriminate use of deadly pesticides in South African agriculture.

Some 50 migrants from Transkei, employed on a farm near Bethlehem, fell ill at the weekend after drinking water from a disused drum of insecticide. A three-year-old girl, Mlibubakazi Kondo, died and eight people are critically ill.

The poison involved was monocrotophos, a member of the organophosphate group of insecticides. These are popular in South Africa because they degrade rapidly and reduce the risk of contaminating food crops. But they affect the human nervous system and cause severe headaches, trembling, loss of speech, twitching, blurred vision, respiratory difficulties, coma and death.

The farmer, WT Oosthuizen, this week said his employees were aware of the dangers of insecticides and he had warned the migrants about them. However, two casual labourers had used a drum of poison over the weekend without his knowledge.

But community and trade unionists say the explanation is a typical example of victim blaming and that it obscures the real reason for such disasters: the fact that government controls over the use of poisons on farms are non-existent.

"The pesticides are widely used in horticulture, fruit and vegetable farming, maize cultivation, sorghum farming and cotton growing. They are cheap, effective and extremely economical. The basic attitude among farmers is the more the better,” says Dave Cooper, an agriculturalist for the Environmental Development Agency.

"Regulations exist to govern the registration and marketing of pesticides but once they are on the farm there are absolutely no restrictions on the way they are used.”

The Machinery and Occupational Safety Act, which makes provision for government inspections and the election of health and safety officers from among the workers, is one of the few pieces of industrial legislation that protect workers in the farming sector.

"But the law is hardly enforced because the official factory inspectorate has no power to monitor urban factories effectively let alone visit remote rural farms,” says a doctor who works for the Industrial Health Research Group.

Adds Orange Vaal General Workers' Union (OVGWU) representative Phillip Masia: "We have never come across a single case of health and safety representatives being nominated by farmers as required by the law.”

OVGWU organises farm workers in the Free State.

The upshot is there is no monitoring machinery to ensure that warnings contained on the labels of drums of pesticides are observed. The dangers are aggravated because the majority of farm labourers are illiterate.

The unbridled use of poisons may be the reason why more workers die on South Africa’s farms each year than in any other sector of the economy, excluding mining.

Latest figures from the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner (WCC) show that there were claims for 183 fatal accidents on farms in 1985. The building sector, which has the highest fatality rate, had 126 claims.

The WCC does not handle compensation claims for injuries and deaths in the mining industry.

Apart from insecticides in the organophosphate group, a number of chemicals which are banned or heavily restricted in the industrialised world are used in South African agriculture.

Most notorious are herbicides which contain ingredients of the defoliants Agent Orange, 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T, and are used on sugar plantations and forestry estates to control weed growth. "Homeland" governments spray homes, hospitals and public buildings in rural areas with DDT to control malaria. Toxins contained in DDT take years to break down and pose a serious threat to human health because they enter the food chain.

The forestry industry also uses Lindane, a chemical banned in many countries, to protect stockpiles of timber, in sawmills from pests. The Paper, Print and Allied Workers Union, which organises foresters, is currently involved in a dispute with the management of a sawmill in Pietermaritzburg over the plight of migrant workers whose eyesight has been adversely affected by pesticides, says organising Ernest Masala.

The number of people poisoned globally by pesticides each year is estimated at 750 000 by the World Health Organisation.
NELSPRUIT — More than 8,000 Mozambican nationals who entered South Africa illegally were deported in the first three months of this year. A police spokesman said most of the foreigners were employed illegally by farmers.
MARITZBURG. — A farmer told to rebuild razed huts

Mr Justice Law ordered Mr Izak Stephanus Pretorius to rebuild the huts and fences belonging to Mr Amon Diamini and Mrs Daniela Ngubane.

In March, Mr Pretorius and other men went to the kraal where the applicants lived. The men removed Mrs Ngubane’s possessions before Mr Pretorius destroyed her two huts with a tractor fitted with a front-end loader.

Mr Diamini said the men then came to his kraal where Mr Pretorius destroyed four of the seven huts. — Sapa.
MOST SA fruit industry workers oppose sanctions and boycotts, with three out of four regarding sanctions as "bad", a recent poll by Markinor shows.

The poll, commissioned by a German institute, was carried out among 1 000 black and coloured workers in the SA fruit industry.

Only 13% of the workers believed sanctions were laudable, while 17% would support sanctions only if their own jobs were not endangered. Few of the workers had ever heard of sanctions and the term had to be explained to them.

The poll found the majority of workers were opposed to sanctions even if they led to the resignation of government.

Devolution of power in a future system was important to the majority, with 77% advocating power-sharing by South Africans of all races.

A black majority government was supported by only 21% of blacks polled.

On the subject of exports, the majority saw a strong correlation between fruit sent overseas and job security.

According to 91% of workers, more SA fruit should be marketed overseas. — Sapa.
The farmers were each

The situation in the South African Transvaal province was

Suzman to query fine in Parliament

The Johannesburg Star
No decision yet on unions

The Department of Manpower had not reached any decision on whether farm workers and domestic workers would be allowed to organize themselves into trade unions, the Acting Minister of Manpower, Mr. Eli Louw, said yesterday. Introduction of legislation in this regard would be considered once consultations had been concluded, Mr. Louw added.
‘Tree-killing’ sentence to be raised in Parliament

Johannesburg. — A sentence in which two farmers were fined R1 200 each for assaulting a worker who later died of brain haemorrhage is coming under close political and legal scrutiny.

The case of Louis Johannes Venter, 35, and Pieter Marthinus Fouche, 34, heard in Klerksdorp Regional Court last week, is fast earning the title of South Africa’s second “tree-killing”.

Mr Stephen Mononye was tied to a tree and assaulted by the two farmers who accused him of having stolen two cows. He died later.

The farmers were each fined R1 200 or four months’ imprisonment, plus a further six months suspended for five years.

Venter and Fouche originally pleaded not guilty to charges of culpable homicide, kidnapping and two counts of assault. However, they later changed their plea to guilty on two counts of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

The Democratic Party’s spokesman on law and order, Mrs Helen Suzman, intends to raise the matter in Parliament.

“This sort of sentence brings the South African judicial system into disrepute. I hope the relatives of the dead man will be taking civil action,” she said.
Loyal Ngoso and the Voice of Justice. I'm proud of the fact that I've proved myself.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the recent events at our school. The students and staff have been facing significant challenges in recent times, and I believe it is important to address these issues openly.

Firstly, I would like to express my concern about the recent vandalism at the school. The damage caused is unacceptable, and I urge all students to take responsibility for their actions. It is important to maintain a safe and respectful learning environment for everyone.

Secondly, I have noticed a decrease in the overall academic performance of the students. I believe that this is due to a lack of discipline and strict enforcement of the school rules. As a student leader, I am calling on the school authorities to take action to improve the school's academic standards.

Finally, I would like to draw attention to the recent increase in bullying incidents. Bullying is not only unacceptable but also harmful to the victims. I urge all students to respect each other and to report any bullying incidents to the authorities.

In conclusion, I believe that by addressing these issues, we can create a more positive and productive learning environment for all students. Thank you for taking the time to read this message.

Sincerely,

[Name]
By MUSA ZONDI

ISAAC MONONYE watched helplessly as two farmers kicked and sjambokked his brother Stephen.

"They continued to beat him as he lay on the floor. Venter would pull him up and put him against the wall. He kicked him in the stomach and Fouche carried on with his sjambok." As Stephen lay fatally injured, the two farmers shouted at him to stand up, Isaac said, shouting "We know you are not dead".

Stephen Mononye, 28, was beaten to death by Louis Venter and Piet Fouche last year at Orkney in the Western Transvaal. They had accused him of stealing two cattle.

When they appeared before the magistrate at Klerksdorp last week, they were found guilty of assault and fined R1 200 each or four months with six months suspended for five years.

Mononye died of brain haemorrhage as a result of the assault.

Lawyers for Human Rights has condemned the sentence passed on the two farmers.

According to Lawyers for Human Rights, "black people in South Africa perceive the judiciary to be racist and biased" and "unless the questions which arise out of the outcome of this case are satisfactorily answered ... the credibility of the judiciary will wane even further".

Isaac Mononye had been fetched by the two farmers to "come and see the skelm". He claims he could hardly recognise his brother, whose face was badly swollen. Stephen Mononye's hands were tied behind his back and his feet were also bound. His lower lip was cut and there was blood on his chest.

Venter said they had found the cattle, though he did not say where. They left Stephen lying on the floor. "He could not stand up nor talk properly. I helped him up and made him sit on the bed. He asked for water but he could not even open his swollen mouth. I forced him to drink," Isaac said.

The following morning, Isaac boiled water to wipe blood off the face of his brother.

As he was going to the hospital to ask for an ambulance, he met Venter who stopped him and asked where he was going.

"He said he had pain-killing tablets. I put my bicycle back on to the bakkie and we went to the house.

"When we arrived at home, Venter said I should not worry. 'Your brother won't die. He is just wounded a bit,'" Isaac alleged.

Stephen died at 11 in the morning while they were still waiting for a doctor to arrive. Afterwards Isaac went to the police station to report the death. When he came back, Venter told him to say that five of them, Fouche, Venter, Isaac and farmworkers Elias Nlela and David Olifant, had assaulted Stephen Mononye.

Fouche and Venter were subsequently prosecuted. Initially they pleaded not guilty to the charge of culpable homicide but they later changed their plea to guilty of assault. Thus Isaac Mononye was not called to give evidence at the trial.

Lily Mononye, Stephen's wife, a domestic servant, said her husband had been healthy before the attack.

Lawyers acting for the family told Weekly Mail the family are planning to sue for damages.
Farmworkers still out in labour’s cold

Mr Lucas Salmon Sibanyoni is a farm labourer who was employed on the farm “Poortjie” in the Free State town of Viljoenstad until the middle of 1988 when he was fired for being “absent without reason”.

His wage packet included an R8 a month salary and six bags of mealie meal a year.

Added to this Mr Sibanyoni was owed money equivalent to 46 bags of maize at the end of the harvesting season, in terms of his annual contract with the farmer.

According to producer prices paid by the farmers’ co-operative, the average price of a 70 kg bag of white maize was R15,60 while the equivalent price for yellow maize was R15,10 for the season May 1 1987 to April 30 1988.

This means that Mr Sibanyoni’s annual salary was R96 plus R706 if he was paid in white maize or R650 if paid out for his 46 bags in yellow maize.

At the end of the year he was owed between R775 and R796.

While on duty in June last year, Mr Sibanyoni injured his left foot. He consulted his doctor who booked him off work for seven days.

30 days notice

He said in a statement to the Orange Vaal Workers Union (OVWU) that when he returned to work and presented the farmer with his medical certificate he was dismissed for being absent without supplying reasons.

He was given 30 days’ notice to find alternative accommodation and to leave the farm.

Because he is a farmworker he cannot quibble over or find legal fault with his meagre wage and rations, his working hours, lack of sick leave or his dismissal.

He, in short, does not have the protection of labour legislation enjoyed by most workers.

Being in the farmworker category of employment puts him outside the ambit of the four main industrial laws: the Wage Act, the Labour Relations Act, the Basic Conditions of Employment Act and the Unemployment Insurance Act.

These laws are aimed at safeguarding both employees (eg. freedom from victimisation for trade union activities) and employers (eg. restrictions on strike activities), and at facilitating peaceful industrial relations. The absence of protection under the umbrella of the Wage Act— which provides for the setting down of a minimum wage — has seriously affected the farmworker.

Not all bosses and workers fall within the ambit of the Act such as unorganised employees and employers or those who participate in the negotiating machinery under the Labour Relations Act.

But those that do are afforded the rights of a basic minimum wage making it a criminal offence for an employer to pay less than this stipulated amount.

Farmers are not bound by this legislation and are at liberty to pay their labourers whatever they want.

Mr Sibanyoni, when employed at “Poortjie”, was supporting a wife and three children — one of them school-going — whose health and welfare is his responsibility as a father.

He discovered that the annual mealie meal rations of one bag every two months was not enough to feed his family. So, on leaving the farm, Mr Sibanyoni was indebted to the farmer for five bags which he had borrowed.

This amount was to be deducted from his salary. Mr Sibanyoni, however, claims he was never paid out his money for 46 bags of maize. Farmers have argued that because workers are given accommodation and rations they do not need a high cash wage. But there is no law governing the amount of rations and the type of housing provided.

The Basic Conditions of Employment Act applies to all workers excluding farmworkers, domestics, charitable organisations and state employees.

It covers hours of work (a week, a day, and meal intervals), overtime work and pay, Sundays and public holiday work, contract of employment and termination thereof, annual and sick leave and protection from victimisation for employees.

Farmworkers may therefore be required to work seven days a week for any number of hours a day and not be paid overtime. The farmer can instruct his labourers to work on public holidays for no extra money if he so desires.

Industrial workers are usually allowed, in terms of the Act, at least 10 days sick leave a year on full pay and they are entitled to at least 14 days paid annual leave. This does not apply to farmworkers.

The Labour Relations Act gives all unions the right to organise their workers. This applies to farmworkers’ unions in existence which include the OVWU, the National Union of Farmworkers and the Farmworkers Project under the auspices of the Food and Allied Workers Union.

But where the Act protects industrial workers who want to join a union it does not favour farmworkers who can legally be dismissed for joining a union.

A farmer can dismiss a worker for merely speaking to a union official.

No rights

The Act makes provision for an Industrial Court. If Mr Sibanyoni planned to contest his dismissal on the ground it was unfair, he would, if he were not a farm labourer, be able to go to this court.

The court would decide whether his employer had acted fairly. If the judgment was in Mr Sibanyoni’s favour he might be reinstated or compensated for the unfair loss of his job.

As a farm labourer he does not have rights in terms of the Act and therefore cannot fight the farmer’s decision.

With the cover of the Unemployment Insurance Act, which recognises a worker’s right to employment, Mr Sibanyoni has no social security. He cannot claim money to tide him and his family over while he is unemployed and looking for another job.

Although farmworkers are still waiting for the results of the Manpower Commission report, the message at a recent workers summit was to continue organising rural workers and not to rely on the report.
Farmworkers treated like slaves, says MP

Mr Luwellyn Landers

Political Staff

SOUTH AFRICA'S farm-workers were no better off than slaves and were open to exploitation with the tacit approval of the government, deputy minister of Population Development Mr Luwellyn Landers said yesterday.

Speaking during the debate on the Manpower Vote, Mr Landers said that farmworkers had no access to industrial courts and as a result had no means of seeking redress for unfair labour practices.

South Africa's farmworkers, he said were excluded from:
- The benefits of the Unemployment Act, Wage Act and Labour Relations Act, and
- The Basic Conditions of Employment Act, which meant that "no minimum conditions of employment needed to be laid down".

Mr Landers said it also meant that farmworkers, in terms of law, were not entitled to annual leave or sick leave, nor was the farmworker entitled to the normal benefits in terms of working hours and overtime and usual holidays enjoyed by other workers.

In a nutshell, he said, the farmworker found himself in the position of a serf, "at the mercy of the Minister of Manpower and South Africa's white farmer".

Mr Landers said that in 1981 a white Paper on the Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Labour Legislation was tabled in Parliament.

The Commission had recommended that farmworkers be included within the compass of certain labour legislation.

The National Manpower Commission was asked to look into the situation of farmworkers in March 1982 and submitted a draft preliminary report at the end of 1984.

In May, 1985 a translated report was submitted.

In February 1986 a private members' motion was debated in the House of Representatives calling on the Minister of Manpower to include farmworkers in the ambit of labour legislation.

The then minister stated that there were matters that needed more investigation.

Mr Landers said it was unbelievable that an issue as important as this, which affected the daily lives of people, could take the time that it had.

Speaking during the same debate, the MP for Springfield, Mr Mahmoud Rajab, asked whether the government was not under pressure from the conservative agricultural sector to delay publication of a report of farmworkers.

Mr Rajab said Cosatu had undertaken to mobilise farmworkers.

He warned that prohibiting trade unions would not halt the workers' urge to form them.
Call to include farm workers in labour laws

The Deputy Minister of Health and Population Development, Mr Luwellyn Landers, yesterday called for labour legislation to be amended to include farm labourers and domestic workers. Speaking during the debate on the Manpower budget vote, he said it was lamentable that after investigations into the position of the farm worker, nothing had been done to alleviate his position. The dictionary described the term “serf” as someone whose services were bound to the soil and transferred with it.

South Africa's farm and domestic workers found themselves in a condition of servitude without access to industrial courts to settle disputes, he said.

Flogging and exploitation of their cheap labour were the order of the day. Flogging was described in court by one perpetrator as a "tradition". Was this one of the traditions the National Party wanted to protect, he asked. — Sapa.
Rescue drama
Sailors tell of:
Seaman lost
boost the economy

By Maleke Mbalion

More than 100 million workers have been economists in the world, but the economy is now

Mr. Mathysen, managing director of the National Council of Labour Commissioner (NCC), told a meeting of employers' representatives that the economy was

The NCC has condemned the recent wave of violence in the country and called for the immediate implementation of the safety regulations.

Mr. Mathysen said that the NCC had

The meeting was told that the NCC had received a large number of complaints about

The conference centre accommodates more than 2,000 delegates.
Flowers change lives down on the farm

By Winnie Graham

Veld flowers have changed the lives of a western Transvaal woman and her farm workers.

When Mrs Trudi Geldenhuys's husband died a few years ago, she thought she would have to give up her farm near Pochville.

It seemed impossible that, with two children to support, she could manage a farm on her own. Yet, when the crunch came, Mrs Geldenhuys knew she could not leave. With about 100 farm workers on the property, there had to be something the people could do to earn a living.

"I racked my brains trying to think of some way we could make money when I thought of veld flowers," she said. "My father had bought me a florist shop years before and I knew dried flowers were very popular. It was worth a try."

So the youthful Mrs Geldenhuys and her farm workers got started. They picked veld flowers by the armful, dyed some and arranged them in baskets and vases, on hats and wall hangings. These were offered for sale to florist shops and anyone else who cared to buy.

The venture was an immediate success.

In no time Transvaal dried flowers were selling like hot cakes.

When Mrs Geldenhuys leaves for work in Potchefstroom each morning, the workers get on with the home-made flower industry. They work without supervision, producing an array of dried flower products.

The men are as involved as the women, making grass hats, dying dried flowers and grasses and trimming hats with lace and flowers. Some work at drying roses in the microwave oven, some make pot pourri while others arrange dried flowers.

Schoolchildren on neighbouring farms have learned that Mrs Geldenhuys buys flowers so they wait for her when she drives home.

"There are always children at the side of the road waiting to sell me large bunches of wild flowers," she said. "The money they make helps pay for their school books."

During the holidays the children join the adults making things to sell.

Flowers, of course, are a seasonal thing and when there are none to be had in the veld, Mrs Geldenhuys buys from the Cape.

"Oddly enough, there is not much difference in the flowers of the Cape and Transvaal," she added.

If the flowers of the veld have given Mrs Geldenhuys' workers employment, they have also given them a quiet satisfaction.

"People come from far and wide to buy the flowers," Mrs Geldenhuys said. "It is nice to know that something we started as a desperate measure to give people employment is giving so many people joy."
'I saw my brother beaten to pulp'

JOHANNESBURG. — Two Western Transvaal farmers, who mercilessly beat a man to death after claiming he had stolen two cows, were last week fined R1 200 each on charges of assault.

Stephen Mononye, 28, died after being tied up and repeatedly kicked in the stomach and sjambokked.

In a tragic twist of fate, the missing cows were discovered barely three hours after he died.

The sentences have sparked an outcry in legal circles, with Lawyers for Human Rights demanding that Justice Minister Kobie Coetzee open an official investigation.

And veteran MP Mrs Helen Suzman is to raise the issue in Parliament.

Louis Venter and Pieter Martinus Fouche initially pleaded not guilty to a charge of culpable homicide in the Klerksdorp regional court, but last week changed their plea to guilty of assault.

Small fine

Magistrate PJI Venter fined them R1 200 each (or four months imprisonment) with an additional six months' jail term suspended for five years.

This week Mononye's brother, 38-year-old farmer Isaac Mononye, spoke of the horror of seeing his brother 'beaten to a pulp'.

'It's always the same story,' said Mononye bitterly. 'A farmer beats someone for some small reason, and the worker dies. His family suffers — the farmer gets a small fine.'

Mononye, who could not give evidence in court because Venter and Fouche pleaded guilty, alleged that the two farmers tied his brother's hands behind his back and a rope around his neck.

'They dumped him on the floor and continued to beat him as he lay on the floor.

'Venter would then pull him up and put him against the wall. He kicked him in the stomach and Fouche carried on with his sjambok.'

Mononye said the two men continued to beat his brother, saying: 'We know you are not dead.'

Mononye said the farmers later threw his brother in the back of a bakkie, stating that they were taking him to Vierfontein, his home in the Orange Free State, where they thought he was keeping the two cows.

He then went home to sleep. Later, Mononye was woken up by the barking of a dog.

Venter and Fouche were outside with his brother, who was still bound and wearing only his trousers. Mononye said they left his brother lying on the floor.

At 3am Venter returned and asked Mononye to milk the cows.

"When I got back I found my brother asleep. I washed the bruises on his face and wiped the blood from his head."

Mononye said he did not have money to hire a taxi to take his brother to hospital, so he walked to get an ambulance. Venter stopped him and asked him where he was going.

"He said I should not worry as my brother would be okay. He gave me some painkillers for my brother. Venter promised to arrange for a doctor to 'fix him up'."

Mononye said his brother died at about 11am the following day, while he was still waiting for a doctor.
Suzman queries farmers’ sentences

Political Staff

The sentences handed down by a Klerksdorp Regional Court magistrate to two white farmers found guilty of assault with intent to commit grievous bodily harm were “grossly inappropriate”, Mrs Helen Suzman said yesterday.

The black man whom they assaulted, Mr Medupe Steven Mononye, died.

The farmers, Louis Johannes Venter and Pieter Marthinus Fouché, were each sentenced to a fine of R600 or four months, plus a further six months suspended for five years by Mr P J L Venter.

Speaking in the Justice Vote, Mrs Suzman (DP Houghton) said the farmers had on March 16 suspected Mr Mononye of stealing cattle. They had ab ducted him, tied him up hand and foot and brutally assaulted him with a sjambok.

Mr Mononye subsequently died from a brain haemorrhage allegedly as a result of hitting his head against the windscreen of the vehicle in which they were transporting him during a struggle.

Fouché and Venter, said Mrs Suzman, had pleaded guilty to a charge of assault with intent to commit grievous bodily harm after a charge of culpable homicide was dropped.

Mrs Suzman said several questions had to be answered:

● Why did the prosecutor allow the charge to be changed?
● What changes could possibly have led the magistrate to impose such a grossly inappropriate sentence for such a brutal assault?
● What effect this “gross perversion of justice” would have on the concept of the black community on the impartiality of justice?
● What encouragement would it give to other “white bully boys” to take the law into their own hands?

Mrs Suzman said the question which the minister had to answer was whether he was going to allow the deterioration of the judicial system to go on unchecked.
White farmer on murder charge

By DAN DHLAMINI

A FREE State farmer and two of his workers this week appeared briefly in the Heilbron Magistrate's Court charged with murder.

Franz Jacobus Smith, 47, Johannes Shwebe, 35, and Patrick Ngwenu, 21—all of Mispan Farm near Heilbron—pleaded not guilty to the murder of 15-year-old Fanie Jacob Radebe on March 4 this year.

The State alleges that Smith and the two workers beat up Radebe with their fists, kicked him and sjambokked him while a leather thong was looped around his neck and clamped to a vice grip. His body was found with sjambok weals and bruises in a farm store room.

Smith was released on R1 000 bail on March 6 and his co-accused the following day, also on bail of R1 000 each.

The conditions of their bail are that they should not interfere with State witnesses.

Magistrate RJ Steyn adjourned the case to May 9.

The case follows soon after a storm in legal and political circles concerning the lenient dealing by courts with white farmers who assaulted and killed blacks. The most recent case is that of the two Klerksdorp farmers—Louis Venter and Peter Fouche—who killed Steven Monono.

They were each fined R1 200 and 18-month suspended jail term.

Another case that brought the South African judicial system under the spotlight was that of Jacobus Venter and Pieter Leenaard, who allegedly killed Eric Sambo in the Louis Trichardt district and were fined and given suspended sentences.
Better life linked to fewer children

Down on the farm a ‘revolution’ stirs

By Winnie Graham

A baby is born every 26 seconds in South Africa … eight out of 10 farm workers cannot read or write … by 2000 there will be 13 million black children at school.

An estimated eight million people could be unemployed by the turn of the century … the cost of providing housing for our people could be as much as R20 000 million over the next 12 years …

These are some of the frightening statistics which prompted the Government to found the Directorate for Population Development in 1984.

The target they set themselves was reducing the birth rate to 2.1 children per woman by the year 2010. But how can it be achieved?

With estimates showing that 60 percent of all blacks live on white-owned farms, the country seemed a good place to start.

Research has shown that population growth can be controlled only if the standard of living can be increased. The higher the standard, the lower the growth rate.

Tour for journalists

Dr Donne Schweigart, director of Population Development, spelled this out when she talked to the press at the start of a tour of the northern Free State and western Transvaal last week.

The enhancement of the quality of life, she said, was as important a factor in reducing numbers as any family planning programme. A gigantic effort had to be made to provide education, primary health, housing and training skills for the people. Self-help schemes and jobs had to be created.

Dr Schweigart told the journalists: “It is the small projects that will start the change.”

During the next two days the press corps was to visit seven farms and see some of the “small” projects farmers had initiated. In four or five years several of the farmers had made enormous strides providing decent housing for their staff (some with electricity and running water).

Schools for farm children were being upgraded, primary health services made available and recreation and sports opportunities created.

Through the formation of community development associations and with the co-operation of the Rural Foundation, just one “community development association” (20 such associations being formed annually), is having an impact.

The 15 farmers in the Bothaville North Community Development Association have set the pattern for change in their area. Their wives are doing their share and have initiated innumerable small self-help schemes among workers’ wives.

Women who once had nothing to do are now spinning and weaving wool, making clothes by hand or machine, learning to bake and to can fruit. Most have started vegetable gardens.

The farmers have, had the support of training centres such as Boskop, near Potchefstroom, where courses are being offered to farm workers.

When the Boskop Centre opened in 1977 it trained just 417 people. Last year, says the chief executive manager, Mr Schalk van der Merwe, more than 23 500 people were trained. Here workers — many illiterate — are being given the opportunity of upgrading their skills.

They come from many parts of South Africa to take courses in a number of subjects. The widely acclaimed 6M-management course is one of the most popular. Farming courses include sheep and lamb care, wool classification and artificial insemination, dairy and cattle farming, pig care, vegetable farming and vehicle maintenance.

Farm hands who may never have learned to read or write are now being instructed in leadership training, industrial relations, personnel management and conflict management.

Mr van der Merwe says the training not only helps step up productivity on farms, but does an enormous amount to improve the self image of the workers who, when they return with their certificates, are usually given wage increases.

Whatever the motives may be for improving the quality of life of farm workers, one thing is certain: both farmers and workers have gained for the experience. But are families getting smaller? Some farmers claim fewer babies are being born on the farms now but only time will tell if “operation upgrade” has had the desired effect.
JOHANNESBURG. — A white businessman tied a black farm labourer to the back of his truck and dragged him for more than a kilometre on dirt and tar roads until he died, a witness testified in a murder trial.

Mr Michael C van Rensburg told the Supreme Court in Witbank on Tuesday that his employer, Mr John A Perreira, 53, had tied Mr Molefe Tholi Nzima by the neck to the tow bar of his truck, driven through water, down a dirt road, and zigzagged along a tar road until he swung on to his own property where the victim’s head slammed into a cement block.

Mr Van Rensburg said that on November 18, 1987, he and Mr Perreira had been looking for a chicken thief at Mr Perreira’s farm in Ogies, 100km east of here, when suspicion fell on Mr Nzima.

Mr Perreira pleaded not guilty and the trial is continuing. — Sapa-AP
More workers from Zebedielo injured

ZEBEDIELA.—Nine more workers from the Zebedielo Citrus Estates were admitted to the Groothoek Hospital yesterday morning for treatment and later discharged, hospital sources said.

This put the number of workers admitted and treated at the hospital since yesterday to fifteen.

A worker who requested anonymity said scores of workers who lived in the company compounds, slept in the bush on Monday night for fear of what he alleged to be “possible attacks from the police”.

The SAP unrest report noted that a large group gathered outside the estate offices, and were dispersed by police using quirts and patrol dogs. The report said 12 people were injured and 15 arrested.

At Molweni (Pinetown) two people were slightly injured when they were stoned by a group.

Police are investigating an explosion which occurred at 6.15am on May 8 at the municipal mechanical workshop in Deepmeadow, Soweto. There were no casualties and damage was slight. — Sapa
and says the delay means farm workers are being discriminated against "with the tacit approval" of government.

"We (the LP) believe that SA's farm workers and domestic servants represent an example of the exploitation of cheap labour," he charges.

He says they exist "in a state of serfdom" with no access to the Industrial Court and no means of seeking redress for unfair labour practices. They are also excluded from the benefits of the Unemployment Insurance Act, the Wage Act and the Labour Relations Act. They depend on the "charity and benevolence" of farmers. No law protects their rights to annual leave or sick leave, or to fair working hours. Farmers have an "unfair advantage and unfair protection" in dealing with their workers.

"It needs to be said that the farm worker in SA finds himself in the position of a serf, at the mercy of the minister of manpower and SA's white farmers."

Landers says reports of the treatment of some farm workers indicate a tradition of physical abuse. "Is this one of those traditions the NP wants to protect? Is the holding down of SA's farm workers in a state of serfdom part of the NP's protection of the rights of the white minority?"

"Cases of farm workers being exploited and assaulted fill our newspapers and our law reports. Their exclusion from the ambit of SA's labour legislation means that they are subjected to forces beyond their control."

Speaking in the same debate the DP's Mahmoud Rajab said he believes that it has been speculated that the NMC report recommends that farm workers be given the right to form trade unions.

"The question that begs to be answered is this: is government under pressure from the conservative agricultural sector to delay publication of the report?" he said.

In response, acting Minister Louw continued government's fudge of the issue. He argued that the issue of trade unions for farm workers has to be handled carefully so as not to disrupt the agricultural industry's ability to provide the thousands of jobs it now does.

He says the NMC report may in fact not be published because it is primarily a guide for government. He says a "working group" comprising representatives of "organised labour," MPs and Department of Manpower officials is continuing to look at the issue.

He says it is difficult to be "prescriptive" to the industry because of its complexity and diversity.

FARM LABOUR

Forever serfs

The National Party's political vulnerability in the platteland is almost certainly forcing government to continue denying basic labour rights to farm workers.

Population Development Deputy Minister Luwellyn Landers (the only "coloured" member of the "general affairs" administration) touched a few raw nerves in parliament last week when he accused government of tacitly approving the exploitation and abuse of farm workers — but the Nats didn't flinch. With an election due this year the rights of black farm workers are not a priority.

Speaking in the debate on the manpower budget vote, Landers raised what has clearly become an acute embarrassment for government. It has now been sitting on a National Manpower Commission (NMC) report on the working conditions for farm and domestic workers for five years and there is still no indication that it is prepared to formulate a policy to protect them (Current Affairs, March 10).

In reply to a number of questions in parliament since government received the report, former Manpower Minister Piet du Plessis, and current acting Minister Eli Louw, have told MPs that "consultations-with organised agriculture" have not been finalised and nothing can be done until then.

But Landers doesn't accept that excuse. He says it is "inconceivable" that an issue as important as basic employment rights for farm workers can take so long to be resolved.
Man would have died of strangulation, says doctor.

The Argus Correspondent

WITBANK. — If the Ogies man who died after being tied with rope and dragged behind a bakkie had not died from head injuries, he would have died from strangulation, a doctor told the Supreme Court here.

Dr Johannes van Tonder, Ogies' district surgeon, was giving evidence in the case against Benoni businessman Mr John Augustine Perreira, 53, who is charged with the murder of Mr Molefe 'Tholi' Nzima on November 18, 1987.

Mr Perreira has pleaded not guilty.

Earlier the court heard from witness Mr Michael Charles van Rensburg that Mr Nzima had been suspected of stealing chickens from Mr Perreira's Ogies smallholding.

Mr Perreira had tied up Mr Nzima with a rope, attached the rope to a bakkie's tow-bar, then drove off, dragging him over dirt and tar roads.

Mr Nzima died soon after the bakkie stopped, after travelling more than one kilometre.

In his evidence Dr van Tonder said Mr Nzima had died of brain injuries.

The back of his skull had been broken resulting in bleeding of the brain.

Mr Nzima also had multiple strangulation marks on the neck.

Dr van Tonder said Mr Nzima would have died of strangulation from the rope around his neck even if he had not sustained the head injury.

Dr van Tonder also said Mr Nzima had abrasions on the upper part of his body. He believed the body must have been dragged about 50 m to receive such injuries.

The hearing continues on June 8.
Conditions and attitudes improve on some farms

"Ten years ago," the farm worker’s wife said, "if we wanted to talk to the farmer, we knocked on the kitchen window. Today we knock at the door, are invited in and sometimes offered a cup of tea."

The dramatic change in attitudes on certain South African farms is reflected in this conversation. It was echoed by Mr. Oschild Bosman, general manager of the Rural Foundation, at the close of a media tour of the Free State and western Transvaal.

Mr. Bosman was outlining the progress of the population development programme among the farming community.

The Department of Health’s Population Development Programme and the Rural Foundation, working in cooperation with newly formed rural community development associations, are involved in projects to upgrade and improve the quality of life for farmworkers. He said it was impossible to measure accurately the value of the work being done, for the development programmes had given people hope and hope was a measurable quality.

His speech followed a talk by the chairman of the Bothave North Community Development Association, Mr. Van Vuilen, who said farmers in the area were doing their best to provide a safe and happy environment for their workers.

He added: "In the four years since we started the programme in cooperation with our personnel, there has been a change in the attitudes of both black and white. We have proved that, in spite of our differences, we can work and live in harmony."

When the farmers had decided to upgrade conditions for workers because they were "afraid of trade unions," Mr. Vuilen said if the unions came to improve the quality of the workers’ lives they would be welcomed, but not if they came to disrupt the farm.

He spoke with sincerity. In the four years since the Bothalville North association got going, it is obvious there has been a remarkable change.

But, though the housing schools and other physical structures provided by the farmers are impressive, it is the change in attitudes of both black and white that was most noticeable when pressmen toured the area last week.

White farmers and black farmhands have abandoned their old "master/servant" relationship. They are working as a team — and productivity is increasing.

A farmer summed up the change when he said: "We no longer talk of having so many kaffirs on our farms. We talk of our personal. Farmers no longer simply tell their workers what to do. We must meet each morning to discuss the day’s work."

The change started when farmers committed themselves to improving their workers’ quality of life by providing better housing, training facilities, upgraded schools, creches and health services.

Most of the schemes started when the community development associations were formed.

Farmers saw the need to improve physical structures but, four years ago, no one believed a major shift in attitudes was possible. Today, however, the spin-off of their efforts is apparent to all.

The efforts of the Bothalville farmers have affected the lives of about 2000 workers on 15 farms. About 60 percent of the workers now live in brick homes rather than mud huts.

Some farmers provide electricity, running water, street lights and even refuse removal services at their staff housing estates.

A Free State sheep farmer, Mr. Van Vuilen, said he saw the need to provide after he started four years ago:

"It hurt me to see them suffers and I knew I had to do something to help them."

The workers were invited to "pot down" their crops of vegetable and fruit trees. They could not be expected to provide vegetables and fruit trees. They could not be expected to provide vegetables and fruit trees. They could not be expected to work. They had to be taught how to do everything from selecting the right plants to growing them. They were invited to share the work. The workers were invited to "pot down" their crops of vegetable and fruit trees.
Harmony is won on farm

WALKING TOGETHER... Mr Rhys Rolfe of Vljoenskroon (centre), the maize farmer who built the first licensed club in South Africa for his workers, with his wife, Norma, and members of his workers' committee, Mr David Thekeza, Mr Daniel Matonung, Mr Eals Matheba and Mr David Mathibe.

Attitudes on farms

Fletcher.

... the need to provide housing after he started farming 17 years ago.

"It hurt me to see how they suffered when, in heavy rain, the walls of their houses collapsed," he said. "In those days I was farming someone else's land and I knew people who suffered lack of housing could not be expected to work properly."

Today, his workers are provided with core houses, enabling each to finish the interior. He insists everyone grows vegetables and usually "inspects" their crops on December 22.

No farm in the area is more than 3 km from a school so it is possible for every child in the area to receive a basic education. At present only primary school education is available, but the farmers are negotiating for a junior secondary school.

Pension and burial schemes have also been started.

... hundreds of farmworkers, many of whom are illiterate, have been sent to the Vetsak and Boshop Training Centres to acquire new skills, and their wives have been offered the opportunity of learning needlework and knitting.

Farmers' wives have initiated a number of self-help schemes and the workers' wives are now baking, spinning, weaving, sewing and knitting for gain.

Recreation, once unheard-of on South African farms, has now become an important aspect of their lives. Community centres have been built, soccer leagues arranged, athletic events planned, choir formed and outings organised.

WORKING TOGETHER... a Free State farmer's wife, Mrs Ansto Stols, and a farmworker's wife, Mrs Lydia Bentley, discuss progress on a needlework project on the farm Bredaagte.
Six farm workers hurt during strike

ZEBEDIELA — At least six workers from the Zebediela Citrus Estates in the northern Transvaal were admitted to the Groothoek Hospital yesterday after an alleged confrontation with police.

Sources at the hospital identified three workers admitted as Mrs Mokgaetji Maswi (60), Mr Piet Nkwana (65) and Mr James Malaudzi (69). Mrs Maswi said she had been bitten on both legs by police dogs.

More than 1 000 members of the National Union of Farmworkers downed tools on Friday. They are demanding higher wages and recognition of their union.

A worker said the entire labour force gathered at the company offices yesterday. “While standing there we were given five minutes in which to disperse because the police were coming.”

Mr C van Rooyen, public relations manager for Zebediela Citrus, yesterday refused to comment. Far Northern Transvaal police public relations officer Lieutenant Cas Jones referred inquiries to the Police Directorate of Public Relations in Pretoria. Comment from the directorate is expected today. — Sapa.
Suzman move to censure judge

Parliamentary Staff

A SUPREME Court judge will today face charges in Parliament of grossly perverting the law by imposing too light a punishment on a white farmer who caused the death of a black worker.

Mr Justice J J Strydom's accuser will be Mrs Helen Suzman, Democratic Party spokesman on law and order, who has sought the impeachment of the judge.

Last November he conditionally suspended a penalty of five years' jail and fine of R3 890 (or 12 months) imposed on Jacobus Vorster, 23, for culpable homicide.

One of the provisos was that Vorster pay labourer Mr Eric Sambo's widow and children R130 a month for five years.

The Louis Trichardt Circuit Court heard that Vorster, originally charged with murder, beat Mr Sambo and tied him to a tree after he had killed one of the farmer's dogs and maimed another.

Mrs Suzman told the House of Assembly yesterday she would move today for the judge's censure.

She noted that while punishment was the judge's discretion, it should be seen in the light of the unlawful purpose of Vorster and an accomplice, Petrus Leonard, "coupled with the duration and brutality of their assaults".

The sentences imposed last November were so "outrageously insufficient as to amount to a gross perversion of the law," Mrs Suzman concluded.

Leonard was fined R500 (or three months).

The Johannesburg Bar Council found the sentence "so grossly inappropriate as to induce not simply a sense of shock but one of outrage and concern".

If the community began to believe such a crime could merit "so trivial a punishment, the maintenance of law and order would be gravely endangered and no law-abiding citizen would be safe from violent and callous killers".

It said further that the trial judge took into account mitigation for which there was no or insufficient evidence.
Fruit exports seen at R1.5bn this year

By AUDREY D'ANGELO
Financial Editor

The fruit industry — which provides a living for more than 1m people in the Western Cape alone — is expected to earn more than R1.5bn in foreign exchange this year, Rembrandt chairman Anton Rupert said last night.

He was speaking at the formal opening of a new centre for the industry in the restored 17th century Fleurbaix manor house near Stellenbosch.

Describing fruit growing as "an anchor industry in the Western Cape", Rupert said it was the largest employer of black people in the area.

"It is disturbing to note that the sanctions policy which some overseas countries have seen fit to apply to SA has already led to a decline in the number of seasonal workers."

Sanctions, he continued, would also hit business in the countries applying them.

"The SA fruit exporting industry generates some R2bn for European institutions.

"In the export of Cape grapes, for example, the Europeans get about 65% of the retail price. This includes the retail and wholesale shares as well as import duty and distribution costs."

"The SA share, which includes transport and all packing materials, is 35% and the farmer's share amounting to only 10% of the retail price in Europe."

"The wine farmer is in the same situation. His share of the retail price of a bottle of wine in the higher price range on the overseas market varies between 10% and 12%."

"On the other hand the import duty alone on SA fruit delivered to the European Economic Community markets amounts to some R75m."

"This is more than the R60m which these countries channelled, for example, in 1987/88 through organizations such as the SA Council of Churches, the Catholic Bishops' Conference, Cosatu and the Kagiso Trust for the upliftment of the under-privileged."

Rupert said that in the difficult trading situation SA was currently experiencing "the Cape fruit industry has to be particularly resourceful to retain current markets and to open new ones."

"Ultimately the consumer's demand for quality products is the only truly effective counter to political scheming."

In the long run, the service and quality which were the foundations of the SA fruit industry would ensure it a place in the world market.

Fleurbaix, with more than 60 ha of land, is now the headquarters of the SA Plant Improvement Organization, a project managed in partnership with the deciduous, dried and canned fruit industries.

It will also be used by the industry for conferences and training.

Rupert, who has played a leading part in the conservation of old buildings, said it was an ideal site where the best use could be made of the infrastructure serving the industry such as the research institutes, plant quarantine stations and the University of Stellenbosch.

"Research is the lifeblood of an industry and ensures that it will remain at the forefront of technological development."

"In a strategically important industry like the fruit industry this is indispensable."

"Ultimately the consumer's demand for quality products is the only truly effective counter to political scheming."

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"In a strategically important industry like the fruit industry this is indispensable."
Sanctions hit fruit workers’ jobs

By JOHN YELD Staff Reporter

SANCTIONS against South Africa have caused a decline in the number of seasonal workers in the fruit industry, according to Stellenbosch magnate Dr Anton Rupert.

Dr Rupert was speaking in Stellenbosch yesterday at the opening of the Pleurbaix complex, a historical Cape-Dutch homestead on the banks of the Eerste River dating from 1768 which has been restored as headquarters of the SA Plantation Improvement Organisation.

Dr Rupert said the fruit industry was the anchor industry of the Western Cape and earned valuable foreign exchange — estimated at more than R1.500-million this year.

It was also the largest employer of black labour, providing work for nearly 250,000 workers with more than a million dependents.

"It is disturbing to note that sanctions have already led to a decline in the number of seasonal workers," he said.

The South African fruit exporting industry generated about R2.000-million for European institutions, and import duty on South African fruit alone was about R75-million — more than the R60-million which these countries channelled through organisations like the SA Council of Churches and the Kagiso Trust in 1987-88, Dr Rupert said.

"This shows just how self-defeating the actions of some of our European trading partners are."
Citrus strikers hurt as police move in

At least 15 workers employed at Zebediela Citrus Estate in the Far Northern Transvaal were treated at Groothook Hospital for injuries sustained on Monday, hospital sources said.

The 15 were injured when police used quits and dogs to disperse a group of over 100 workers who were gathered on the company premises to discuss with the management their demands for pay increases and union recognition.

Police said in Pretoria on Tuesday that 15 workers had been arrested at the estate.

Two of the injured workers are Modoalet Molomli, 60, and James Makgadiku.

"The workers, who are members of the Nacto-affiliated National Union of Farm Workers, are demanding a 45 percent across-the-board increase and the recognition of their union." Long-serving workers with 30 years' experience earn R60 a month to R80 a month.

Zebediela Citrus PRO management, C van Rooijen, refused to comment on the strike at the company.

The 15 workers appeared at Zebediela Magistrate's Court on Thursday charged with disobeying a lawful police order to disperse.

They are Selina Madubw, Josephine Sebopa, Amah Mofumadi, Mollie Ndlovu, Jack Kekana, Shabah Ledwaba, James Motledi, Andries Mbele, Lekindele Mokgathi, Doria Tembisa, Flora Sephatse, Elizabeth Mabola, Mireil Makhafola, Anna Seloane, and France Mampa.

The case was postponed to June 7 and all were released on warning.
TWO white farmers tied Stephen Mononye to a tree then whipped, punched and kicked him to death because two cows escaped from a farm near Klerksdorp.

For the crime, farmers Louis Venter and Peter Fouche were last month fined R1 200 or four months' jail after the court accepted reduced pleas of assault.

After seeing her husband's killers walk from the court as free men Mononye's widow Lilly said: "This shows how cheap black lives are in this country."

In September 1987 a black farmworker, Eric Sambio, accidentally ran over and killed two dogs belonging to his white employer, Jacobus Vorster, in the Louis Trichardt area.

Vorster and his neighbour Petrus Leonard beat and kicked Sambo unconscious. They left him tied to a tree overnight and resumed the brutal assault in the morning, forcing other blacks to take part. Sambo bled to death.

Last November Leonard was fined R500 for his part in the killing. Vorster received a five-year suspended sentence and was ordered to pay the dead man's widow R120 a month for five years.

The judge said he took into account the embarrassment Vorster would suffer and said another reason for not jailing him was that 44 black workers on his farm might lose their jobs.

The government says it is proud of its judicial system's impartiality and independence. It vehemently denies charges that some judges are biased.

Veteran opposition MP Helen Suzman says: "The Mononye case is another instance of gross perversion of justice and can only bring the South African judicial system into disrepute, both at home and abroad."

She failed in her efforts to have the Sambo case judge impeached, but she found an ally in the influential Johannesburg Bar Association, who said the sentence imposed on the farmers was "so grossly inappropriate as to induce not simply a sense of shock, but one of outrage and concern".

University of Natal academic and legal expert Prof George Devenish said: "It is surprising that the Attorney-General did not prosecute the farmers in the Supreme Court for murder."

"Sentences like this contribute towards making our system of legal justice suspect."

Civil rights leaders cite a long list of cases as evidence of court leniency towards whites convicted of killing blacks.

In 1987 Johan Brydenbach received an effective sentence of 30 months for driving his car into a park in Pretoria and killing a sleeping black woman, Maria Rumeni, by repeatedly running over her.

In the same year, a 17-year-old white youth was sentenced to six strokes with a cane and a suspended jail term for beating a black man to death with a baseball bat. The youth said he was angry after an argument with his girlfriend.

However, two blacks who left a white woman for dead and stole her car were sentenced to death last year.

A black gardener who strangled his employer was sentenced to death, while a domestic worker who helped in the murder was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment.

The Human Rights Commission said: "It would seem our courts regard the racial element in a white-against-black crime as an extenuating circumstance and in a black-against-white crime as an aggravating circumstance."

THE NOOSE

Amnesty International noted last month that the vast majority of the more than 1 250 people sentenced to hang in South Africa during the past decade were black.

It said: "In South Africa, death sentences are imposed disproportionately on black defendants by an almost all-white judiciary. Execution is most likely if the victim is white and the defendant black."

The Sharpeville Six were sentenced to hang for a murder they did not directly commit.

The judge used the doctrine of common purpose to determine that the accused were part of a mob which stones and burned to death a black councillor in 1984.

President P W Botha commuted the sentences to long-term imprisonment after a local and international outcry. – Sapa.

Man fined R1 000 for killing burglar

CP Correspondent

THE Grahamstown Supreme Court this week fined a 56-year-old white man R1 000 or two years' imprisonment for killing a black man who tried to burglar his home.

Colin Melvin Wesson, an occupational therapist at Fort England Hospital, was initially charged with murder, but the State accepted his plea of guilty to culpable homicide.

Pepsi Ndemka, a suspected burglar, died from a gunshot wound caused by Wesson after Ndemka had been apprehended by at least 20 residents in the area.

Judge Zietsman said the basis of Wesson's conviction was his negligence in using the firearm.

He had failed to warn the deceased not to run away and had shot into the ground rather than into the air.

If the bullet had not struck the deceased, it could have ricocheted off a wall and struck a member of the public.

This amounted to a high degree of negligence, the judge said.

He found that Wesson acted on the spur of the moment and there had not been any intention to kill or injure the deceased.

Wesson was also sentenced to three years' imprisonment suspended for three years. – Ana.
Workers to seek police restraint order.

Zebediela: The strike by more than 1,200 Zebediela Citrus Estates workers is to have a sequel in court today when an order to restrict the company and the police from evicting the strikers is to be sought in the Supreme Court.

Confirming this, the litigation officer of the Black Lawyers' Association, Mrs D Mokgahle, said the application followed the refusal by both the company and the police to undertake not to evict and assault the workers.

This followed an incident last Monday at the company premises when police confronted the striking workers with quirits and police dogs. At least eight workers were admitted to Groothoek Hospital while 15 workers were arrested. — Sapa

1989
Farm labourers: new laws on way

The Government has already set in motion machinery to formulate legislation to protect the basic employment rights of farm workers, according to the Director General of the Department of Manpower, Mr. Joel Fourie.

Mr. Fourie said in an interview in Pretoria that the South African Agricultural Union was already setting up labour codes for the industry. Farm workers themselves were also at liberty to form representative bodies.

A working group comprising representatives of the industry was investigating the various possibilities put forward in the National Manpower Commission's report on the working conditions of farm and domestic workers, he said.
Farm workers 'free to form unions'

PRETORIA — Manpower director-general Joel Fourie said government was moving to formulate legislation to protect farm workers' basic rights.

In a radio interview he said SA Agricultural Union was setting up labour codes for the industry. Farm workers were free to form unions and other bodies to bargain on their behalf.

Present labour law provisions, tailored for factory workers, did not afford relevant protection for farm workers. Industry representatives were investigating possibilities put forward in the Manpower Commission's report on this sector's working conditions.

The department was also implementing educational and training programmes aimed at uplifting the quality of life of the farm worker. — Sapa.
R60 a month wage claim denied

ZEBEDIELA Citrus Estates has said the organisation "rejects with contempt" allegations in Sowetan that workers on the estate earn between R60 and R165 a month.

In a statement yesterday Zebediela said, "the minimum salary for an unskilled untrained worker at Zebediela is R120 per month cash plus benefits."

Benefits include family housing, clinic services, sport and recreation facilities, specialist training and transport for children.

On April 1 this year the workers received a 15 percent increase, the statement said.

In its editorial on Tuesday, Sowetan said 12 workers landed in hospital after workers at the estate went on strike to protest against low wages.

"We are aware that certain workers suffered financial loss in the resulting disciplinary actions. Management will however support loyal workers," the estate said.

"Zebediela Citrus is a leader in the application of fair labour relations," the statement said.

It said healthy labour relations exist as elected worker councils represent the workers and decide with management on disciplinary codes, and the interpretation of policy.

"If any workers opt to leave company employment, management will be fair in dealing with their housing position... we do not plan any evictions."
Talks on NTVL strike

THE strike by over 1200 Zebediela citrus workers enters its 15th day today with management having agreed to negotiate with legal representatives of the workers, the union announced yesterday.

Nactu's Pietersburg organiser, Mr Moss Mphahlele, said the two with worker representatives and possibly the union, were to meet at a hotel in Potgietersrus last night.

The meeting followed a Supreme Court application on Monday in which the workers restrained management from evicting them from the compounds.

A team of top black advocates, including Mr Dikgang Moseneke, Mr M.C Motimele, and Mrs Francis Davis, assisted by the litigation officer of the Black Lawyers Association (BLA), arrived in the Northern Transvaal yesterday afternoon for the meeting.

The workers stopped working on May 3, demanding the recognition of their union, the National Union of Farm Workers, and wage increments. The workers say they earn R60 per month with those having over 30 years experience earning R165 per month.
AN application for the reinstatement of over 1 200 Zebediela Citrus Estates striking workers is to be filed in the Pretoria Supreme Court this afternoon.

The application by the Black Lawyers Association (BLA) on behalf of the workers will also ask the court to order the company not to go ahead with its threat to evict the workers from the compounds or to again call the police "into what is purely a labour dispute."

BLA litigation officer, Mr. D. Makgaba, said the application followed a visit to the area by a team of black advocates led by Mr. Dikgang Moteneke.

She said the company had on Friday refused to open negotiations with the union or the legal representatives over the workers' grievances. The company had also refused to give an undertaking that the strikers would not be evicted.

The workers were informed during the week that they had been dismissed following the strike that started on May 3.

The stoppage, over wage demands and the recognition of the National Union of Farmworkers, has brought the world's largest orange estate to a halt. Oranges began rotting as they fell to the ground in their thousands.

Dog bites

Strikers say they earn from R60 per month to R165 for those with over 30 years service. Police were called to the estate on Monday to disperse the striking workers after the workers had turned down a management request to resume work.

At least six workers, suffering from police dog bites, are still being treated at the Groothoek hospital where they were admitted on Monday.

At a meeting on Friday, the workers vowed to continue with the strike until their demands for a 45 percent increase is met.

Zebediela Citrus public relations manager, Mr. C. V. Roozen, has said the company was not prepared to comment on the strike.
Dogs set on farm workers as 1 200 strike

Farm workers on the Zebediela state-owned citrus estate continue their two-week strike over demands for higher wages and recognition of their union. By EDDIE KOCH

PRODUCTION in Africa's biggest citrus estate, near Zebediela in the Northern Transvaal, has been halted by a 10-day-old strike by about 1 200 orange pickers.

A supreme court application by the National Union of Farmworkers (NUF) for an order restraining farm management from evicting strikers and calling on police to intervene in the dispute was postponed on Monday, said a union official.

In the interim, the state-owned Zebediela Citrus Estates agreed to try and settle the strike in talks with the workers' legal representatives. It also undertook not to evict the workers or call in the police until the court hearing resumed.

Tsheka Moletane, NUF general secretary, told the Weekly Mail the workers had downed tools on Wednesday two weeks ago in protest at refusals by the state-owned Zebediela Citrus Estates to recognise the union.

Last week 12 of the strikers were treated at the Groenkloof Hospital after management called in police to disperse a crowd of workers.

"The youths managed to run away but many of the workers were older people who could not escape," said Moletane. "They were bitten by dogs and beaten with batons."

A routine unrest report issued by police headquarters in Pretoria on Tuesday said: "A large group of blacks refused to disperse when requested to do so by both management and police. Police used quirts and patrol dogs to disperse them. Twelve people were slightly injured."

Moletane said workers, who receive wages of between R55 and R105 a month, were also demanding a 45 percent wage hike. "The farm owners have refused to talk to us. They say they don't want a third party involved and will be able to handle their own domestic problems."

Cornell van Roon, public relations officer for Zebediela Citrus Estate, had not replied to Weekly Mail queries at the time of going to press.

The estate is owned by the SA Development Trust Corporation, which encourages investment in "homeland" areas. Union sources said the corporation plans to hand the farm over to the Lebowa government.

"The farm has come to a complete halt," said a NUF organiser in the union's Pretoria office. "Oranges are just dropping off the trees. Every black person who works on the farm — pickers, labourers, security guards and drivers — are out on strike."

NUF, an affiliate of the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), is the largest of South Africa's unions for black farmworkers.

Manager-director-general Joel Fourie this week announced the government was planning to introduce legislation to govern conditions of employment on South Africa's farms. He also pointed out that farm labourers were free to join unions of their choice.
They work 11 hours a day — for only R5

CHILDREN who work on "Giesie" Rossouw's farm near Klucow earn a meager R5 a day, SOUTH discovered during a visit to the farm.

A group of 20 workers were planting sweet melon near the citrus fields, digging into the clay soil and carefully placing the seedlings into holes dug by children.

The farmer's wife stood watching them, ticking their names off a list pinned to a clipboard.

"I have to watch them all the time. If I don't, they play all day. They justrun about," the wife said.

They are not irresponsible, these children, they just need more guidance.

When she was asked whether the workers were available to be interviewed during their lunch break, she replied that they did not need to take a break during their 11-hour day.

Workers who work off get docked a day's pay.

Mrs Händriek Klaasie has both her children in the accident, Griwaal, 8, and Tessa, 10.

Loud bang

Both children had been brought to the field every day. Griwaal had never had a day's schooling. Sometimes they helped their mother, but spent most of the day playing while the workers worked.

Klaasie cannot remember the accident. All she recalled was a loud bang and found herself unconscious, lying next to her daughter.

She returned to the fields the day after Tessa's death. There was no time off for grief.

Working next to her was Mena Trumpl, whose two-year-old daughter Johannes was killed.

Trump's weather-beaten face is lit up and she looks much older than her 48 years.

She has been a labourer for almost all her life, for as long as she can remember serving meals to the workers, but discovered that the child had been too old for any of the farm wives to watch her.

"I can't have them with me all day, and we do, and I can't even stay any week because of the accident," Trump said.

"She is nice enough, but there is no other work around. The Rossouws pay less than all the other farmers.

"I don't think they have a chance of ever being able to live.

Among the group of 20 workers were 14-year-old boy, two 15-year-olds and two 17-year-old girls who had not completed their schooling.

Rachel Arndt, 17, was in fifth in Cabanita. When the Rossouws moved here, they helped on the farm, her uncle, one of their foremen, came to fetch her.

"I've been here for two weeks now, but at home I am not living in the hostel, but with the other workers from Cabanita. I am living with my uncle, Rachel said.

She was not sure how long she would be going to work on the farm or whether she would go back to school.

Johannes van Wyk, a rooky, self-assured 14-year-old who was taking a smoke break in the field, said he was asked whether his family knew he was in Klucow.

When the Rossouws' truck came to Cabanita on a Sunday morning three weeks ago, he jumped on, believing that he was old enough to make his own decision.

But now he does not know where he'll be going tomorrow or how he'll get there.

Johannes is living in the Rossouws' hostel in Donkerkloof. He says he is thinking of leaving the workers.

"We look after the children, especially the girls and make sure the older men don't use them," Trump said.

"They are like our children. We take them in with us.

Trump said the older workers kept

Johannes van Wyk, 14, irrigates the field.
He was recruited in Cabanita.

Reverend David Willenese serves on the Disaster Committee and buried most of the dead.

"All these children couldn't have died. They were on the truck because they were going to their mothers' places or playing in the fields every day. The Rossouws' did not provide pre-school care for the children.

Kids killed in the disaster were Christian, six months; Eric Swawoep, six months; Koeula Isaacs, eight months; Lennie Olivier, four; Marinda Haissema, five; Francis Isaacs, six; Jennifer, Kek, two, and five-year-old Tessa Isaacs.

The children and babies were picked up by their mothers and taken to hospital. At 5.30am, the buses were taken to the fields in the farm truck, slept at an orphanage near their mother's places or playing in the fields, and went home again at 5am.

"Even in winter, when it rains, those children stay tied to their mother's backs. There is no shelter in the fields," said Willenese.

The women have worked. They pay the Poor Boys to sit at home and survive on their husbands' wages.

The farm labourers working for the Rossouw family earn R5 a week. They are given free accommodation in the hostels, but have to buy food and clothes with their wages.

Willenese would like to see the money donated to the Klucow disaster fund used to improve the lot of farm labourers in the area.

Prison Services respond

RESPONDING to a letter from a teacher in the 14-hour children: "A person's soul is not affected by the court of law; it can be altered by the court or the prison.

The Prison Services insists that such children, through contacting their families, friends or employers are taught to correct past behaviour. The pay-out will be paid to the Prisons Services is concerned. This is a fine as a man has to live for. The law is as fine as the law.

In the case of the children in the present case, the Prisons Services insists that the parents and/or guardians of the children for their fees to be paid. The law is so fine as to be fine.

The prison is non-profit and the prison interests, but it can be done. A teacher cannot simply bring the prison, the prison and the parent will pay for the work of the child with the parents' consent.

The letter writer is a teacher in the 14-hour children.
Talks end

Citrus

Strike

The strike by over 1200 Zebediela citrus workers is expected to end this week following negotiations between lawyers representing workers and management, highly informed sources said yesterday.

The sources said an agreement was reached late on Saturday night in Pretoria where the talks ended after starting in Potgietersrus on Wednesday. The agreement, to be made an order of court tomorrow, provides for an across the board increase of R30 for all workers, the source said.

All the workers, who were dismissed on May 5 following the work stoppage that started two days earlier, are to be re-employed...
Strikers score a first on Africa’s biggest farm

By EDDIE KOCH

STRIKERS at the Zebedele Citrus Estate in the northern Transvaal have scored a first for South African farmworkers by winning demands for wage increases and union recognition.

Some 1,200 workers at the estate — the biggest of its kind in Africa — began trickling back to work on Monday after staging a three-week strike to back demands for a wage hike and recognition of the National Union of Farmworkers (NUF).

The strike was settled on Friday last week after union lawyers had threatened to bring an urgent application in the Pretoria Supreme Court for an order restraining the farm’s management from evicting the strikers from the compound on the estate.

In an out-of-court agreement, management of the state-owned farm agreed to raise the labourers’ wages by R30 a month and instruct their lawyers to discuss a draft recognition agreement with the NUF’s legal team.

The Zebedele estate is owned by the SA Development Trust Corporation, a state body designed to promote investment in “homelands”.

Union organiser Moses Mpahlele said the lowest paid workers, who before the strike were paid R63 a month, would receive an increase of about 50 percent.

“As far as we are aware, this is the first time that farmworkers on strike in South Africa have won a wage increase,” said Mpahlele. “This represents a major victory, not only for the NUF, but for all farmworkers in South Africa.”

A representative for Zebedele Citrus confirmed the strikers had been reinstated without any loss of benefits and that a wage increase of R30 had been granted. “The average wages were between R120 for unskilled workers and R2 500 for skilled workers,” he said. About ten retired pensioners received R65 plus accommodation.

Early on in the strike, management called in police to break up worker meetings, and just days before the supreme court hearing was due to take place told the strikers they had been sacked.

Management’s abrupt about-turn could be linked to the fact that the strike may have embarrassed the government at a time when it was planning to reform the system of labour relations on the farms.

Soon after the strike broke out, director-general of manpower Joel Fourie announced his department intended introducing laws to protect farmworkers in the near future. He also noted that farm labourers were free to join trade unions of their choice.

Farms in this country are not covered by legislation governing labour relations and minimum conditions of employment. The Labour Relations Act makes no provision for the recognition of farmworkers’ unions.

The NUF, an affiliate of the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), is the biggest of a number of trade unions that have made inroads into the farming sector in the past two years.
Makwassie farm worker foiled in bid to lay charge

Andries Maine tells of farmer’s gunfire.

The police station with the intention of laying a charge. But we were told to return the following day.”

He said he had taken one of the empty cartridges as an exhibit to the police when they took his statement.

The reluctance of the police to take his statement the previous night prompted him to seek legal advice as he feared for the lives of his family.

He said he was also scared the farmer would come for him after learning he had laid a charge against him. Makwassie station commander W/O J van Rensburg confirmed Maine had made a statement, but said no charge was being investigated because the farmer was not shooting at Maine or his family.

He said Maine had handed in a used cartridge but claimed he might have picked it up in the veld.

Last week concerned lawyers and civic leaders formed an interim committee in Johannesburg to counter the often cruel abuse of farm workers. Farm workers’ problems were highlighted.

The convenors resolved that the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the National Council of Trade Unions and other progressive organisations should be invited to a meeting in July where they would be asked to support farm workers. One speaker at the meeting, Joe Seremane of the South African Council of Churches, said farm workers lacked security and were often exposed to inhuman assaults.
Zebediela will never be the same

By MATHATHA TSEDU

When Afrika cries, she sings, or so the old saying goes. But when Afrika is happy, she dances and rejoices with a fervour and joy that is a marvel to witness for oneself.

And so it was last Tuesday when hundreds of workers from the Zebediela Citrus Estate, who had been on a historic farm strike, returned to work after 20 days. The workers had been demanding improvements to their lives, including an end to the brutal management practices.

A stoppage declared illegal and massa slaughter, followed swiftly thereafter, the workers were gone and back to their jobs, with a minimum increase of R20 and an undertaking by management to negotiate new working conditions within these limits.

Works and never in the history of the estate had they seen management coming as they did. There had been short-lived work stoppages in the past which ended at the behest of the black managerial, eviction, the arrival of police or a combination of all.

All the above factors were thrown in by management but that time around things were different.

The workers are now members of the Natsa affiliated National Union of Farm Workers (NUF) and were having at the disposal the sophistications of the National Union of Agricultural Workers (NURW) and the South African Farmers' Union (SAFU) to back them up.

The workers' strike lasted for 20 days and ended with a wage increase of R20 and the promise of improved working conditions.

The workers were also demanding an end to the brutal management practices and the return of the farm manager, who had been removed by the workers.

The strike was met with resistance by the management, who threatened to sack the workers if they continued their strike.

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R30 000 boost for farm pupils by SA fruit industry

By CLIVE SAWYER
Tygerberg Bureau
PRE-SCHOOL education for children of farm labourers has been given a R30 000 boost thanks to a continuing fundraising drive by Friends of Fruit, an association of fruit industry companies.

The sum was part of a total of R50 000 raised for the Rural Foundation.

The remaining R20 000 will be spent on sports facilities and five tertiary education bursaries for school-leavers from deciduous fruit farms.

The money was raised during the fruit industry's 1988 sports day.

Friends of Fruit has raised R100 000 since 1986 to support pre-school education and child care, said Mr Fred Meintjes of Unifruco, one of 13 companies involved in Friends of Fruit.

499 farm creches

The Rural Foundation had established 499 farm creches with the help of funds from Friends of Fruit, Mr Herman Bailey, a foundation spokesman, said.

The chairman of the foundation, Mr Frans Malan, said the number of children joining the programme had increased by 17 percent to 8 105 over last year — and 765 supervisors were now in service.

A training official for preschool care was appointed last year to train creche supervisors and advise on the making of educational toys.

Mr Malan said the programme was a visible way for the companies involved in Friends of Fruit to show their awareness of their social responsibility.

"The concept established by the deciduous fruit industry is to develop the industry's own people, something which can be built on in co-operation with the agricultural sector," Mr Malan said.
280 now evicted in Weenen

JOHANNESBURG. The families of 19 farm tenants in the Weenen district, near Ladysmith, are being forced to sleep in the open veld in sub-zero temperatures after being thrown out of their homes by farmers. Farmers are using civil-ejectment orders to drive labour tenant families out of a cluster of 20 "Thornveld" farms south of Weenen, according to the Association for Rural Advancement.

A total of 110 families have so far been served with court orders, resulting in the eviction of about 280 people. The recent spate of evictions follows years of conflict between the tenants and farmers.

Sapa
Bitter and sweet

Against the backdrop of an increasingly violent strike at SA’s largest citrus plantation, SA’s Citrus Exchange became the country’s third agricultural co-operative to throw its weight behind the Rural Foundation (RF).

Like the wine and deciduous fruit industries before it, the Citrus Exchange may be hoping its R250 000 gift to the foundation will stall an expansion campaign by the National Union of Farmworkers (NUF) while bolstering its PR battle against European boycotters of SA fruit.

At a quiet ceremony marking the donation last week, exchange officials and RF organisers explained that the foundation’s training programmes — which aim to forge an effective rural work force — would help local agriculture fight high inflation.

Ironically, while good weather has given wheat, maize and grape growers their first bumper crops since 1982, the farming sector has been thrust into battle against its more efficient European and North American counterparts. Agricultural economist Koos du Toit points to a drop in farm equipment and fertiliser sales as symptoms of a growing crisis which may ultimately overpower the preference now given to SA produce on foreign markets because of the falling rand.

Bad labour relations are clearly an inconvenience farmers are now finding unaffordable.

Six years after its foundation, the RF is busy training more than 16 000 farmers and farmworkers annually in the latest techniques of export-quality production. But most interesting for SA’s agricultural associations is the RF’s success in setting up labour negotiating channels on more than 2 500 farms across SA — most not unionised.

“The great asset of the foundation is that it involves farm people from grassroots up, not from the top down,” says Louis Kriel, GM of the deciduous fruit co-op Unifruto, which in 1984 began urging its farms to use RF programmes.

The organisation oversees the election of a workers’ committee which then meets the farm owner to discuss employees’ working and living conditions. RF officers teach both sides of the table how to conduct effective negotiations. So far few farms involved in the programme have had serious labour difficulties.

Du Toit adds that RF-style negotiations often result in longer-lasting agreements than, say, the wine-for-wages dop system.

Such programmes have mainly focused on individual farms — the RF is proud of its success on farms in heavily conservative areas — rather than entire industries. But industrial associations like the Citrus Exchange are now taking notice of the foundation’s record and its campaigning to involve all of SA’s 23 marketing boards in its growing network.

Du Toit explains that farmers are now operating on the assumption that unions will attempt to organise their workers. Though some RF farms are already organised, better working conditions and closer relations between rural employers and employees on assets non-unionised farms may “solve the problem of unionisation,” he says. “There will be attempts by organised labour to enter agriculture on a larger scale within the next few years and we don’t want to be caught with our pants on our knees.”

But a three-week old strike by 1 200 orange pickers at the State-owned Zebediela Citrus estate, in the northern Transvaal, typifies the kind of tension which could ultimately stand in the way of the RF. Strikers at Zebediela are demanding a 45% pay hike and recognition for their branch of the NUF. Twelve were treated in hospital after allegedly being attacked by police dogs.

The RF stresses that it is not anti-union.

But SA’s farmers are bound to discover that the foundation offers no sure cure for their workers’ discontent.
Farm-workers get a break

THE Government appears to be addressing the plight of farm-workers — five years after the National Manpower Commission reported.

In 1982, the Government gave the commission the urgent task of investigating working conditions of farm and domestic employees. It completed its report in 1984. After years of evasion by the Government, Manpower Director-General Joel Fourie announced that the Government had started to formulate legislation to protect farm-workers' basic rights.

The South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) is setting up labour codes for the workers, who are excluded from the Labour Relations Amendment Act.

In March it circulated a booklet entitled Labour Relations in Primary Agriculture. The booklet proposes grievance and disciplinary procedures. It also suggests that worker committees be established, with similar functions to the 1970 liaison committees, and discourages farmers from concluding recognition agreements.

The May edition of the Institute of Industrial Relations Information Sheet says that because the SAAU appears to be the Government's major consultant on labour legislation in farming, the booklet's approach might be an indication of the type of law which could emerge.

"Government is obviously reluctant to antagonise a powerful sector of the white electorate. However, at the same time it is aware that conditions of farm-workers need to be improved."

"In this delicate situation it is attempting to maintain an even balance, and is treadimg cautiously. But whilst liaison committee type structures are likely to be acceptable to the majority of farm owners, one cannot be certain that they will bring about a situation where the aspirations of the majority of farm-workers will be fulfilled."
He was a fit man – murder accused

‘Chicken thief was towed for 4 km by bakkie

By Therese Anders, Highveld Bureau

A Benoni man told the Supreme Court in Witbank yesterday how he held a pistol in one hand while he tied up a suspected chicken thief with a tow rope.

Mr John Augustine Pereira (59) said he then drove off in his bakkie, towing the man behind for about 4 km over dirt and tar roads.

The man in tow died of head injuries after the bakkie stopped.

Mr Pereira has been charged with the murder of farm labourer Mr Mojale “Tholi” Nzima in Ogres in 1987. He has pleaded not guilty.

Rope on tow bar

Giving evidence yesterday, Mr Pereira described how he tied up Mr Nzima, who he believed had been stealing his chickens.

He bound the rope twice around the man's chest area, once around his neck, between his legs, and twice around his body.

He said he told Mr Nzima to get into the back of the bakkie, but he refused, saying: “Baas, please, I will take you to the thief and to some of the chickens.”

Mr Pereira said he then tied the rope loosely around the bakkie's tow bar, and gave an end to Mr Michael van Rensburg, who was sitting in the back of the bakkie.

Mr Pereira was unable to push Mr Nzima into the back of the bakkie because he had tennis elbow.

Speed claim

He said Mr Nzima fell about seven times during the 4 km ride. He had seen this through his rear-view mirror, or Mr van Rensburg had shouted to him to stop.

Each time Mr Pereira stopped and got Mr Nzima up. He said he drove at no more than 10 km/h.

Asked by Mr Justice Smit if he thought a man could walk as fast as 10 km/h, he said he believed so.

The judge asked if he did not think while being towed Mr Nzima would be injured by falling so often. Mr Pereira said he did not think so, then added that he thought Mr Nzima's overalls would protect him.

Each time he stopped to get Mr Nzima back on his feet his condition "appeared good".

But at the last stop when he entered a farm gate he then noticed Mr Nzima's overalls were damaged.

Asked in cross-examination how he thought a man could run so far, Mr Pereira said:

"He was a tall, fit man who was a soccer player."

Asks if it were true, as had been said in evidence, that Mr Pereira "listened to the news on the radio" while towing Mr Nzima, he said he always had his bakkie radio on.

The hearing was postponed for 90 minutes after Mr Pereira's counsel, Mr Johan Engelbrecht, said his client had taken two tablets to calm himself and needed time to recover.

The hearing continues.

8 arrests in connection with city gang rapes

By Craig Kotze, Crime Reporter

Eight suspects have been arrested in connection with a series of recent gang rapes in Johannesburg's flats, police said.

The Brixton Murder and Robbery Squad made the arrests in Soweto yesterday. The suspects, aged between 19 and 29, are expected to appear in court soon.

They are being held in connection with the rape of seven women, allegedly by a gang called "The Gateways", between April 26 and Tuesday.

The gang is also being held in connection with the assault of a Yeoville man and his wife in their Webb Street home. Detectives also recovered stolen goods in their swoop.

Witwatersrand police spokesman, Lieutenant-Colonel Francois Malherbe, said excellent detective work by the Brixton squad and the co-operation of the public had led to the arrests.
Spinach farmer jailed 15 years for murder

By THERESE ANDERS
Weekend Argus Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG. — A spinach farmer who towed a labourer behind his bakkie for four kilometres has been convicted of murder and sentenced to 15 years' jail.

John Augustine Pereira, 60, of Boksburg, was found guilty by Mr Justice Smit in the Supreme Court in Witbank yesterday of murdering Mr Molefe "Tholi" Nzima in Ogies in November 1987.

Mr Nzima died of head injuries soon after the bakkie stopped.

The judge said he found it inexplicable that Pereira, who admitted he was in the bakkie, had no direct intent to kill.

He was sorry to have to imprison a man of that age for such a long time, but because of the seriousness of the crime, he had to be taken out of the community.

Mr Justice Smit said Pereira should have foreseen that his actions could have killed the man. He also found much of Mr Pereira's evidence to be false.

Earlier the public prosecutor, Mr Deon van Wyk, asked for the death sentence to be passed, even although an extenuating circumstance had been found "because of the sadistic and gruesome nature of the crime".

Defence counsel Mr Johan Engelbrecht said Pereira had no other convictions. The semi-retired farmer earned a pension of R2 000 a month.

Mr Justice Smit gave permission for Pereira to appeal against the murder conviction. Mr Engelbrecht said Pereira would not appeal against the sentence.

Pereira was taken into custody after sentence.
Court told ‘thief’ towed behind bakkie, dies

JOHANNESBURG. — A Benoni man told the Supreme Court in Witbank yesterday how he held a pistol in one hand while he tied up a suspected chicken thief with a tow rope.

Mr John Augustine Perreira, 69, said he then drove off in his bakkie, towing the man behind for about four kilometres over dirt and tar roads. The man died of head injuries after the bakkie stopped.

Mr Perreira has been charged with the murder of farm labourer Mr Moliele “Tholi” Nzima in Ogies in 1997. He has pleaded not guilty.

Giving evidence yesterday, Mr Perreira described how he tied up Mr Nzima, who he believed had been stealing his chickens.

He bound the rope twice around the man’s chest, once around his neck, between his legs and twice around his body.

He said that he told Mr Nzima to get into the back of the bakkie but Mr Nzima refused, saying: “Baas, please, I will take you to the thief and to some of the chickens.” Mr Perreira said he then tied the rope around the bakkie’s tow bar and gave an end to Mr Michael van Rensburg, who was sitting in the back of the bakkie.

He said Mr Nzima fell about seven times during the ride. Each time Mr Perreira stopped and got Mr Nzima up. He said he drove at about 10km/h.

The hearing continues. — Sapa
**Shame on the Farm**

*Vaal child labour costs as little as R2*

By Themba Molefe

**MOST people working on farms in the Vaal Triangle survive on a combined family income of R60 a month. Children — some as young as eight — earn R2 a week, a Sowetan investigation has revealed.**

The people live and work on the farms in and around Vanderbijlpark and Vereeniging — less than 60 km from South Africa's richest city, Johannesburg.

Most farms are privately owned. Those owned by companies, including parastatal organisations such as the Rand Water Board and corporations such as Anglo American, pay workers between R120 and R300 a month.

**Paltry**

The investigation revealed that:

- Men employed as farm locemen and labourers on the farms work up to 12 hours a day, starting at 6am for a pay of R40 or R50 a month.
- Women working as domestic workers earn about R30 a month. Others also work with their husbands in the maize fields for the same amount.
- Children start working with their parents in the fields from the age of eight.
- On farms at Vanderbijlpark, Malelane, Maipolong and Molotlane, children as young as eight, eight, nine and 10 already work in the fields. They work long hours, earning only some money from their work.

Mrs Ndubela, a domestic worker at a farm near Vaal Dam, said she never received her R10 pay, and that food was deducted from her wages.

**From Page 1**

**Farms in shame**

R2 a week.

He left the farm in 1987 after the farmer's dog mauled his face. Malelane now lives with his unemployed mother, three brothers and two sisters in a shack at Kop-pies in the Free State.

At one farm near the Vaal Dam, children are paid about R1 a day or R5 a week for picking and packing potatoes.

Many children skip school to work on the farms and earn up to R15 a week.

To supplement the workers' income some farmers give them bags of mealie meal, milk or eggs.

Mr Koos Bruwer of Parys said he gave each of his three workers 80 kg of maize plus the R40 he pays them a month. He said he paid them an annual bonus of R600 each.

On some farms workers get their full pay after 12 months, which is normally at harvesting time.

In agricultural terms this system is called the six-term contract during which the workers receive R10 every month plus a ration of maize, milk or other foodstuffs.

Those workers interviewed said they struggled to make ends meet and that they were literally owned by the farmers. Others declined to be identified for fear of reprisals.
Working the land is not child’s play

SEVEN-year-old Lucas Makgokolo is being exploited by his “boss” as a casual farm labourer on a farm in the Vaal Triangle, but he is not old enough to join a union or claim compensation for injuries he recently received while at work.

A sheep herder, Lucas and his brother, Ismael (12), each bring home a wage of R3 a week.

“When Lucas turned six, according to his parents, Elizabeth and Isaac Makgokolo, the farmer asked them to allow Lucas to work for him full-time. We refused and said he had to go to school,” said Mrs Makgokolo. Since then Lucas and his brother attend school but have to work from 7 am to 5 pm during school holidays.

That is a 10-hour day and, for a six-day week, his labour would be worth fractionation more than R3 a day or 3c an hour.

On November 31 last year, Lucas was viciously beaten by his employee’s dog and as a result is believed to be suffering from brain damage.

Frontline

His parents approached the Orange Vaal and General Workers’ Union (OVGWU) for help and are currently involved in a legal battle to claim compensation for Lucas’s injury.

“Lucas is just one of thousands of farm children in rural and semi-rural areas who are in the frontline of the farm labourers’ workforce,” said (OVGWU) union official, Mr Steve Kholisa, who is based in Vereeniging.

The Employment Act basically prohibits the employment of children under the age of 15 and states that people doing so should apply to the authorities for a special permit (newspaper distributors who employ youngsters have to get such permission).

In 1989, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) released a report saying there were about 60,000 economically active under-15s in South Africa.

A researcher, currently conducting new research into child labour in this country (she asked not to be named as her research could be hampered), said yesterday: “On virtually every single farm where children live they work for the farmer. Sometimes they are paid, sometimes they are not. Children usually begin working as soon as they are able to carry or pick crops.”

No schooling

Government figures state there were 5,627 farm schools for 401,325 black children in March 1998. Seventy-seven farm schools were closed down, 143 new schools were opened and 1,102 were extended. The schools employed 12,310 teachers.

“A guest is that half the African children on white-owned farms get no schooling,” said a union official.

In the Vaal triangle, the ILO researcher said she found some of the worst conditions. “One particular farmer who had a farm school on his property forced the teacher to act as a foreman and threatened to close the school when the teacher resisted. “Many parents who are farm labourers are forced to consent to their children working because they fear being fired,” she said.

Others, like farm labourer Mr Abraham Mokokwa, interviewed by the Saturday Star on a farm in the Vischagt, Vereeniging area, consent to their children working because the family cannot survive on his meagre wage of R40 a month and a bag of mealie meal.

“The farmer employs 36 adults. The 38 children on the farm aged between eight and 10 are all expected to rise at sunrise and work all day. They are expected to attend school holidays and on Saturdays,” said Mr Mokokwa.

Exploited: Lucas Makgokolo (7) is too young to join a union for help.

CHILD LABOUR: Many farmers ignore the Employment Act, which basically prohibits the employment of children under the age of 15.

No convictions

In terms of the education (Education and Training Amendment) Bill, anyone who removes a child from school during school hours can be fined up to R150 or jailed for a month.

But so far there have been no convictions of offenders. And as the ILO researcher pointed out, there is at present no monitoring of the child labour situation in this country.
MEMBERS of the National Union of Farmworkers (NUF) continue to challenge employers, despite a lack of protection under the Labour Relations Act.

The 120 NUF members at Braak's Indoor Plants in Pretoria, who have been on strike for two weeks following a deadlock in wage negotiations, have been thrown out of the company's hostels and dumped on the streets.

The NUF had demanded a R100 across-the-board increase back-dated to January. Workers now earn between R120 and R150 a month.

The general secretary of the NUF, Tshaka Moletsane, said the union had lowered its demand to R30 but the company had offered R30.

The union then suggested a package deal, accepting the company's offer of R30 until June and proposing a further increase of R20 from July.
Mrs Miriam Sofe is dedicated to her pupils

MANY teachers her age bask in the comfort of teaching inside warm classrooms in the townships but Mrs Miriam Sofe (32) gets fulfilled by dedicating her life to the children of farm workers.

A derelict barn on a farm at Rustoord, near the Mint Dithi, is school for "Sofe" and her children. All the pupils — from Sub A to Standard Five — share the dilapidated barn.

"I told a colleague to teach the classes in turns. If she lectures to say, the rest of the school do written work or wait for their turn outside the barn."

Deprived

"Sometimes the occasional sound of a bull's bellow drowns Sofe's voice as she teaches. But that's all she is used to, she says."

After obtaining a Senior Primary Teacher's Certificate 10 years ago Sofe went directly to the farm.

"I did it out of choice. If I do not teach these deprived children who else will?" she says.

She smiles as she recalls asking one of her "urban" colleagues if she ever considered teaching on a farm.

"The woman regarded me with contempt and said that was the last thing she would do. When I probed further she bluntly told me she was not mentally retarded. I could only sympathise with her," Sofe says.

She says this kind of attitude does not help to improve the conditions at farm schools because very few qualified teachers volunteer to take up posts there.

Another saddening factor, Sofe says, is that many of the children start school very late in their lives because the farmers employ them and decide when they should go to school.

"Many of the children start school at the age of eight and in my school there are 18 and 19-year-olds in a Standard Five class," Sofe says.

By THEMBA MOLEFE

Miriam Sofe is Sowetan's Woman of the Week

Three Rivers and Meyerton. Many cannot afford the bus fare and have to walk distances up to 15 kilometres to the school, she says.

"The Department of Education and Training can do very little because the farms are private properties at which it has no jurisdiction at all," Sofe says.

She says the children do not have too many learning problems and are not retarded as many people seem to think.

"Their major problem is deprivation and isolation. I would be happy to see many people, even urban schools, visiting the farm schools. I think it would stimulate their minds and make them feel wanted."

Mrs Miriam Sofe has dedicated her life to teaching farm children.

Her day begins at 4.30am when Sofe leaves her comfortable home in Sekhoko to travel for three hours by bus to Rustoord. At that time many of her colleagues are still in bed in the townships. It is the same bus which collects her pupils in the farming areas of

Sofe recall the day she took 50 of her pupils on a train ride.

"I have never seen people as excited as those children on that day. Many of them were seeing a train for the first time in their lives and even refused to use the seats and insisted on sitting on the floor. They enjoyed the ride despite their tardiness."

A mother of two, Sofe says she was born on a farm but in Kagiso on the West Rand and spent her life in the townships.

Sofe said she would not stop teaching farm children.

"I belong here, not in the double-storey schools where teaching is synonymous with eating a sandwich. I mean, the struggle is also on the farms."
One of the workers who was allegedly ordered to clean 400 trees in one day. When the union members brought this to the management's attention, they were dismissed. The dismissed workers said they were not able to complete the work within the time frame. They also claimed that discipline procedures were not followed. (More about this)
A motor car fan belt tied to a rope was used as a noose, he said.

During the ordeal, which began at 9am and ended at 5pm, De Klerk said he was swollen at and the farmer threatened to bury him alive if he did not confess to the alleged theft.

De Klerk said he was let go after one of the two policemen who arrived said it was obvious he knew nothing.

He said the police and Landrum refused to take statements from him after numerous attempts to lay charges.

**Coffin**

The liaison officer for the Eastern Transvaal police, Lieutenant Wickus Brits, yesterday said De Klerk's allegations against the police were false.

"The case was reported and fully investigated. A docket has been handed over to the Public Prosecutor for a decision," Brits said.

De Klerk said the farmer carried two firearms all the time and had allegedly fired a shot which narrowly missed his left arm.

**False**

He worked for the farmer for three months as a tractor driver and earned R100 a month plus a bag of mealie meal. He claimed the farmer owed him R1000 for five goats he took from him when he employed him.

Another worker, Mr Enos Ndlela (49), said he laid charges with the police after he and four colleagues were tortured by the farmer's sub-contractor at his butchery for allegedly stealing tools on June 12.

He said he was tied and hanged, and when he regained consciousness during the assault, he found himself inside the shop, "like a dog." He said the ordeal lasted two days, he said.
Mauled by dogs

By MATHATHA TSEDU

DOGS belonging to Jacobus Vorster, the Levubu farmer who made headlines when he killed a labourer, mauled a labourer who was cutting grass on the lawn, it was confirmed yesterday.

Doctors at Tshabango Hospital gave the man, Mr Tshabango, Wilson Muhanelwa, eight days' sick leave and told him to go to a nearby clinic for further treatment.

But at month end, Muhanelwa was paid R35.30 instead of R40 a month wage.

The difference was deducted from the time he was sick.

Muhanelwa, a father of four, said he was with four other labourers when four dogs attacked him on June 10. He called the dogs off but this did not help as the dogs were trained not to obey bitches. He did not hit the dogs because "if you hit the dog, the bitch bites you."

Muhanelwa said he was saved by Vorster, who pounced through a window when he heard his screaming. He took him to hospital and gave him R10 for medication and transport back.

Muhanelwa said Vorster had told him that he would give him money for the injuries. "When I asked him about it one payday, he told me I was mad. He then gave me R51.30 as my wages. I just stood there amazed. I mean I was bitten by his dogs while working and now I don't even get paid for the days I could not even walk," Muhanelwa said.

Vorster confirmed that his dogs had bitten Muhanelwa but denied that he had deducted money for time he was off sick. He refused to say how much Muhanelwa had earned in June adding: "Since when does that concern you?"

Asked how much Muhanelwa earned a month, Vorster said: "There is no one at this stage who can tell me what to do or what to pay. I am warning you. I can already see where this is leading to. Don't bother me again. You are wasting my time", then hung up.

Muhanelwa said Vorster was found guilty of culpable homicide following Sambo's death. He was sentenced to a suspended five years imprisonment.

Justice J Strydom said Vorster could not be sent to jail because he was responsible for the well being of 44 labourers, who include Muhanelwa.
By Norman Chandler

Farmers urged to promote population development scheme

The ability of natural resources into consideration, the RSA cannot accommodate, educate and provide for more than 80 million people.

"Therefore, the current generation is the last that can still avert a population catastrophe," farmers were told in a pamphlet. The black rural population (60.4 percent) is far higher than that in urban areas, and the population growth rate is six children per black woman compared to 2.8 children per black woman in the urban areas.

"There is," says the department, "a direct association between population growth, development and the overall quality of life of people. It is apparent that the improvement of the socio-economic circumstances of the underdeveloped rural population should receive priority attention."

Farmers — described in the pamphlet as often being employer, banker, doctor, undertaker and marriage counsellor to their workers — are being urged to promote the PDP programme in various ways.

These include projects such as health counselling, family planning, initiation and management of play groups and creches for children, home industries, budget planning and management, leadership courses, sport and recreation, establishment of vegetable gardens and training in elementary craftmanship.

Advantages to farmers are seen as improved communication, savings on maintenance costs, and increased productivity.
badly beaten, strangled
Horrific report claims
Farm Brutality Shock

sex manual
terrified farm workers
Worthing News
July 15, 1998
For South Africa’s farmworkers, life is cheap without any rights

FARMWORKERS are victims of both the law which discriminates against them and their employers who exploit and subject them to violence - in most cases with impunity.

This emerged at a meeting on farm violence held at the Central Methodist Church in Johannesburg on Saturday.

A representative of Lawyers for Human Rights, Ms Lucretia Sefield, said farmworkers were denied the most fundamental right - the right to live.

She said their plight was highlighted by recent court cases in which farmers got away with light sentences after they had killed farmworkers.

"State prosecutors often accepted pleas for lesser charges where murder is involved. The plight of the farmworkers, therefore, gets known only after they have been killed," she said.

"The workers, who depend on the farmers for housing, schooling and food, are always reluctant to lay charges against their employers for fear of eviction and dismissal and they are not eager to testify against them," Sefield said.

She said in many instances farmworkers ended up being accused of trespassing in spite of having been assaulted by the farmers. This was so because the farmers countered their claims by saying the workers resisted eviction after being dismissed.

A spokesman for the Western Transvaal and Northern Cape Council of Churches, Mr Sam Present, said the farmworkers were landless labourers who had no right to own land and were victims of poverty and physical violence.

He said although the workers were covered by the Workmen’s Compensation Act they faced problems getting money when they were injured on duty.

This was because they were compensated for temporary disabilities but nothing for pain and suffering. "They receive low compensation because they earn low wages."

Another problem was that farmers often delayed reporting accidents to "workman’s compensation and denied they occurred on their properties. Workmen’s commissioners often listened to farmers and accepted their versions without question."

"Because farmers were neglectful of the conditions stipulated in the WCA, it is common that compensation cheques never reached the farmworkers as disabled workers get dismissed with no forwarding addresses being taken by the employers. The cheques are sent to the workers care of farmers," said Present.
Staff Reporter

Not a cent has been budgeted this year for housing for farm labourers. Mr P J Joubert, of the Berg River Farmers' Union, told the 10th annual Western Cape Agricultural Union congress yesterday.

He said 23.6% of the total South African population lived in rural areas, yet only 1% of last year's R1 000 million housing budget — R10m — had been allocated to farm employees' housing.

"Is this not a tragedy?" Mr Joubert asked. "What can we do with R10m? It's only 1% of the housing budget to keep people on the platteland and ensure that our whole population does not end up in decline around our cities."

It was "a crying shame" that police had been told to search farmers' bakies and confiscate a certain variety of lucerne seed, Mr John Robertson, a farmer, told the congress.

He spoke during a debate about the activities of the Lucerne Seed Board, which tried to stabilise production of the seed thus avoiding vast price fluctuations and to introduce new pest-resistant strains.

"I feel that the danger of over-production is exaggerated," Mr Robertson said.

"It is a crying shame that the free market mechanism is interfered with in this way and ordinary people are made into criminals. The fault lies with the system."
The hut is his only home

FARM HANDS WHO END UP AS ENSLAVED WORKERS

The Media Council

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

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

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

The address is: The Councillor/Registrar, SA Media Council, PO Box 3232, Cape Town 8000. Telephone: (021) 464-7107. Inquiries are welcome.

Political comment is in the view of Aggrey Khazhe and Joe Thlobo, Sowetan, Johannesburg.

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WED BE HAPPIER
ABOUT THIS RESTRICTION
SOUTH AFRICA HAD NERAL PRESS FREEDOM

cause the dogs had not been chained.

He said he was sure that Vorster could have covered for the woman in terms of the Women's Compensation Act. Mahalewa said his office would assist Mahalewa if he needed advice.

But Mahalewa is a married man. He fears eviction from the farm, which is his only home. Eviction means being thrown out in the streets. It is a prospect that he does not look forward to.

But he is also a very bitter man who feels let down by a man who once dropped him into serious trouble over Zambibe.

Vorster has denied that he deducted money for die sick leave. He has, however, refused to say how much Mahalewa had earned in June. He dropped the phone and said he does not want to be bothered again.

The Sowetan visited Mahalewa at his "home". It was dark and his family was already asleep. However we went in. There is not a single piece of furniture in the hut - no bed and no chair.

Wife

The wife and kids were sleeping in one room. On the other end was a heap of tattered clothing for the entire family. Pot and other cooking utensils were in the other corner.

A log blazing the woodfire was serving as a hanging post and a Malabatwa's overcoat. That summed up his worldly possessions.

Mahalewa has been in the thick of problems together with Vorster. He was one of four labourers who were initially charged with the murder of Eric Sande. He remembers Sandibe and how he died and does not want to be reminded of the episode.

"Each time I think of Eric and how he died I cry," he said.

Mohalewa's predicament is typical of farm workers who eventually end up as enslaved workers.

Efforts

While there are efforts by the two major labour federations, Cetus and Nacta, to get farm workers unchained in the Labour Relations Act, this is still far from over and does not address Mahalewa's immediate problems.

Indeed, when he was found guilty of culpable homicide for the death of Sandibe, the judge, in what has now become an internationally criticized sentence, said Vorster could not be sent to jail because 44 black labourers were dependent on him.

It was therefore in the general of people like Mahalewa that Vorster is a free man today and is not behind bars.

Maybe Mahalewa would also agree with the judge about that. But do not bet on it.
Life is hard in tents

THE 30 evicted Weenen (near Estcourt) farmworker families who were removed on Monday from the roadside site they have occupied since their civil eviction at the beginning of June, say they do not want to be at their new settlement camp.

They say that it is a lie that it will be just a temporary measure.

The evicted workers were moved to the new site adjacent to the Weenen emergency camp on Monday afternoon.

A large number of policemen, Natal Provincial Administration workers and other unidentified officials arrived at the roadside site and allegedly told them that they had to leave.

The farmworkers said they had refused to pack their belongings and workers in orange NPA overalls had then begun collecting all their possessions for them.

After the NPA workers had packed everything into boxes, the displaced workers were then told to get into two buses which had been brought for the purpose of transporting them.

When they refused, some were allegedly pushed into the buses. Two ambulances were also allegedly at the scene.

The farmworkers are now being accommodated in about 50 tents provided by the NPA. There are 10 portable toilets on site, as well as a large water tank.

The families complained about the tents, which they say leaked water and were colder than the Red Cross tents they had received last week.
Black 'humour' from CP man

Mr. Streicher said yesterday it had been found that they could hardly understand Afrikaans or English.
Nationalists present had realised that it was a CP gimmick. The blacks had been embarrassed and the CP was made to look foolish.
Mr Viljoen said yesterday he viewed the incident as a joke.
The farm workers had not been forced to go to the meeting.
He had also won a R250 bet with a Nationalist that the National Party would allow people of colour to come to its meetings and that they would not be asked to leave the hall.

(Cape Argus, 23 July 1970, page 12)
The farmers who care

By MARK STANFIELD
Weekend Argus Reporter

The CALL for a government investigation into allegations of mistreatment of farm workers on specific farms in the Cape is growing.

In the past two weeks — since Weekend Argus reported several incidents of brutality and maltreatment of farm workers — the Infrerural Farmers Federation Cape farmers and an exploring farmers cooperative have pledged to assist their voices to the growing number of people, including politicians, who will apply pressure on the Department of Law and Order and Mr Adrian Vlok to investigate such complaints.

To show their good faith many farmers have voluntarily adopted their own "sullivan-type" code of conduct to ensure their workers are protected from exploitation and had working conditions. Even if this type of legislation carries no government sanction.

One such code of conduct, initiated by Unfrox, an international marketing group for the multi-million rand South African deciduous fruit industry — will soon be accepted by its estimated 5,680 members.

Allegations made by workers in the recent Weekend Argus report related to one specific farm in the Western Cape.

The Rural Farmers Federation represents 3,335 farmers who have voluntarily submitted themselves to the organization's code of improving the working conditions of farm workers.

Farmers in the Elgin and Ceres districts visited this week already contacted farmers who treated their workers badly and called on the government to "round the bad eggs which are giving the industry a bad name."

An example of the type of allegations that have created among farmers in the Western Cape can be judged by the comments Weekend Argus obtained from progressive farmers who were interviewed. Mr Alan Birtles, for example, commented that he was "very pleased with the working and living conditions of their workers."

Decent manner

Mr Alastair Moyse, owner of Elsker Farm, said his workers are "very happy with their conditions."

Mr Moyse said he employed seven men and five women and said he could not condemn any person who

 wasn't striving towards bettering the lot of farm workers.

"There is no excuse for rapist bandits in a decent manner. They are not thinking of the future of this country and if they continue to rec

 to keep their workers in a state of suffering, they should get out of farming and find themselves other forms of employment, such as public servants, and not try to keep the farmers in the backwaters."

Mr Leo Food, a former farmer in the Elgin district, called for "a better solution than the present proposal of setting up a system of short-term projects in the area."

Several farms in the Elgin district carry a proposal of a "developed area."

That organization updates the objectives of the Cape Fruit Growers Code, monthly.

Mr Moyse and Mr Fred Montague, a spokesman for Unfrox, said that they expect to have contracts in place for the kids of all the workers at the end of the season.

Mr Montague said he had already employed 250 workers on his farm and stated that he expected to have contracts in place for the kids of all the workers at the end of the season.

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Union to sue over pamphlet?

A TRADE UNION has threatened to sue an industrial relations consultancy unless it publicly apologises for a pamphlet claiming the ANC used unions to unite farm workers as "part of its revolutionary struggle".

The Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) said it had suffered defamation and organisational damage as result of the pamphlet, circulated in the June edition of the Deciduous Fruit Grower, official mouthpiece of the Industry.

The pamphlet was produced by the Johannesburg-based Liaison Bureau for Industrial Relations Services.
Row over IR report on farmers, and unions

UNION pressure in the agricultural industry grows, as does the interest of the industrial relations consultants.

In one instance, a promotional pamphlet sent out by a Johannesburg industrial relations consultancy about farmers and trade unions has elicited an angry response from the leading union in the field.

The Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu), a Cosatu affiliate, claiming that the brochure has severely diminished the climate of good industrial relations in rural labour relations, has asked for an apology from the consultancy and a retraction of claims it made, failing which it reserved its right to take legal action for defamation and organisational damage.

A spokesman for the Liaison Bureau for Labour Relations Services said the brochure would "certainly not" be withdrawn nor would any apology be furnished.

"Liaison furthermore reserves the right to publish such further brochures as we may deem fit," said Koos van Niekerk, director of marketing services.

Mr Van Niekerk said the staff of Liaison, a close corporation registered this year, had "considerable experience" in labour relations.

"He was unwilling to discuss the merits of the pamphlet headlined "The radical attack on the South African agricultural sector" which was distributed with the June issue of the Deciduous Fruit Grower."

Legal action

"In view of possible legal action it wouldn't be appropriate for me to comment," said Mr Van Niekerk. "But the brochure was compiled only after thorough research was done within the relevant sectors and every statement can be substantiated."

What's baffling, however, is how the company thinks it will be able to deal with worker organisations in good faith once they've touted for business among employers by attacking the bona fides of such organisations.

Meanwhile, in the Boland the National Union of Wine, Spirits and Allied Workers (Nwuw), an affiliate of the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), is moving into the industry in similar fashion to Fawu. It has been organising at wine co-operatives and has signed about 11 agreements in the past two months covering about 250 workers.

Nactu has another affiliate in the sector, the National Union of Farmworkers, and it must reasonably be expected that Nactu will also start backing into organising farmworkers, again through the connection between farm and factory.
Some farm children outshoorn farm despair

cat tortoise meat
PRETORIA — Uneconomic protection measures were detrimental to the development of a healthy agricultural economy which needed fewer but better farmers, Sanlam chairman Tjaart van der Walt said here yesterday.

He was speaking at the Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) annual congress where major issues such as the community's near R14-million debt burden, high inflation, taxation and high interest rates, productivity, and a free market system were discussed.

Van der Walt stressed farming was not only a way of life but a financial undertaking. There had been a spirit of pessimism in the industry in recent years, he said, but there were still 22,000 white farmers in the Transvaal.

"We must not keep farmers on the land artificially. We only prolong their suffering and misery, as we know they will be unable to keep their heads above water," Van der Walt posed the question whether there were not too many farmers, or insincere farmers.

"The country doesn't need more farmers — what we need is better farmers," he said.

TAU president Dries Bruwer said most branches of the country's agricultural industry had been hit by serious crises from which they would recover only with great difficulty.

The deteriorating position was due largely to persistent droughts aggravated by high inflation and high interest rates.

As a result, he said, farmers' debt had soared to nearly R14bn — an average of almost R292,000 per farmer. If it were true that 20% of farmers were responsible for 90% of production, it could be assumed that 46,000 farmers were responsible for the massive debt.

Farm debt, he said, had increased from R3,5bn in 1980 to R13bn in 1987 — an increase of 269.5%.

Referring to soaring input costs, Bruwer said government should be asked to lift tax on implements and essential production items, including irrigation equipment.

Other delegates supported a call for "brave action by a strong government" to break the spiral of high state spending which had resulted in higher inflation, taxation and higher interest rates.

General council member Wilco Beukes said if government fails to curb inflation, this will point to the possible collapse of the total production sector and — within the agricultural industry — of the grain sector.

Beukes said raising of interest rates to arrest spending was not the solution. This merely punished the producer more than the consumer. The popular solution was still a limitation on state spending.

Beukes forecast more costly agricultural requirement imports and this would have a further negative influence on agriculture. Big limitations, he said, had been placed on the economic growth rate by low productivity and a lack of overseas loan capital.

Council member Lourie Bosman said of cardinal importance for the survival of the industry was an agricultural finance system which suited the needs of the industry.

The greatest single stumbling block in agriculture, he said, was the dwindling profitability caused by uncertainty of yields, the continuing unfavourable disparity between producers' prices and farming inputs and high interest rates.

He said during the past decade the industry had become more dependent on external financing, because of shrinking profits and unsatisfactory reserves.

The ratio between total debt and capital assets had risen from 11.5% in 1965 to 25.7% last year, Bosman said.

TAU executive member Werner Weber said farmers supported a system in which supply and demand could work freely without interference from other market forces. However, a free market system was not supported totally without qualifications because of the threat of monopolies.
Women scarred after 'beatings'

By CHIARA CARTER

A WEST COAST vegetable farmer who allegedly assaulted female employees on several occasions over the past year may face a civil damages claim.

The claim is being instituted on behalf of Liesbeth Schippers and another woman, both of whom previously worked at the farm as domestic workers.

The farmer appeared in the Piekemagistrates court earlier this month on a charge of assaulting Schippers, 26.

The case was referred to the Malmesbury regional court.

Plastic pipe

Schippers has claimed that on the morning of April 25 she was drinking coffee at a friend's house when the farmer arrived.

She said that he walked over to where she was sitting with her friend's baby on her lap and asked her when she planned to go to work.

Schippers said he then hit both her and the child on the head with an orange plastic pipe.

She alleged that he hit her on her shoulder and breast until she was bleeding.

Her friend has corroborated this.

Schippers alleged that she was again assaulted later on the same day when she asked the farmer for her savings as she wanted to leave the farm.

She said that on this occasion he hit her repeatedly across her face with a black sjambok.

She subsequently laid a charge with the police at Elandskloof.

Schippers was examined by a plastic surgeon after the alleged assault. The surgeon found significant scarring. He said the scars could be improved by surgery but would still remain.

Another woman claimed she was beaten by the same farmer last year.

This alleged assault was witnessed by another employee on the farm.

The witness said the farmer hit Carstens several times with a black sjambok while she was asleep. The witness said that after the assault the woman's back, legs and buttocks bled severely.

According to a plastic surgeon's report, the woman has six scars on her body consistent with being beaten with a plastic tube.

The witness claimed the farmer also beat another worker with a wooden stick last year.

The worker had an open wound after the assault, the witness claimed.
"We want to stay in Koekenaap — despite assaults and low pay"

IT is difficult to imagine anyone figuring to live in Koekenaap. Situated in the dry stretches of the Northern Cape, Koekenaap consists of a handful of scattered farms with many isolated blocks of land. The local farm community is therefore fragmented in a way that is unique to the rest of the country.

While the farming community is concentrated in the north, the population was always relatively small with a number of small farms. There are no large farms and the area is home to a number of small farmers who have been living in the area since the 1930s. Koekenaap is home to many, with the majority of the residents being white farmers. The area has a number of farms that have been in the family for generations, with the majority being passed down from one generation to the next.

Many of the families have lived in the area for more than 50 years and have been involved in farming for generations. They work hard to provide for their families and are proud of their heritage. The area is known for its produce, with many families growing their own food and selling it at local markets. The area is also home to a number of small businesses, including a bakery, a hardware store, and a general store.

"The area is a beautiful place to live, with a lot of open spaces and plenty of fresh air," says a local farmer. "It's a great place to raise children and live a simple life."
Crippled man beaten to death

A PARALYSED FATHER of six died after a white farmer allegedly beat him for staying away from work.

Police could not comment or confirm whether charges had been laid against the Piet Retief farmer. The dead man's family said the farmer had been arrested.

Mr Ekathi Xaba (37) died on Thursday following the alleged assault the day before. Xaba was paralysed from the waist down after he was run over by a tractor on another farm a few years ago.

His 15-year-old daughter, Lizeth, said she watched as the farmer and his son beat, kicked and...
Farmer to face probe over death

POLICE are investigating a murder charge against a Piet Retief farmer who allegedly beat his paralysed labourer for staying away from work.

A district CID officer, Captain PJ Otto, yesterday confirmed to Sowetan that police were investigating against a man in connection with the death of Mr Ekathi Xaba.

Xaba (37), a father of six, died last Thursday after he was allegedly assaulted the day before. Xaba was paralysed from the waist down after he was run over by a tractor on another farm a few years ago.

Otto said as soon as investigations have been completed the docket would be referred to the Attorney-General for his decision.
Two farmers linked to deaths still free

TWO farmers, one on the 'Highveld and another in the Eastern Transvaal, who have been recently implicated in serious allegations of murder and torture of workers, are still free.

Attorney-General Mr. Don Brunette yesterday said he still had to decide on whether to prosecute the Highveld farmer who allegedly tortured and assaulted farm hand Mr. Daan de Klerk on his farm on June 1.

His office received the docket from the senior public prosecutor in Eastern Transvaal, who has been investigating a murder charge against a Pitsotsho farmer who last week allegedly assaulted a paralysed worker, Mr. Ekuthi Xaba (37), to death on his farm.

Xaba's 15-year-old daughter, Lizele, told Sowetan she watched while her father was assaulted for three hours after being dragged from his bed by the farmer and his son last Wednesday.

She said her father was sickly and had not been to work for two days.

Police spokesman Captain Piet van Straaten said a docket had been referred to the Attorney-General for a decision. He said the farmer was known to the police and had not been arrested.

Van Straaten said initial evidence was that there had been a fight between the farmer and Xaba over a job not well done.

Asked to comment on standard procedure when such cases were reported to the police, Captain Reg Crewe, of the Police Directorate for Public Relations in Pretoria, said in "serious" cases the suspect was detained for 48 hours during which he would appear in court to determine a prima facie case.

Crewe said he would not comment on the Highveld case because he was not familiar with it and that it was already in the Attorney-General's hands.

"In some cases, even when the suspect is known to the police, an arrest may not be promptly effected but a summons could be issued for a court appearance after investigations were complete."

Brunette said his office followed standing orders regarding allegations of assault or murder between blacks and whites.

"We have to determine whether the allegations are not false as we regard such claims to be serious."

He said he would make a decision within the next four weeks on the Highveld case and that delays were caused by the nature of the query and by the unavailability of witnesses and evidence.

De Klerk, who said his wife and seven-year-old son witnessed the eight-hour torture, which included electric shocks and being hanged from the rooftop, had told Sowetan he was locked up in a cell for seven days by a police station commander when he tried to lay charges against the farmer.

He claimed the policeman told him he had to turn to lawyers and newspapers without going to him first.

The police denied this claim and warned Sowetan of possible prosecution in terms of the Police Act. This provides that it is an offence to publish allegations against members of the force without belief that the claims could be reasonably true.
By DAVID YUTAR
Staff Reporter

UNTIL there is a minimum wage for farm and domestic workers in South Africa the problem of malnutrition will not be solved, according to Operation Hunger executive director Mrs Ina Perlman.

Countrywide, Operation Hunger is feeding up to 1.3-million malnourished children daily, but the problem is growing at an alarming rate.

Thousands of young children are suffering from severe malnutrition and many have died and will continue to die unless help is offered.

"Until there is a minimum wage for farm and domestic workers, we are not going to solve the problem of malnutrition in South Africa... nor will we be able to get at the root cause of poverty", says Mrs Perlman.

"We're extremely concerned about the situation happening to children, because a child that is malnourished can be severely handicapped, both physically and mentally."

"We're seeing, in increasing numbers, children who are chronically underfed. There are areas where stunting among children is as high as 50 to 55 percent."

In certain parts of the Northern Cape an alarmingly high percentage of the schoolchildren show signs of mental retardation.

In 1982, 55 percent of all deaths in the black community were children below the age of five years. By 1986 the figure had dropped to 26 percent, "nothing to be proud of but at least an improvement" comments Mrs Perlman.

Operation Hunger in the Cape covers a predominantly rural area which includes the western and southern Cape as well as the Karoo, George, Oudtshoorn and Namaqualand.

In the urban regions of the Cape, the organisation provides an average of 739,000 meals a month while the figure for the rural areas is a staggering 3,030,000 meals a month.

When Operation Hunger started in August 1980 it had a budget of R220,000 for its first year of operation. The budget for the present financial year is R19.5-million.

Children of farm workers are one of the main concerns and one of the worst areas is the Karoo. Until now the organisation has concentrated on child feeding but it is investing much of its energies in self-help projects.

In the Karoo alone an average of 13,000 children a day are fed. In Namaqualand over 10,000 children are fed daily.

The problem has been aggravated by sanctions and unemployment.

"The policy of sanctions has the most impact on the most defenceless. Every job lost means an additional nine dependants," says Mrs Perlman.

On the Kalahari fringe of Namaqualand, where there were once 44 mines, there are now only 24, all of which operate on a vastly reduced scale.

According to Operation Hunger, the average farm worker in the Oudtshoorn area earns R25 a week. A well paid worker might earn up to R350 a week, earn as little as R12 a week.

"Cotton pickers are typically paid a wage of R35 a month. In most areas bread is a luxury."

Operation Hunger recently launched its seventh R1-million Goldrush Competition. Since its inception the competition has enabled the organisation to raise more than R3-million for the hungry and malnourished.

"If we were to stop our programme now we would be facing a national tragedy," says Mrs Perlman.
TWO TO HANG FOR LIVER'S KILLING
Labourer killed in fight against blaze

MARITZBURG — A 38-year-old farm labourer was killed by the runaway fires that damaged millions of rands worth of forestry and grazing in the Natal Midlands on Tuesday.

A senior SAP spokesman yesterday confirmed the death of the man, who had been trapped by flames.

The man's name would not be disclosed until his next of kin had been informed.

The labourer died while fighting a blaze that destroyed the private W Surendorff Estate in the Ahrens/Hermannsburg district.

Meanwhile, Sappi said yesterday it had not suffered serious losses as was initially believed.

The fire was under control yesterday, although remnants continued to smoulder.

Abdi Surendorff said damage to the Surendorff Estate was estimated at between R1,5m and R2m. Grazing and timber on the neighbouring farm of Richard McDuling had also been destroyed.

The fire was also reported to have spread to areas of KwaZulu.

In the Seven Oaks district, 150ha of Sappi forestry was destroyed. Timber and many hectares of valuable grazing on neighbouring Brailsford Estate was totally burned, but no estimate of the damage was available.

The fire also destroyed hectares of timber on a private farm owned by Dim Royden-Turner.

NEIL YORKE SMITH reports Sappi MD Eugene van As said the company would suffer no serious losses as a result of the fires.

"In spite of the devastation caused ... fires on Sappi plantations were contained to only 150ha," said Van As. Sappi's production would not be affected.

Van As said although initial estimates were that 5 000ha would be ravaged, it had been established most of the land was not planted to forests.
The suffering behind the postcard scenes

FRUIT OF THE VINE, THE HUMAN COST OF SOUTH AFRICAN WINE
PUBLISHED BY THE CATHOLIC INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

BEHIND the picture-postcard images of the Boland’s scenic vineyards lies a grim perspective of human suffering.

Fruit of the Vine records through pictures and text the conditions of oppression and exploitation under which most Boland labourers live and work.

Orde Ellisston’s photographs are haunting images of the near slave labour conditions which persist on Cape Town’s doorsteps.

Adding poignancy to Ellisston’s photographic essay is the way photographs of labourers are juxtaposed with pictures portraying the lifestyle of the farmers.

The text, which serves as an introduction to the photographs, is a pithy outline of the plight of the Boland. It relies heavily on research conducted by University of Cape Town academic Wifred Schuur.

Included in the introduction is an analysis of methods used by some farmers to control their workforces.

The chief forms of coercion are the infamous hookey system, dismissals and physical punishment, including severe beatings.

Without the protection of labour law and with no other job options, labourers have little defence against their employers.

Anyone who tries to organise the workers faces instant dismissal and unions have made little inroads into the farms.

Police are reluctant to take action against farmers, and labourers who protest face dismissal and a fear of squatting and unemployment.

Workers’ resistance largely takes the form of sabotage — scabs are left in a basket to ruin expensive machinery, shite gates are left open wasting valuable irrigation water, a stone shatters the farmer’s windscreen at night.

While the data relates specifically to Boland farms, the conditions described can be found on farms throughout South Africa.

Fruit of the Vine is therefore an accessible and valuable introduction to the near feudal conditions under which South African farm labourers exist.

CHIARA CARTER

CHILD LABOUR. A child sprays tomato crops with insecticide on a mixed-crop farm near Robertson after the grape harvest.

TOT SYSTEM: Farmer J E Kennedy pours the weekend toil for his labourers at Wittenberg.

EVICTED: A farmworker and his wife with nowhere to go. They were evicted along with another family after a quarrel between the two families.
Rescue struggle at river's banks

By BRONWYN DAVIDS

POLICE divers yesterday recovered the body of farmer Mr Smit Nieuwoudt Rossouw, whose lorry carrying 64 farm labourers and children plunged into the Olifants River on Wednesday night.

The body was found at 6.16pm after rescue workers battled throughout the day to secure cables for the retrieval of the truck, which crashed through a three-metre concrete barrier.

The accident happened about 10km outside the Namaqualand town of Klawer.

After the body was brought to the banks of the river, the cables snapped, sending the vehicle plummeting into the water again.

Police and Metro personnel will resume their grim search for bodies today.

Yesterday, grieving survivors told of the tragedy which claimed the lives of 52 women, men and children.

They told harrowing tales of how family members and friends were swept away when the lorry in which they were travelling plunged about 14 metres off the Kransburg bridge into the swollen river.

Mrs Hendrina Klaaste, 29, cried bitterly when she told the Cape Times that her children, Granville, 8, and Tessa, 5, were still "in the water".

"We were coming from work when the lorry started skidding from side to side on the bridge. The boss tried to control the lorry but he could not."

Mrs Klaaste was one of 12 survivors rescued from the bank of the Olifants River about 9pm on Wednesday night. They were taken to Vredendal Hospital where Mrs Katrine Mabys, 39, underwent surgery. The others were discharged yesterday.

Police liaison officer Captain Hendrik Opperman said Mr Rossouw, 26, of Rossouw Breedery, a large family farming company, was taking 64 workers and children back to their homes at the farms de Hoek and Trawal.

The bodies of a two-year-old baby, a 45-year-old woman, a five-year-old toddler and a 38-year-old woman were found at 9.36am yesterday, caught in the bushes on the river bank.

ABOVE: The bodies of those who drowned in the Klawer tragedy on Wednesday are brought to the river bank during rescue operations early yesterday along the Olifants River.

LEFT: Two strands of wire mark the gap in the bridge where the lorry carrying the passengers crashed through the safety barrier.
The tragic hunt for bodies goes on

Mr Koos Arendse with the radio he used to alert emergency services. Behind him is the Kransberg bridge. The dark section near the centre of the arch is a temporary railing to replace the section ripped out by the lorry on Wednesday.

Survivor Miss Hendrina Klaasen held onto a tree-top in the river while her children, Granville, eight, and five-year-old Tessa were swept away by the flood.
Klawer tragedy

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Arendse said he ran back home and used a two-way radio that he normally used for work to contact his supervisor, who radioed to the police for help.

When I went outside again, I could hear the screams again. Some of them shouted: "Help, help, help!" Some were holding on to trees and shouted that they couldn’t hold on any longer.

"One woman shouted: "Will they come to help us?" after I told them I had called for help. Some of them knew me personally and called on my name for help. I left them there in the water."

One of the first persons who stopped was Mrs. Nadine Rossouw, sister-in-law of the lorry driver. She also was seen the lorry plunge about 150m into the water.

Mr. Arendse recalled how Mrs. Sarah Jonkers, seated on the bridge railing and called out to victims, including her brother-in-law Smith, to hold on to tree trunks rising above the 11m deep water.

"The voices became fewer and quieter as many were swept down river," Mr. Arendse said. "Some of them were just too tired because the river was strong."

Mr. Arendse said the first policeman arrived 15 minutes after his radio message, and an emergency service unit from Moorreesburg and Cape Town arrived at the light house and during the course of the night.

Flooded

The river tragedy came at the end of the farm labourer's 11-hour day in vegetable patches and vineyards on Elshyk's farm on the eastern side of the river.

They were on their way to De Hoek and Trawal farms and were crossing the Kraaiberg bridge because a drift further upstream and closer to their homes had been flooded.

Survivor Mrs. Katriena Matikas, 44, said the workers were released and were converging animatedly in groups when the truck hit the bridge railing. With her was her 19-year-old daughter, Ann, who was also feared drowned.

"I heard something cracking in the cab and the next moment I was in the water. I swam to a..."
Fund to help
Weekend Argus Reporter
RELATIVES of the Olifants River lorry disaster will benefit from a fund established by The Argus, which already stands at R1 260.
People wishing to contribute should send donations to the Klauer Disaster Fund, PO Box 15359, Vlakburg, 8018.
The money will be sent to the NG Sendelingsdorp, which has a fund to help communities in dire need.

'Why did the Lord do this to us?'

Mother's grief after 52 drown

KLAWER. — "I don't know why the Lord did this to us," a tearful Mrs Sophie Rossouw said, battling to accept the death of her son 'Smitjie' who drove the lorry that plunged into Olifants River with 64 people on Wednesday.

Slumped in a chair on her stoop overlooking the family plot at Trawal, Mrs Rossouw's mournful figure summed up the grief in the region.

Namaqualand is in mourning. For the first time in many years, the area's floral beauty is lying in the face of human tragedy.

In fact, many of the early spring daisies will be used next weekend on the graves and coffins of the 62 men, women and children who drowned at dusk. Only 12 survived.

Mr Smit Nieuwoudt Rossouw's death has broken his mother and placed a question mark over the prominent farmer's continued farming operations.

"I don't know why the Lord did this to us."

"Look at me. I'm finished. Eighteen months ago I lost my husband, and now it's 'Smitjie'."

"I feel so empty. All of us are shocked. The workers and we as farmers were very close to each other. This is a terrible loss."

The horror of labourers screaming for help will always haunt the Rossouw family - Mrs Rossouw's daughter-in-law was no one else to take care of them during the day.

Two of Mrs Rossouw's surviving four sons are studying in Cape Town and she doubts if they will cope with the family business.

"I think we'll have to sell up now," Mrs Rossouw said.

Harrowing tale

By yesterday, eight bodies had been recovered and shock struck rivers were polled - their harrowing tale was told by everyone in news teams and members of the close-knit farm labourer communities around the towns of Trawal, Klauer, Vredendal and Calvinia. And as they told their stories, the heroes and heroines of Wednesday's disaster emerged.

Waterworks labourer Mr Roon Arendse was on his way to church from his home on the bank of the Olifants River when he saw the Isuzu lorry zigzagging along the narrow bridge as it was heading for Trawal.

The bridge, on the N7, is seven kilometres from Klauer which is 280km from Cape Town.
Why did the L do this to us

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By TYRONE SEAL

Weekend Argus

Reportor

Mr Smit Nieuwoudt Rossouw's death has broken his mother and placed a question mark over the prominent Namaqualand family's continued farming operations.

"I don't know why the Lord did this to us."

"Look at me, I'm finished. Eighteen months ago I lost my husband, and now it's 'Smithie'."

"I feel so empty. All of us are shocked. The workers and we as farmers were very close to each other. This is a terrible loss."

The horror of labourers screaming for help will always haunt the Rossouw family - Mrs Rossouw's daughter-in-law, Naomi, was on her way to the Uitkyk farm from which the lorry was returning when she saw it plunge into the Olifants.

Mrs Naomi Rossouw could not give interviews yesterday.

"N Naomi shouted at one of the workers, Maria Stevens, that she should try to float, but we lost her," Mrs Rossouw senior said.

She said the family was considering selling some of the farms that make up Rosouw Boerdery which employed most of the disaster victims.

"Many of the women who died took their children to work with them every day as there was no one else to take care of them during the day."

Two of Mrs Rossouw's surviving sons are studying in Cape Town, and the doubt if they will cope with the family business.

"I think we'll have to sell up now," Mrs Rossouw said.

Harroing tale

By yesterday, eight bodies had been recovered and shocked residents were told their harrowing tale over and over again by police officers and members of the close-knit farm labourer communities around the towns of Trawal, Klauer, Vredendal and Calvinia.

As they told their stories, the heroes and heroines of Wednesday's disaster emerged.

Waterworks labourer Mr Kooi Arendse was on his way to church from his home on the bank of the Olifants River when he saw the lounge lorry zigzag along the narrow bridge as it was heading for Trawal.

The bridge, the N7, is seven kilometres from Klauer which is 280km from Cape Town.

"I don't know what went wrong but as it was coming towards me the lorry first hit the left rail of the bridge, and that impact seemed to send it crashing through the railing on the other side of the road," Mr Arendse said.

"Most of the people stayed on the back of the truck until it hit the water."

"They screamed terribly. Then there was silence for a few moments as they went under. When people came up again they were all shouting for help. I could make out the voices of men, women and children."

(Turn to page 4, col 4)
Caltex gives R10 000 to Klawer Fund

By SHARKEY ISAACS
Staff Reporter

CALTEX South Africa has given R10 000 to The Argus Klawer Disaster Fund.

The cheque, the biggest so far, has sent the fund soaring to R13 512.50.

Mr Moegsen Harris, Caltex co-ordinator of social responsibility programmes, Western Cape, said: “Caltex is committed to a programme of helping educational, welfare training and advancement of disadvantaged communities.

“Our gift will help to bring some relief to those rural farm-worker families who have been hard hit by the tragic accident.

“There is no doubt when a tragedy like the lorry disaster hits a poor farming community like the one at Klawer then its affects us all.

“All of us feel deeply moved by the tragic loss of life and the bereavement suffered by the families.”

He described the gift as “a small token to assist the families of all those affected, including the survivors”.

Accepting the cheque on behalf of the fund, the editor of the Argus, Mr Andrew Drysdale, said he hoped it would encourage other companies to contribute to the fund.

“At least 40 people died last Wednesday when a lorry laden with rural contract workers, their relatives and a farmer crashed through safety railings on a bridge spanning the fast flowing Olifants River and plunged into the water near Klawer.

Only 12 half of the passengers, mostly women and children, were saved.

The fund was launched by The Argus with a gift of R1 000. An additional R200 was given by the community newspapers The Plainsman, Athlone News, Southern Mail and Northern Echo. Mail-room staff of The Argus also raised R245.50.

Yesterday gifts from 46 readers boosted the fund by R2 667.

People who want to contribute to the fund should send donations to: Klawer Disaster Fund, P O Box 15399, Vlakker 8818.
Long row of timber crosses marks the resting place

By TYRONE SEAL
Staff Reporter

A LONG row of simple timber crosses in the Calvinia cemetery marks the resting place of 23 of the town's residents who drowned in the Olifants River 12 days ago.

And in the Namaqualand town of Klaver, a mass grave holds another 12 of the 55 people who drowned when a lorry, driven by Mr. Smit Rossouw, 26, smashed through a railing on a bridge over the river and plunged into the strong current. Only 12 survived.

Mr. Rossouw, a member of the prominent family which runs the farms where the victims worked, was buried separately in Klaver on Saturday.

The labourers, most of whom worked at Trawal more than an hour's drive from Calvinia, were starved of life's luxuries. They worked up to 11 hours a day and earned very little. Mothers took their babies along to the vegetable fields and vineyards where they toiled, because there was no one to take care of them at home.

Knew suffering

They knew what it was to suffer and to share their meagre resources.

But this weekend, the compassion and charity of thousands of concerned South Africans provided a dignified final farewell for the Olifants River victims.

Numerous speakers at the Calvinia service on Saturday thanked contributors to the Klaver Disaster Fund for their concern.

The service was attended by more than 2,000 people who crowded into and leaned through the windows of the 1,500-seater Ned Geret Sandingkolk in the dusty Haastam town.

Among the mourners were the mayor of Calvinia, Mr. Christie Rheedere, and his wife Vida.

"Our deepest sympathy goes to all who lost family and friends," Mr. Rheedere said. "When we lay a wreath this afternoon, we want you to know it is a symbol of the sympathy of the entire community."

Father Chris Hendricks of the Klaver Anglican church said: "Not only Calvinia and Klaver lost people in the Kranskop bridge disaster, but communities at Piekberg, Leipoldtville, Postberg and Carnavon were also affected. "Memorial services must still be held there."

The Rev. Attie Louw urged mourners to "hold on to your faith."

"More than 22 people have died in the floodwaters of the Olifants River. How do you hold on to the truth that is in Christ when your heart is broken over people who have been swept away by water and people whose bodies you can't even view?"
Thousands at mass funerals

Staff Reporter

THOUSANDS of mourners attended the two mass funerals — one of them at Klawer and the other at Cape Town — which were held this weekend for 39 victims of the Olifants River lorry disaster.

Yesterday, 16 of the 39 were buried at the Karookop cemetery. The cemetery is near the Kransburg bridge, where the lorry driven by farmer Mr Smit Rossouw, with 24 labourers and children as passengers, plunged into the flooded Olifants River on Wednesday, September 6.

The Rev Chris Hendricks, the Anglican priest at Klawer, said hundreds of mourners attended the inter-denominational service conducted by the Rev David Wilmms. The service was held at the Klawer NG Sendingkirk.

Speakers at the service included Mrs Chris April, MP in the House of Representatives; Mr LF Lattegan, chairman of the Namaquaand Headmasters' Association, and the Rev D E Abrahams, regional chairman of the NG Sendingkirk.

Among those buried yesterday were eight pupils from the Karookop farm school. They were brothers Jan Karoels, 13, and Jacob Karoels, 10; Johanna Nansie, 12; Karelina Cloete, 15; Kathleen Cloete, 11; Lydia Abrahams, 8; Petrus Lewis, 14 and seven-year-old Jacqueline Lewis.

The mass burial at Cape Town, at which 23 of the victims, eight of them children, were buried, was held on Saturday. The funeral coincided with that of the driver, Mr Rossouw, which took place in Klawer.

More than 1,000 people attended the funeral service for the 23, which was held at the Calvinia NG Sendingkirk.

Police liaison officer Captain Gys Boonzaaijer said yesterday that although most of the bodies of the 53 people drowned in the disaster had been recovered, 11 were still missing.

He said the missing bodies were probably trapped under mud and thick tree branches.

A decision would be made today on how long the grim search for bodies will continue.
we were abused, say contract men

'SLAVES'

'We slept in stable next to horses'

FLEE

THIRTY Mozambicans contracted to a Natal cotton farmer have claimed he sold them like "slaves."

They said he assaulted them, made them sleep next to horses in a stable and generally abused them.

Approached with the allegations yesterday, the farmer told Sunday: "What do you want from me? I have nothing to tell you and you can write anything about the matter. Then we will see what happens."

The men started working on the farm on June 28. The farmer forced them from the KwaNdebele border and they were contracted to him until next June.

According to their contracts, the workers were promised R25 a month which they allege was not paid. The farmer gave them only R5 a month, they claimed.

Bricks

The men said last week the farmer took them to Pouderspruit, sold them to a farmer who made them to do bricklaying work which was not in their contracts.

Speaking on behalf of his colleagues, Mr Antonia Simba (29) said: "We were made to sleep next to horses in a stable. The conditions were terrible and our meal was a mixture of cabbage and fat and porridge. We were frequently assaulted.

"On Tuesday two of us were beaten up and the other two who fell sick were left in the stable and not given medical attention," said Simba.

Simba and three other workers, Mr Orlando

By THEMBA MOLEFE

'Slaves flee farm

- From Page

Mbaza (30), Mr Joao Alphandica (30) and Mr Chakaba Selemale (25) said they were threatened with deportation after they "fled" the Potchefstroom farm to seek help.

"We were arrested and taken back. Van Eeden said we had breached our contracts," said Simba.

The four then again fled the farm and have reported the matter to the Mozambican Labour Department in Johannesburg. They are now looking for work elsewhere. Simba said they did not wish to return to Mozambique as there were no jobs there.

Van Eeden returned with the other 26 workers to Natal on Friday.

Simba alleged Van Eeden drove workers with a sjambok and patrolled the farm on horseback.

"He treats us like slaves and gives very little to eat," he said.

Some of the conditions stipulated in their contracts provide that the workers, besides getting their wages, are entitled to food, medical assistance and lodging supplied free for the duration of their contracts.

Their South African employer should pay their wages in cash and no illegal deductions should be made from their pay, according to the contract.
kwaZulu deports Mozambicans

Refugees exploited as cheap labour

By Helen Grange

Scores of Mozambican refugees being deported from kwaZulu are being picked up at the Komatiport border by South African farmers who exploit them as cheap labour.

This is according to Operation Hunger's Mrs Ina Perlman, who said yesterday that kwaZulu's refusal to grant sanctuary to Mozambican refugees is leading to the most "ghastly" exploitation by farmers.

As refugees were identified by kwaZulu officials and taken to the border to be deported, they were being approached by farmers looking for labour.

Last week, 30 Mozambicans contracted to a Natal cotton farmer claimed he sold them like "slaves" after assaulting and abusing them.

The men said they started working on the farm at the end of June, after the farmer fetched them from the Komatiport border and "contracted" them until next June.

They were promised R75 a month, but received only R55 a month, they claimed.

The men said that last week, the farmer took them to Potchefstroom and "sold" them to a farmer to do bricklaying, a job not included in their contracts.

Said refugee Mr Antonio Simba: "We were made to sleep next to horses in a stable. Our meals were a mixture of cabbage, fat and porridge. We were frequently assaulted."

"Two of us were beaten up and the other two who fell sick were left in the stable and not given medical attention."

Mr Simba said he and the three other workers had fled the farm, but that the other 26 were taken back to Natal.

Mrs Perlman said that legally, Mozambican refugees could not be employed in South Africa. This was confirmed by a spokesman for the Department of Home Affairs, who said Mozambican citizens had to be contracted in Mozambique before they could enter South Africa.

Deported

However, many South African farmers were known to be employing Mozambican refugees illegally and there had been several reports of exploitation, according to Mrs Perlman.

"There was recently a case of a farmer near Mala employing Mozambican refugees, but just before they were to be paid, he contacted the authorities to have them deported.

"In kaNgwane (where sanctuary to refugees is granted), there many refugees are working for farmers, but the government has clamped down and there is now less of it," she said.

A fieldworker from the Environment and Development Agency, Mr Dan Mogale, said that in the eastern Transvaal, farmers picked up refugees from camps for cheap labour on citrus and tomato farms.
Mobils R5 000 boosts Klawer disaster fund

"Every independent family affected by the disaster would rather empower itself to absorb the shock and become economically sustainable," said the manager of the fund at a recent meeting. The fund was established to assist those communities affected by the recent disaster.
Klaver disaster spotlights the plight of farm workers

Dr. Jameson, director of the department of Emergency Services, says that the number of deaths and injuries in the Klaver disaster was due to the negligence of the company in providing safety measures and adequate training to the workers. The department is currently investigating the incident and will take appropriate action against the company.

By Shanae Isacks, 76/84

The investigation has revealed that the workers were not provided with proper protective equipment and were forced to work in hazardous conditions. The company has been cited for several violations of safety regulations and is facing fines.

The workers have also been left with significant emotional and physical trauma and are seeking compensation for their injuries. The union representing the workers is calling for stronger regulations to protect workers' rights and safety.

The government has promised to take action to ensure that such incidents do not happen again and is reviewing its policies on workplace safety. The workers' rights organizations have welcomed the steps taken but are demanding more concrete measures to prevent future disasters.
Farmer 'treated us like slaves'

A MOZAMBIAN refugee has added his voice to claims of slave labour in South Africa. 5/7

Antoni Simba was one of four people repatriated this week. Another 26 simply vanished, said the Mozambican Consulate in Johannesburg.

They were first found in Shukussa by "an agent" who took them to a cotton farmer in northern Natal.

Mr Simba said: "The farmer said he wanted us to have a happy life and promised us basic food and proper accommodation if we worked hard.

"After two days, the farmer began to change. He assaulted us and said there was no way we could go back to our country.

"He had said he would pay us R75 a month, but we received only R55. For two months he paid us no wages.

"When we asked for money he beat us and used abusive language. We had to sleep in a stable with the horses."

Operation Hunger spokesmen Ian Perlman said KwaZulu's refusal to grant refugees' asylum was leading to "ghostly" exploitation by farmers.

Legally, refugees from Mozambique may not work in South Africa, Mrs Perlman said.

This was confirmed by an SA Home Affairs spokesman.

Flood

SA Government official Daniel Mogale said that in the Eastern Transvaal, farmers picked up refugees for cheap labour.

The Swaziland Government reported cases where refugees were being paid R1,24 a month.

In Soweto, there have been reports linking the easy availability of AK-47 assault rifles to the flood of Mozambicans into Soweto.
Probe into union rights for farmworkers

By Drew Forrest

A committee comprising Parliamentarians and organised agriculture has been set up to weigh the "sensitive" issue of trade union rights for farmworkers, the new Minister of Manpower, Mr Eli Louw, has announced.

Addressing a press conference in Pretoria last week, Mr Louw said the committee would enable interested parties to "negotiate and come forward with suggestions" over the issue.

PARAMOUNT

While he was willing to hear representations from any quarter, the views of those in the farming industry were paramount, Mr Louw said.

The exclusion of farmworkers from the Labour Relations Act is a major union complaint.

Mr Louw said he had appointed a private advocate to investigate the Industrial Court, but rejected suggestions that the court was in crisis.
Bank boosts fund by R10 000

Staff Reporters

A DONATION of R10 000 has been made by First National Bank to The Argus Klawer Disaster Fund, swelling it to more than R43 000.

Regional general manager Mr Bob Wood, in handing over the cheque, extended the bank staff's sympathy to the families bereaved by the tragedy.

Readers have sent in a stream of donations ranging from R5 to large amounts.

The Mohil Foundation of South Africa has contributed R5 000 and Caltex R10 000.

The Argus launched the fund with R1 000 for the families of the accident victims.

An additional R200 has been given by community newspapers Plainsman, Athlone News, Southern Mail and Northern Echo.

People who would like to contribute should send their donations to: Klawer Disaster Fund, Box 15399, Vlaeburg 8018.

The money will be sent to the Ned Gerief Shedigkark which administers a fund that helps communities in times of dire need.

The church's regional welfare branches make recommendations about the distribution of the money. The welfare number of the fund is 01 68 800157 000 4.
Pupils raise R1 000 for Klawer Fund

By SHARKEY ISAACS
Staff Reporter

A GIFT of R1 000 raised by pupils at Stephen Road Primary School, Lotus River, has helped the Klawer Disaster Fund of The Argus to soar beyond the R30 000 mark today.

The money, collected within a week by pupils, swelled the fund to R30 190.50. They raised the money mainly from school collection lists and the proceeds of a debantante dance.

Headmaster Mr Kenneth Williams said their combined fund-raising efforts were “particularly” significant because about two thirds of the school’s pupils came from under-privileged families.

“They know what difficulties and hardships face under-privileged families and were so moved by the Klawer lorry disaster that they approached me to issue them with collection lists. They also asked teachers to help them organise a debantante dance to raise money to help the families of victims of the accident.”

Among the other gifts sent this week were donations of R5 000 from the Mobil Foundation of South Africa, R750 from the Methodist Church of South Africa, Ottery, R616 from Paul Devereux and Staff, R200 from the Dove Club of Athlone, and R200 from Smithers of Saldanha. Dozens of other readers sent smaller gifts from R5 to R100.

The Argus launched the fund to help the families of accident victims with a R1 000 cheque. An additional R200 has also been given by the community newspapers Plainsman, Athlone News, Southern Mail and Northern Echo.

People who would like to contribute to the fund should send their donations to the Klawer Disaster Fund, Box 1599, Vlaeborg (6018).

The money will be sent to the Ned Geref Sêdingkerk which some time ago established a fund to help communities in times of dire need.

The Sêdingkerk’s regional welfare branches advise on the distribution of the money. The welfare number of the fund is 08 800167 004.
Klawer's shame

JOHANNES van Wyk, 14, works 11 hours a day for only R5 in the Namaqualand town of Klauer.

Child labour, child abuse, alcoholism and cheap labour is rife in Namaqualand towns, a SOUTH investigation has found.

The tragic accident in which 52 people were killed when a farm truck plunged over a bridge into the Olifants River three weeks ago has focused attention on the small town of Klauer.

Farmers in the area recruit child labour from impoverished towns and bring the children to plant and harvest their crops.

Johannes, pictured above, was recruited in Calvinia and his parents do not know his whereabouts.

Judy Lombard, 10, who was killed in the accident, was a labourer in the onion fields.

See page 8.
STANDBY: Some of the evicted workers outside their makeshift shelters.
New book slams wine farmers’ ‘dop’ system

A BOOK by a South African author slamming the conditions under which many Cape wine farm labourers live and work was published in Britain this week.

Fruit of the Vine: The Human Cost of South African Wine is a glossy paperback filled with pictures taken by photographer Orde Eliason during a visit home two years ago.

Eliason, 32, was born and raised in Paarl. He says he’s unhappy with the finished product — because it doesn’t go far enough.

“I’m well aware that I face an unpleasant reception when I go back. But I would have preferred more attention to be given to conservative farmers — the ones who’ve made no effort. The further I got from Cape Town, the worse I found it.”

On sale at about R38, the book criticises the “dop” (lot) system — the practice of giving workers daily liquor rations as a “fringe benefit.”

Much of the research was undertaken by University of Cape Town lecturer Wilfried Schaff for a Master’s thesis on the impact of alcohol on the Western Cape working class.

The book says the dop is “part of a process that keeps poor, disorganised and immobile.”

“The dop keeps workers in a state of befuddled obedience.”

The book was published by the Catholic Institute of International Relations, a 50-year-old charity that raises money for educational and development aid in Africa.

It is funded partly by public donations, the European Community and the UK Foreign Office’s overseas development aid programme.

Spokesman Stephen Gray said the book was already popular with anti-apartheid bodies who were buying up copies to support their boycott campaign.

“If any criticism can be levelled, it is that the book is slightly out of date — the figures refer to 1987,” Gray said.

“But this has been a long, carefully planned and researched project.”

“It is not entirely critical — progressive farmers who have made strides in trying to improve conditions on their farms have been singled out.”

One such wine maker is former Springbok Boland Coetze who has introduced a model housing scheme on his farm.

Shabby

Mr Coetze believes the book is unfair. He says that “good conditions are crucial in labour performance.”

Next pictures of beautiful Cape scenery and harvest scenes are the shabby interiors of shacks in Simondium, Gondini and Zwelethemba.

Children without protective masks are shown spraying insecticides on tomato plants.

An elderly couple, sitting in their bedroom with a candle on a jam tin for light, are photographed in the “fradil” conditions of the farm Klipdril, near Gondini.

The book states legal measures in 1945 reduced the dop from three bottles to just over a bottle daily.

But researchers who visited 18 farms found that 13 exceeded the legal limit — and none had abolished the system.
Argus's Klawer Disaster Fund tops R70 000

By SHARKEY ISAACS 6/10/97

Staff Reporter

A GIFT of R5 000 from the Foschini Group has boosted the Klawer Disaster Fund of The Argus beyond the R70 000 mark.

The cheque from the clothing and jewellery retail chain has swelled the fund from R65 134.70 to R70 134.70 in 24 hours.

Reserves were further boosted yesterday to R71 635.00 by a gift of R500 from the Look Alive Boutique (Pty) Ltd and a contribution of R1 185 from the Springbok Tourism Forum.

The Argus launched the fund to help the families of 53 farm workers who died when the lorry in which they were travelling crashed through safety railings and plunged into the Olifants River near the small Namaqualand town of Klawer on September 6.

In addition to a few large contributions from corporations, the fund has been boosted by a steady stream of smaller gifts from small businesses, school pupils, parents, churches, institutions and individuals.

All contributions, however small, bring a measure of relief to the suffering and hardship of the bereaved families.

People who would like to contribute to the fund should send their donations to the Klawer Disaster Fund, Box 15399, Vlaeburg (8918).

The money will be sent to the Ned Geref Sendingkerk which some time ago established a fund to help communities in times of dire need.

The money is distributed on the advice of the Sendingkerk's regional welfare branches. The welfare number of the fund is F1 06 5800167 000 4.

See page 5.
Plunges into Flooded River
40 feared drowned as lorry
skids off road

DEATH PLUNGE: Concerned parents and rescue workers went out of control.

Right: Rescue workers near the river where the lorry plunged into the water.

Below: The driver of the lorry was taken to the hospital.

From Don Holiday

See page 2
Forestry industry plans vast expansion

South Africa's forestry industry has the potential to double its present plantation area, construct up to 21 new processing plants and create 150,000 new jobs over the next 20 years, according to the second strategic forestry development plan released in Pretoria.

The plan was compiled by the senior forest scientist at the Department of Environment Affairs, Dr Dick van der Zel, in collaboration with the Forestry Council's Planning Committee.

Dr van der Zel estimates that demand for roundwood timber will increase by an average 2.5 percent a year until the year 2010 to about 29.3 million cubic metres.

PRIORITY

The report urges forestry strategists to plan for an expansion of 35,000 ha a year.

Thirteen priority development areas are identified: four of them in Natal, three in the Eastern Transvaal, two in the Eastern Cape and one each in Swaziland, Transkei, Venda and the Western Cape.

It is estimated that an additional 1.132.500 ha of forests could be established in these catchment areas without exceeding existing runoff limits or prejudicing other agricultural operations.

EMPLOYMENT

This afforestation will create 56,625 permanent employment opportunities, plus roughly the same number of jobs in wood processing industries, with multiplied effects in other sectors.

The net effect would be to produce an additional 150,000 new jobs. — Sapa.
Farmers must be ‘ready for the new South Africa’

Staff Reporter

A CONSTITUTION for a new South Africa could be an economic and emotional disaster for farmers unless they took part in the debate when land issues were discussed.

This warning came from the outgoing president of the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU), Mr Kobus Jooste, at the opening of the 56th congress of the union in Sea Point last night.

Mr Jooste, who has served organised agriculture for the past 30 years, said land was the farmer’s most precious possession and was a big emotional issue in Africa.

He said this was already true in Namibia and unless the problem was correctly handled from the start, South African farmers would be on a collision course.

“Farmers must take part in the debate when land issues are discussed. Let us make sure we are ready for that day — it may come sooner than we think,” he warned.

Mr Jooste said he knew farmers were willing to help President De Klerk in the creation of the new South Africa.

A good base for the future had been laid with the creation of a strategic plan for healthy agricultural development.

He warned that the welfare of farm workers would also be influenced by political developments.

About 5-million people lived on farms but only about 1½-million were economically active.

There was a continuous struggle to get money from government to help build housing on farms.

But he warned that unless the State contributed towards housing, farmers in their own interests and the interests of agriculture would have to remove more than half of the unproductive people from their farms. Those that remained would have to be more productive.

Farmers in the new South Africa would have to accept that farm labour could not be treated differently from other labour and agriculture could not continue to be excluded from the labour Acts, Mr Jooste said.
Subsidy as farm housing becomes part of overall plan

By GRAHAM LIZAMORE
Staff Reporter

HOUSING for farm workers and their families is to come into overall planning for housing in South Africa in future, Agriculture Minister Mr Jacob de Villiers has announced.

Speaking on the final day of the South African Agricultural Union congress in Esat Point, Mr De Villiers said President De Klerk had given an undertaking to farmers when he opened the congress on Tuesday night that he would be looking into housing.

Mr De Villiers said the government had now decided that in principle planning for housing for farm workers and their families would form part of the total housing strategy for South Africa.

It was envisaged that the adjusted scheme would be administered in the same way as in the past, by respective departments of agriculture (own affairs administrations).

SIMPLIFIED

However, the application of the scheme would be considerably simplified and entail a non-recurring capital subsidy to bona fide farmers for the construction of housing.

This would eliminate the registration of bonds, he said.

It was also possible that simplified building standards would be developed for rural areas with a view to affordability.

Particulars of the scheme, as well as requests from the South African Agricultural Union, were being given urgent attention.

He expected the funds to be available in 1990/91.

A spokesman for the South African Agricultural Union, Mr Gerrie Smit, said farmers would welcome the news because they had been under considerable financial pressure in ensuring proper housing for their workers.
Many farmers exploit refugees

By Winnie Graham

Relief workers assisting starving Mozambicans who arrive in Gazankulu and kaNgwane have confirmed that South African farmers exploit the jobless and desperate refugees.

Three sources in the two Eastern Transvaal homelands say they have been told of many instances where farmers recruit labour "only to call in the army just before payday to prevent payment of wages".

Father Angelo Matordes, a Catholic priest who works among the refugees, says they do not have permission to work in the homelands or in SA. When they are offered work, however, they snatch at the opportunity — but have no comeback when things go wrong. Refugees do not complain because they are afraid of repatriation.

DESPERATE TO FIND WORK

"Farmers are not allowed to employ Mozambicans," he says. "If they are caught, they can be fined R1 000. However, there is no known case of a farmer being prosecuted."

Mr Sam Nzima, a former photographer and now a prominent figure doing refugee work in Gazankulu, says refugees know they are not allowed to work in SA or the homelands but are so desperate that they take any job they can find.

"We know of a Brits farmer who collected refugees in the Eastern Transvaal to work on his farm and, at the end of the second month, called the police to remove illegal migrants," he says.

"They were repatriated to Mozambique and the farmer got two months' free labour."

The refugees are subject to exploitation because they have no unions to determine their rights or wages, says Mr Nzima.

A Kiepersol farmer, he adds, employed a group of refugees to pick bananas, offering them R2.50 each a day. They accepted the offer because it was better than nothing — yet even in job-creation projects in Gazankulu, people earn a minimum of R3 to R7 a day.

Mr Nzima says the refugees are often not willing to lodge complaints because they are afraid of being detected and repatriated to Mozambique, where it is difficult to find food.

Mr Claude Mahoudeau, a representative of the French medical organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres, which is helping to develop an assistance programme for the refugees in kaNgwane, says there are many stories of farmers "informing the Defence Force of the presence of refugees on their properties". The reports, however, usually follow after the men's usefulness has ceased.

"They are repatriated before receiving their wages," he says.

Mr Mahoudeau fears that refugees are becoming a political tool. "On the one hand the refugees are proof to the black population that Mozambique made the wrong political choice, and on the other, they have become the scapegoat to be exploited by the white population."
Agricultural workers excluded from your basic labour laws
A WEEKLY MAIL INVESTIGATION REVEALS THAT FARM LABOUR ABUSES CONTINUE

Need cheap labour? Hire a convict — it’s R1,05 a day!

The prison system plays a key role in the exploitation of farm workers. The system is rife with corruption, where guards and prison officials collude with employers to provide cheap labour, often at the expense of workers’ rights.

The investigation reveals that many prison workers are not properly paid for their work, which is often taken over by the employer for a fraction of the cost. This practice is widespread and has led to a culture of exploitation and abuse.

The government has promised to address these issues, but little has changed. Workers continue to be paid less than the minimum wage, while employers continue to profit from the system.

Call to action: donate to organizations working to improve conditions for prison workers.

Read the full report at weeklymail.co.za.

The Weekly Mail, 30 November 2023
Need cheap labour? Hire a convict — at R1,05 a day

A WEEKLY MAIL INVESTIGATION REVEALS THAT FARM LABOUR ABUSES CONTINUE...
The desperate screams that haunt all in Namaqualand

THE screams of women and children clutching trees and reeds on the banks of the swollen Olifants River will ring forever in the minds of the 12 people who survived when a truck carrying 64 labourers crashed through a bridge over the river.

The crash, just after 6pm on Wednesday, September 6, terrified the Namaqualand community and touched hearts and wallets countrywide.

By the next day, thousands of rand had been donated to the Klawer Disaster Fund which has since grown to hundreds of thousands of rand.

The sluice gates on irrigation farms further upstream were closed and the search for bodies began.

The driver of the truck, Smit Nieuwoudt, 26, the youngest son of the family which owns most of the land in the Klawer district, was recovered by police divers.

"Silent was very quiet on the day of the accident. Usually he is a chatterbox," said his father, Johan Nieuwoudt, 26, in Klawer.

Most of the dead, many of them women and children, were pulled out of the Olifants River over the next few weeks. The funerals began. After the first week of the search, the sluice gates were reopened.

Intervene

Relatives of the victims, all of whom were farm labourers, asked for the closure of sluice gates, but their request was initially ignored.

The river level had already dropped considerably, but closing the sluice gates would make the water level even more favourable for the search.

A delegation of community leaders asked the Klein Karoo police commandos to intervene. The sluice gates were closed and police undertook to commence the search after they had considered sealing it off.

But when police divers left the Olifants River bank for the last time last Monday, 10 bodies were still missing.

Later in the week the decomposed bodies of three children were found. Their mothers were only able to recognize them by their clothes.

The police investigation into the crash has not been completed.

Namaqualand’s farmworkers made headlines recently when 52 died after a truck plunged into the flooded Olifants River near Klawer, about 280km from Cape Town on the N7. The river disaster was one of many tragedies among the large

RELATIVES of the Klawer disaster victims have had little time to mourn the loss of loved ones, as they continued their tragic lives.

Despite liberal contributions to the disaster fund, little is being done to improve the lives of those left behind.

The accident highlighted the plight of the farm labourers in Klawer and surrounding districts.

Many of those killed were also victims of hardship caused by employment practices in the area.

The labourers on Smit Nieuwoudt’s farm were collected at 6pm on the day of the accident at his fields near Ramposky.

They were being taken to a hou in Donkerhoek, just outside Klawer.

Many of the labourers in Klawer are seasonal workers from Calvinia, brought in to plant and harvest the onion and potato crops.

The workers are "perused" on Sundays by farmers who view them as "dregs" of society, an offtake from the labour market.

The seasonal workers have no say over how much they will be paid or how long their services will be required.

The farmers also visit the local jails and pay the bail of fees to free people to work on their farms, according to the Reverend David Willemse, an NG Sendingkerk minister.

The prisoners are released from jail into a life of bondage, "owned" by a farmer responsible for their freedom from official jails.

Many relatives of the dead did not even know that they had been working in Klawer. The farmers seldom let new workers tell their families that

The inside of Magrietie Wibbo’s room in the Donkerhoek hostel is bleak and empty.
CHILDREN who work on "Gietie" Rossouw's farm near Kluever farm a regularly R5 a day, SOUTH discovered during a visit to the farm.

A group of 20 workers were planting sweet melon near the citrus fields, digging into the clay soil and carefully placing the seedlings into holes dug by children.

The farmer's wife stood watching them, picking their names off a list pinned to a clipboard.

I have seen them all the time. If I don't pick them all today they're just as thin as the sun, she said.

"They are so irresponsible, these people cost two cents each but they cost 20 cents to feed.

When she was asked whether the workers were available to be interviewed during their break, she replied that she did not need to take a break during their 11-hour day.

"Workers who don’t keep get docked a day’s pay."

Mrs. Hendrina Klaasen has brought her children in the accident, Groenewald, 8 and Tessa, 4.

Loud bang

Both children had been brought to the field every day. Groenewald had nev-

er had a day’s schooling. Sometimes they helped their mother, but spent most of the day playing while the workers.

Klaasen cannot remember the accident. All she recalls was a loud bang and found herself unconscious, string glued to her clothes.

She returned to the field the day af-

ter her accident. There was no time off for grief.

Working next to her was Mr. Anna Tromp, where two-year-old daughter

Johannes bump into a fence.

Tromp's weather-beaten face is lived and she looks much older than her 46 years.

She has been a labourer for almost all her life, for as long as she can re-

member. She was working on the farm "for the love of doing it", she said.

"We earn R5 a day, we all do it, and I couldn't miss any work because of the accident," Tromp said.

"My son is enough, but there is no other work around. The Roxouw pays less than all the other farmers.

"If I don't work for them I wouldn't be able to live."

Among the group of 20 workers were 14-year-old boy, 19-year-old and two 17-year-old girls who had not completed their school work.

Rachel Amat, 17, was in 8th grade in Calvinia, but her parents worked on the farm. Her uncle, one of their laabourers, came to fetch her.

"I've been here for two weeks now, but at first I was living in another house

with the other workers from Calvinia. I'm living with my uncle, Rachel said.

She was not sure how long she would be working on the farm or whether she would go back to school. Johannes van Wyk, a rocky, self-assured 14-year-old who was taking a smoke break in the field, stood when he was asked whether his family knew

he was in Kluever. When the Roxouw's truck came to Calvinia on a Sunday morning three weeks ago he jumped on, believing that he was old enough to make his own decisions.

But now he does not know what he'll be going home again or how he'll get there.

Johannes is living in the Roxouw's house in Dunksburg. He says he is one of the workers' children of care.

"We look after the children, especially the girls and make sure the older man don't use them," Tromp said.

"They are like our children. We take them in with us."

Tromp said the older workers kept

the young ones away from the "drip" that farmers go out every evening.

"We get a mugful every evening, but everyone does their work, only those who are interested in it.

"We stay at the same time as the "drip". An if farm worker does the "drip".

Although he is only 17 years old, the Roxouw's house. Three rows of gravel, dark cement, and the fields on one side of the house.

Their homes are the home to the seasonal work-

ers who work on the farm.

The horses were the largest in the af-

ternoon. The owner, Mr. Hendricus Van Wyk and his wife, Mrs. pennie de Wet, and their children.

Marvin and Marno, have not yet seen Eloi. Eloi was found last Wednesday. His face was badly disfigured and his mother could only recognize him by his clothing.

"We don't know of the search is continuing for Marno."

Mr. Rossouw's house could stay there until the funeral are ever, she said.

Empty drums

"Here was a two-roomed cottage, with two concrete floors, no ceiling, no so-

lids and no clothing dryers.

Without has made an empty space for her two children, water drums and a piece of cardboard. A shabby structure made up by two wOI E blanko on the concrete floors serve as beds, the window is	

and the Roxouw's bedroom.

The drums are on the floor.

The drums are on the floor.

The drums are on the floor.

The drums are on the floor.

"It's all hard, but at least we are working," Swaneveld said.

A preoccupied for the farmer's children, especially the girls, are sometimes

all killed in the accident worked for him. They had worked on the farm before and were employed by other farmers as well.

He refused to comment on allegations of working conditions.

Relations of accident victims have little time to mourn

Three survivors of the crash that lost their families, from left, Hendrina Klaasen, Marno Tromp and Marie Hameshiek, back in the fields.

are leaving.

All they take along is a rug, a blan-

of a bed and a pot.

Young children, supposed to be at

school, are remedied in this way.

Tom, 10, of Calvinia, Maria Antoni, 15 and Jan Smith, 14, who are at the accident, were distraught.

The girls are housed in houses with 10 men and the boys all victims of the "dip" system, where the work-

ers are "rewarded" with a mugful of cheap wine at the end of a hard day's work.

"The dip system still exists here and the farmers say the workers want it more," said Williams, who helped most of the dead in the past two weeks.

He also helped to trace victims' rela-

tives. The conditions in which we found the families were terrible. Living

standards in the area have deteriorated to a point where they are just existing.

The disaster affected them greatly, but at the same time, they were too

helpless to do anything themselves. They could not lift themselves out of their depression to bury their own dead.

The disaster committee had to buy clothes for relatives who had been

lucky to attend the funerals because they had nothing to wear.

Reverend David Willenese serves on the Disaster Committee and buried most of the dead.

"All these children hadn't lived.

They were on the truck because they went with their mothers to service the fields every day. The Roxouw's did not provide pre-school care for the children."

Children killed in the disaster were Christiana Smuts, six months; Ewi Swaneveld, six months; Keesla Isaacs, eight months; Lennie Olivier, four; Marliana Hameshiek, five; Frances Isaacs, six; Jennifer Kok, two, and five-year-old Tessa Klaasen.

The children and brothers waited with their mothers, watching in astonishment, as 5,000 to be taken to the fields in the farm truck, sport it to ashes.

"Even in winter, when it rains, these children stay tied to their mother's backs. There is no shelter in the fields," said Willenese.

"The women have to work. The pay is for two R5 to sit at home and sur-

vive on their husbands' wages."

The farm labourers working for the Roxouw farm earn R5 a week. They are given free accommodation in the huts, but have to buy food and clothing with their wages.

Willenese would like to see the mon-

ey donated to the Kluever disaster fund used to improve the lot of farm labourers in the area.

Prison Services respond

RESPONDING to a question, a farmer's daughter, 14, has been released.

"A person has been identified as the cause of this incident," he said.

Prison Services actuated persons under suspicion, including their families.

The procession of workers to the证实:

"As far as we are concerned, the Prison Services are taking all necessary steps, including the collection of evidence, to ensure their presence is not wasted."

The farmer requested privacy for her family while they were being investigated.

"When an employee is brought to the prison, he or she is given a search, but there is no one in the prison with his or her personal content."

The Prison Services actuated persons under suspicion, including their families.

The procession of workers to the证实:

"As far as we are concerned, the Prison Services are taking all necessary steps, including the collection of evidence, to ensure their presence is not wasted."

The farmer requested privacy for her family while they were being investigated.
Unions condemn use of convict labour on farms

BY EDWIN KOCH
Industry snubs wine farmer over labour remark

By GRAHAM LIZAMORE, Agricultural Reporter

A LEADING wine farmer's remarks quoted in a British newspaper about the conditions of farm workers in the Western Cape has caused a furor among wine farmers.

Senior members of the KWV, the largest wine and grape producers' co-operative in the country, went so far as to boycott a luncheon in honour of the Diners Club winemaker of the year, Mr Peter Finlayson, winemaker for the Hamilton-Russell Estate near Hermanus.

KWV members said yesterday remarks made by Mr Tim Hamilton-Russell, were unfair and would harm the wine industry, particularly the export of wine.

● Full report, page 5.
Cape FARMERS ATTACK

Wine Industry in Ferment

BY GrahAME lManage

The Argus, Friday, November 10, 1989
Hello? A phone-call from a prisoner

CONVICT Zandabolo Melekho phoned the Weekly Mail from a cell in Mabola Penitentiary Prison, where he was serving a nine-year sentence for armed robbery. The convict said he was being mistreated and that the number of prisoners was out of control.

On the next day, Deneke Bukkew, a foreman at the prison, agreed to accompany a reporter to see the conditions inside the prison. The two men were spent five hours behind bars discussing the problems within the prison. The prisoners described conditions as overcrowded and unsanitary.

On the same day, a group of five prisoners went on strike to demand better conditions.

The strike lasted for three days, and the prisoners demanded that their needs be addressed.

The strike ended on the fourth day, and the prisoners agreed to return to work.

Weekly Mail ‘buys’ convicts - at R140 each

EDDIE KOCH went to see the prisoners in the cell and talked to them about their grievances. He said that the government needed to address the problems within the prison.

In the meantime, the prisoners continued their strike, demanding better conditions and treatment.

The government promised to look into the situation and make changes to the prison system.

For hire, says the sign to Leeupan breakfast, as labour is easily and cheaply available

‘For hire’ says the sign to Leeupan breakfast, as labour is easily and cheaply available.

The Weekly Mail that week went to Leeupan, a sprawling prison complex on the outskirts of Johannesburg, and “bought” a group of convicts for R140 each. The visit to Leeupan confirmed that the “buying of bandits”, as convicts are called, has become a government decision to phase it out three years ago.

Three thousand convicts — known as “vandals” — are still convicted for minor crimes and sentenced to between three and six years in prison. The convicts are then “bought” by employers for R140 each.

The Weekly Mail spoke to 26 employers who said they would pay R140 each for a group of five convicts. The visit to Leeupan confirmed that the “buying of bandits” is widely practiced even though the government decided to phase it out three years ago.

The trend confirmed reports that the system, known as “vandals”, is on the increase — the buying of bandits is still widely practiced even though the government decided to phase it out three years ago.

The South African Prison Services exercise little control over the way prisoners are treated once they leave the prison.

After we arrived outside the gates of block C, a prison guard told us we would need a police officer, prison warden, and pastor to transport a daily supply of convicts to a training college near Pretoria, where they are put to work in the gardens.

Other employers visited Eddo, a large farm near the prison, to hire the prisoners. The farm owner said it would hire 10 convicts for R140 each.

A government official said that the “buying of bandits” is still widespread and that convicts are paid R140 each.

The government is considering phasing out the system, but it has not yet announced a decision.

Weekly Mail ‘Buys’ Convicts - at R140 each

Weekly Mail reporter EDDIE KOCH went to see the prisoners in this week — and came back with two convicts, as for the first time the prisoners were taken to the paper for R140 each.

The visit to Leeupan confirmed that the “buying of bandits” as convicts are called, has become a government decision to phase it out three years ago.

While the use of convicts for unskilled work, they say, convicts are made to do ordinary work for the day.

The only problem with hiring labour from the prison is that employers must swear allegiance to the prison authorities and agree to abide by regulations that proscribe the use of convicts. If the work is not to their satisfaction, the prisoners from Leeupan, said C block hired out about 50 prisoners a day.

Convicts from this group are not paid and the employers are not responsible for their welfare.

Employers can also complaint of the service received.

One employer who was interviewed, said he preferred to use the prisoners because they were cheaper.

Curti’s, a company that hires convicts, said it had hired 20 prisoners for R140 each.

The company said it found the prisoners were easier to manage.

Inmates of the prison say they believe the correctional services system is too lax (over 100 convicts) of convicts every day and use them as unskilled labour on various construction sites.

As prison regulations prohibit the taking of anything without an approval from the prison authorities, the prisoners are not allowed to keep any property they are paid for doing the work.

The system, the prison authorities say, is designed to provide a way for the prisoners to earn money and support their families.

The National Health Laboratory, which does tests on convicts, said the system is not a viable way of earning a living.

Weekly Mail reporter EDDIE KOCH visited the prison and spoke to the prisoners.

Convict Zandabolo Melekho said the prisoners are often mistreated and that conditions inside the prison are terrible.

He said that the prisoners are often left without food and water, and that the number of prisoners is out of control.

The government has promised to look into the situation and make changes to the prison system.

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**Wine farm labour conditions row intensifies**

By MARIUS BOSCH

THE row over remarks made by a British newspaper against labour conditions in the industry intensified yesterday with the farmer accusing the KWV of being “bully boys” acting in a “knee-jerking fashion.”

Wine farmers and the KWV were up in arms yesterday over the remarks made by Hermann wine farmer Mr Tim Hamilton-Russell in a London newspaper.

On Thursday senior KWV officials boycotted the Diners Club wine-maker of the year celebratory function at which one of Mr Hamilton-Russell’s wines was judged the best South African red wine.

Yesterday Mr Hamilton-Russell stood by his remarks made to the Daily Telegraph, saying that although the Rural Foundation—an organisation working to improve the conditions of farm workers—“did an excellent job”, it did not go far enough.

“It doesn’t get to the fundamental issue which is the apartheid system,” he said, adding that the foundation did not stipulate a minimum wage for farm workers or detailed conditions of employment.

Rural Foundation vice-chairman Mr Jan “Boland” Coetzee said the organisation is non-political.

“We stimulate the guys to do justice to the working conditions of the farm workers,” he said.

KWV chief director, communications Mr Theo Pegel—who also refused to attend the award function—said some farmers were going out of their way to improve workers’ conditions.

Mr Hamilton-Russell said he would welcome the chance to speak to the KWV.

“I would like to know how many of their members were still practising the ‘dop-system,’” he said.

The owner of the Kanonkop wine farm outside Stellenbosch, Mr Janie Krige, said many wine farmers were incensed about the remarks.

“We started with the Rural Foundation and the upliftment of our workers about nine years ago,” he said, adding that there were a lot of shortcomings still.

Mr Krige said wine farmers were forebears among the country’s farmers in improving the working and living conditions of their workers.

Mr Hamilton-Russell said that although “a lot of wine producers were exemplary in the way they treat their workers”, there were still some wine producers who did not treat their workers well.
Farmer jailed for killing worker

TZANEEN. — A white farmer who beat his Namibian-born labourer to death and hid the body in a ditch, has been sentenced to eight years' imprisonment.

Johannes Jacobus Leeb, 27, of London Farm, near Naboomspruit, was charged in the Tzaneen Circuit Court with the murder of Simon Snyders on March 11 this year.

He pleaded not guilty before Mr Justice J Coetzee and two assessors yesterday.

The court was told that trouble started at 4pm on March 11 when Leeb told Mr Snyders and another labourer to run to a store and fetch beers for themselves. The two refused to run because they feared Leeb's dogs. Leeb was offended by their attitude and ordered them to go to their compound.

Two hours later Leeb found Mr Snyders fixing his bicycle. He began beating Mr Snyders with his fists on the head, chest and body. Mr Snyders fell to the ground and was kicked and trampled until he lost consciousness.

Later Leeb left a party, took Mr Snyders' limp body and threw it into the back of a van.

BODY BURIED

Leeb took Mr Snyders's body to a store where he chained him to the window bars for the night. The following morning Leeb poured cold water repeatedly over Mr Snyders's body. He took the body, put it in a sack and buried it on a neighbour's farm.

Leeb told his wife and other labourers that Mr Snyders had gone home. However, when police came to the farm, he pointed out the spot where he had buried Mr Snyders.

Leeb said he had been annoyed by Mr Snyders's refusal to obey him to fetch beers. Mr Snyders had also ignored him and did not call him "Baas".

Mr Justice Coetzee found that Mr Snyders's death was caused by cerebral injuries due to the beating. But there were extenuating circumstances because Leeb was drunk. An application for leave to appeal was adjourned. — Sapa.
Worker beaten to death, body hidden in a hole

FARMER GIVEN 8 YEARS

By ALINAH DUBE

A FORMER member of a South African Defence Force special unit, Petrus Johannes Jacobus Leeb, was yesterday jailed for eight years in the Tzaneen Circuit Court for the murder of a farmer.

He beat up Mr Simon Snyders until he died and then hid his body in a hole.

In passing sentence, Mr Justice J Coetzee said the right to life was most important.

He said that Leeb had violated Snyders' right to live. The judge said it was important for the community to know that such acts were wrong.

Evidence led in court revealed that Leeb had instructed Snyders and another farm worker to go to their compound and set cattle on them. They then told them to go to their farm to catch the cattle. Leeb then went to his room while Leeb's dogs were kept in the room.

The court was told that on May 11 this year Leeb assaulted and kicked Snyders for refusing to obey instructions. Snyders was a Namibian of Damara origin. He was impeached from Leeb's parents' holdings in Namibia.

Farmer jailed

- From page 1

wrong for a farmer to regard his labourers as property.

"If the sentence is too lenient the administration of justice will be brought into disrepute," Justice Coetzee said.

He said the sentence should satisfy the needs of the community and that it should also deter other white farmers.

A policeman stands on top of a shack while squatters leave Mahanguville, Soweto, for Orange Farm load their possessions on a TPA truck. The area was tense yesterday following action taken by police against people who were marching to the home of former mayor Mr Ephraim Tshabalala to deliver a list of grievances. See story on page two.

To page 2
Killer farmer jailed for 8 years

TZANEEN - A farmer who beat his labourer to death and then hid the body in a ditch was yesterday sentenced to eight years' jail by a Circuit Court judge in Tzaneen.

Johannes Jacobus Leeb (27) of London farm near Naboomspruit, was charged with the murder of Mr Simon Snyders on March 11 this year.

He pleaded not guilty before Mr Justice J Coetzee and two accessors.

Evidence was that trouble started at 4 pm on March 11 when Leeb told Mr Snyders and another labourer to run to a store and fetch beers.

TRAMPLED

The two refused to run for fear of Leeb's dogs. Leeb then ordered them to go to their compound.

Two hours later Leeb found Mr Snyders fixing his bicycle. He beat Mr Snyders with his fists on the head, chest and body.

Mr Snyders fell to the ground and was kicked and trampled on until he lost consciousness.

Later Leeb left a party, took Mr Snyders' limp body and threw it into the back of a van.

Leeb took Mr Snyders to a store where he denied him to the window bars. Mr Snyders spent the night in this position.

The following morning Leeb poured cold water repeatedly over Mr Snyders' body. He took the body, put it in a sack and buried it on a neighbour's farm.

Leeb told his wife and other labourers that Mr Snyders had gone home and he had given him R50 for transport.

Later however, when police came to the farm, he pointed out the spot where he had buried Mr Snyders.

Leeb told the court he had been annoyed by Mr Snyders' refusal to fetch beers. Mr Snyders had also ignored him and did not call him "Baas", he said.

Leeb said he had been a member of a special Recce unit of the South African Defence Force. In that time, he had killed "many people" in Angola, Botswana and Zimbabwe.

A specialist psychiatrist in post-trauma and war stress, Dr H Potgieter, told the court that the training for Recce members made them aggressive. He said some of them had problems adjusting to civilian life. — Sapa.
8 years for farmer who killed worker

TZANEEN.—A white farmer who beat his Namibian-born labourer to death and then hid the body in a ditch, was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment in the Tzaneen Circuit Court yesterday. Johannes Jacobus Leeb, 27, of London farm near Niboomspruit, was charged with the murder of Mr. Simon Snyders on March 11 this year.

He pleaded not guilty before Mr. Justice J. Coetzee and two assessors.

Evidence led in court was that trouble started when Leeb told Mr. Snyders and another labourer to run to a store and fetch beers for themselves. The two refused to run in fear of Leeb's dogs. Leeb was offended by their attitude and ordered them to go to their compound.

Two hours later Leeb found Mr. Snyders fixing his bicycle. He started beating Mr. Snyders with his fists on the head, chest and body. Mr. Snyders fell to the ground and was kicked and trampled on until he lost consciousness.

Chained to bars

Later Leeb left a party, took Mr. Snyders' limp body and threw it into the back of a van. The noise of his body hitting the van was heard by a witness who was standing at a distance, the court heard.

Leeb took Mr. Snyders to a store where he chained him to the window bars. Mr. Snyders spent the night in this position.

The following morning Leeb took the body, put it in a sack and buried it on a neighbour's farm.

Leeb told his wife and labourers Mr. Snyders had gone home and he had given him R50 for transport.

However, when police came to the farm he pointed out the spot where he had buried Mr. Snyders.

Mr. Justice Coetzee found that Mr. Snyders' death was caused by cerebral injuries due to the beating. But he found there were extenuating circumstances, because Leeb was drunk.

An application for leave to appeal was adjourned when one of Leeb's relatives, overcome by emotion, started crying and shouting in court. — Sapa
Klawer Disaster
Fund tops R88 000

By SHARKEY ISAACS
Staff Reporter

A GIFT of R500 from the Cape Friendly Society has boosted the Klawer Disaster Fund beyond the R88 000 mark.

The fund, begun by The Argus, climbed to R88 500,40 with the help of R300 from the Volkskerk van Afrika, Kraaifontein, and R102,31 from the church council and congregation of the Moravian Church, Atlantis.

VALUABLE
Gifts from readers R McClelland (R60), H K Walton (R55) and Miss H L Patten of Mitchell's Plain (R10) also made a valuable contribution.

The Argus launched the fund to help the families of 53 farm workers who died when their lorry crashed through safety railings and plunged into the Olifants River near the small Namaqualand town of Klawer on September 6.

In addition to a few large contributions from corporations, the fund has been bolstered by a steady stream of smaller gifts from small businesses, school pupils, parents, churches and individuals.

THE ADDRESS
Those who would like to contribute should send their gifts to the Klawer Disaster Fund, Box 15399, Vlaeburg (8010).

The money will be sent to the Ned Gereef Sendingkerk, which has established a fund to help communities in times of dire need.

The money is distributed on the advice of the Sendingkerk's regional welfare branches. The welfare number of the fund is F1 08 800167 000 4.

Latest contributions to the fund:
Previously acknowledged:
R67 516,69
Cape Friendly Society, R500,00
Volkskerk van Afrika, Kraaifontein, R300,00
Church Council & Congregation of the Moravian Church, Atlantis, R102,31
R McClelland, R50,00
H K Walton, R25,00
Miss H L Patten of Mitchell's Plain, R10,00

SUB TOTAL, R687,31
TOTAL, R88 503,40
Labourer walks 5 km to shoot his farm manager

GRUDGE MURDER

A GREYTOWN farm labourer who walked 5 km to shoot dead his manager after he had been told to reduce the number of his cattle was jailed for an effective 12 years by the Judge-President Mr Justice Howard in Pietermaritzburg Supreme Court yesterday.

Father four
Sofasha Khoza (37)

headed guiltily to the charge. He was found guilty of murder with extenuating circumstances for the killing of the manager, Mr Michael Manley on the night of July 15, 1986.

State counsel Mr Jan Venter did not accept the extenuation plea for the fact that Khoza had walked a long distance to shoot Manley in the dark. He sat down 15 metres from the Manley home, waited until he (Khoza) stopped shivering from the cold. He had leaned on a fence and took aim before shooting.

This showed that it was a well-planned murder that deserved the death penalty, Venter said.

The bullet had passed through an asbestos wall and hit Manley who was writing a letter.

Khoza had been linked with the killing ballistically more than a year after the murder and he kept on working on the farm until his arrest 16 months ago. Venter said.

Mr Justice Howard said that although Khoza had had other avenues open to him, his frustration, anger and distress had built up to the stage that he took the extreme step.
The Democratic Party has expressed shock at the eight-year sentence this week on a Naboomspruit farmer who beat a labourer to death and then buried him in a sack because he refused to run to fetch him beer and did not call him "baas".

DP justice spokesman Mr Dave Dalling said the sentence passed on Johannes Jacobus Leeb (27) for killing Mr Simon Snyders was a "glaring example of inappropriate sentencing" and he intended raising it in Parliament.

There were too many discrepancies in sentencing criminals for crimes, particularly when they related to crimes across the racial barrier, he said.

With time off for good behaviour, Leeb would be out of jail in 2½ years, he said.
Beaten into submission

BLACK farmers have always been most severely exploited in terms of wages and working conditions.

As far back as the early 1960s one of the country’s finest journalists, the late Louis Ruider, exposed the meagre standards and living conditions of farm workers in a series of articles called “Farmer“. The exposure, so shocking the country and the world that a boycott of potatoes was launched.

Ruider’s investigations revealed that workers, picked up at the fields from sunrise to sunset, were beaten up on and many died in the process.

The days were hard, on a particular spot to serve in the next crop of potatoes.

After the workers that followed, coupled with the boycott, it was believed that things would change for the better.

But another story of human rights violation was told in Transvaal this week, 27 years after the death of Jacob Lebo from Transvaal, was the tragic murder of a farm laborer.

Evidence on the side of the defense was that Lebo, a farm worker, had been beaten to death by his employers, and another worker in a nearby field had been beaten.

The murder was reported to the police, who then arrived at the scene and found the bodies.

The police were later accused of covering up the murder.

Transport

Snyders, already working on the morning shift, was driving his tractor down the road when his truck was rammed.

He was later pronounced dead at the hospital.

Publicity

Snyders’ funeral was attended by all the workers, who were present to show their respect.

Paralysed

On August 17, 1989, Mr. Elton Xhakane of Pretoria was attacked and beaten to death by his employer for failing to work hard. He was paralysed from the waist down, but he refused to give up. He said that he had been promised a pension, but it was not forthcoming.

Paralysed

In a recent incident in the Western Cape, a farm worker was attacked with a trowel by his employer.

Gruesome

Speaking to an organization yesterday while writing the article, it became clear that a similar perception exists among many South Africans, who kill black people without fear of retribution.

“Your blood is on your head,” a farm worker said.

Political comment as by Aggred Khatzeke and his colleagues Shabangu, Ntshwepo, and several others, including the ANC and the Nationalist Party, were present at the ceremony.
Child labour not abused - Louw

The new Minister of Manpower, Mr Eli Louw, says he is not aware of large-scale abuse of child labour in South Africa. In an interview with THEMBE MOLEFE he also gives his opinion on farmworkers and human rights, labour legislation as it affects these workers, black trade unions and international law.

QUESTION: Is it widely believed that human rights do not exist on the farms especially because there is little legal protection for farmworkers? What is your comment?

ANSWER: I cannot agree with you on the existence of human rights on the farms. The farmer and the workers are bound by contract law. However, I agree that the contracts entered into are at many times not of a high standard, which is not proper.

The old master and slave laws have been repealed and all farmworkers are covered by the Workman's Compensation Act and the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act. All farmworkers have freedom of association. They can join trade unions. There is no law prohibiting them from organizing themselves. Small claims courts are also available for them.

Q: That is what the Government thinks is happening. Has your department spoken to unions in the region?

A: As I do not know what your experiences are, but the Government always speaks to trade unions in regions where a problem exists. Unions do not come and talk to me. I believe they should come and talk to me. What is the good when an organisation does not talk and influence people?

Q: Do you mean that union groups like Nacta and Concasa refuse to serve on the special committee that you have appointed to investigate possible amendments or regulations that would protect farmworkers and domestic workers?

A: They are refusing, but I do not know why their reasons are.

Q: I would like to give you two examples which illustrate the absence of human rights on the farms and how the common man does not enjoy the same rights as other workers.

A: The first is of a Hughead worker who was illegally hired by a farmer who presented him for stealing a welding machine. The incident occurred on June 5, but the farmer has not been arrested and the worker is missing following threats on his life.

Political comment by Mr Eli Louw, also known as a journalist, on his farm.

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Q: Why are there no unions for farmworkers in the Western Cape?

A: There are unions, but they do not have the same rights as other workers. They are not organized and do not have the same legal protection.

Q: What is your opinion on the current situation of child labour in South Africa?

A: There are instances of child labour, but the Government is working on a new law to protect them.

Q: What is the definition of child labour?

A: Child labour is defined as children aged up to 16 years old working for more than 12 hours a day.

Q: What is the official number of children who are working?

A: The official number is not available, but it is estimated to be around 500,000.

Q: What is the government doing to protect children from child labour?

A: The Government is working on a new law to protect children from child labour. It is expected to be passed in the next few months.

Q: What is the legal position of children who are working?

A: Children who are working are protected by the Child Labour Act, which prohibits children from working more than 12 hours a day.

Q: What is your opinion on the Child Labour Act?

A: The Child Labour Act is a step in the right direction. It is expected to be passed in the next few months.

Q: What is the legal position of farmworkers in the Western Cape?

A: Farmworkers are protected by the Workman's Compensation Act and the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act. They have freedom of association and can join trade unions. There is no law prohibiting them from organizing themselves. Small claims courts are also available for them.

Q: What is the legal position of domestic workers?

A: Domestic workers are protected by the Workman's Compensation Act and the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act. They have freedom of association and can join trade unions. There is no law prohibiting them from organizing themselves. Small claims courts are also available for them.

Q: What is the legal position of workers who are not covered by the Workman's Compensation Act and the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act?

A: Workers who are not covered by the Workman's Compensation Act and the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act are not protected by law. They are not entitled to compensation in case of injury or death. They are not entitled to join trade unions. They are not entitled to small claims court. They are not entitled to freedom of association. They are not entitled to any legal protection.
Getting in first

In what appears to be a further move towards paving the way for the unionisation of farm workers, the Department of Agriculture's weekly magazine, Agricultural News, has published an article suggesting statutory minimum employment conditions.

The article quotes Ingrid Smith, an assistant economist in the department's directorate of marketing, as saying agriculture can act to "neutralise" unionisation by improving working conditions.

Smith suggests that the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) should be empowered to draw up and enforce a set of rules, in terms of which farmers in particular areas must treat their workers. Farmers should also ensure reasonable working hours for their labourers and provide housing with the assistance of State subsidies.

She says the prospect of farmworker unions can be approached from two angles: a united effort by employers to provide conditions of such a standard that unions would be unnecessary; or acceptance of the inevitability of farm unions.

Smith says it's clear that labour relations issues will continue to put pressure on employers. However, unions realise that high wage demands can affect jobs, while productivity programmes can benefit workers. At the same time, the onus is on employers to show that improved productivity does not necessarily lead to fewer jobs, but can in fact stimulate the creation of new job opportunities.

She believes the central issue is improved conditions of employment and better opportunities. The need for unions will diminish in relation to the amount of time and money a farmer is prepared to spend on the care of his workers and their families.

The article notes that the "overwhelming majority" of farmers regard unions as a "negative and retarding" factor and are not interested in allowing union activity on their farms.

At the SAAU annual congress in Cape Town last month, outgoing president Kobus Jooste said farmers will have to accept unionisation.
R2 600 paid to get 60 goats back

Evicted workers’ livestock impounded

MARITZBURG — Weenen farmworkers living in emergency camps after being evicted from their homes by white farmers have paid up to R2 600 to have their livestock released from the Natal town’s pound.

More than 1 000 former farmworkers are living in makeshift accommodation in an emergency camp on the outskirts of Weenen, about 200 of them in tents. Their cattle are being impounded for grazing on Weenen town land.

Wad of notes

Mr Ndumane Nqundu, who said he lived at one of three emergency camps outside Weenen, showed a reporter a receipt for R2 684,36 he had paid to have 60 goats released from the pound.

The receipt stated he had been fined R2 100 for trespass, R147,54 for driving fees, R120 for pound fees, R240 for herding fees and R46,00 for other expenses.

Mr Nqundu pulled a further R1 540 in notes from his pocket, with which he said he was going to pay for the release of seven cattle belonging to a friend.

The headman of the emergency camp, Mr Mahoba Sibisi, showed an Association for Rural Advancement worker, Mr Mandla Msomi, a receipt for R244,95 he had paid to claim an impounded cow belonging to his son.

The mayor of Weenen, Mr Hans Kilian, who is also chairman of the Weenen Town Board, said: “They are living illegally on town land. They should be prosecuted. They have been told they are not to have any cattle on town land. “This is not the last they have heard of it. The cattle will be impounded tomorrow.”

Town clerk Mr L. Cannha said the pound ran at a loss. One bale of lucerne cost between R7 and R10. He said the land had been withdrawn from grazing by the Department of Agriculture because it had been overgrazed and the grass was considered to be only 2 percent palatable.

There had been numerous meetings and the people had received written warnings, but they had been ignored.

Deputy Director of Land Usage Control Mr Vic de Klerk said he was trying to work with the Department of Development Aid to identify land with the intention of settling the people in a rural lifestyle.

He said they had received permission from the town board to “put the people there until such time as we can identify land elsewhere”.

Mr de Klerk said that some time ago kwazulu representative Mr V. Mvelase had said he would take the matter up with the kwazulu authorities and make arrangements for them to graze their cattle elsewhere. He had not been informed that the cattle were being impounded. — Sapa.
Part to be used to build hall for all

By SHARKEY ISAACS
Staff Reporter

PART of the money raised to help families of victims of the Klawer bridge tragedy in which 53 people died will be used to build a community hall to launch a long-term upliftment programme for the farming community.

The hall, to be run by a local committee, with a full-time community worker, will offer recreational and educational activities.

Dr Samuel Pick, director of welfare services at the Ned Geref Sendingkerek's Diakonie, said the fund had two objectives—a short term and a long term.

So far R60 000 of the money raised had been spent, with about R24 000 going towards funeral expenses and the rest on medical costs, clothing and food for bereaved families and the care of survivors in the short term programme.

EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Surveys of the crash victims showed 11 children had been orphaned by the accident. Most of the dead had been women and children and it had been established that only a few of the adults killed had been family breadwinners.

Some of the money would also be used for the temporary support of orphaned children placed in the care of unofficial foster families. The State would take over payment of their support as soon as a children's court had appointed legal foster parents for them.

Meanwhile, part of the money will be placed in trust for their education needs and special provision is to be made for their higher education and residential costs up to university level.

"The primary long term objective of the fund will be the building of a community hall for the benefit of the entire Klawer farming community," he said.

Klawer fund closes at R90 000-mark

By SHARKEY ISAACS
Staff Reporter

THE Argus is today closing its Klawer Disaster Fund after raising nearly R90 000 for the families of 53 farm workers who died when their lorry crashed through safety railings and plunged into the Olifants River near the small Namaqualand town of Klawer on September 6.

A gift of R1 000 from The Argus and an additional donation of R200 by the community newspapers, Plainsman, Athlone News, Southern Mail and Northern Echo opened the fund and the remaining R89 771, 75 raised came from readers.

Donations came from all quarters and a large percentage was collected by schools, factory workers, sportsmen and churches with many gifts coming from its under-privileged communities.

"Warms the heart"

Among the last gifts sent was a cheque for R250 from the Cape District Football Association and an accompanying letter from the general secretary, Mrs Sylvia Jetha, to the Editor said: "My association would like to thank The Argus for their gesture of opening this fund. Besides making possible help for the victims it warms the heart to know that there are those who care."

The Argus has already presented a cheque for R65 000 to Dr Samuel Pick, director of welfare services at the Ned Geref Sendingkerek's Diakonie, and the balance will be handed over soon.

Messages of condolence with the gifts were a noteworthy feature of many donations.

The money will be sent to the Ned Geref Sendingkerek which some time ago established a fund to help communities in times of dire need.

The money is distributed on the advice of the Sendingkerek's regional welfare branches. The welfare number of the fund is 10 00 000 000 000 4.

Dr Pick said the public's response to the fund was "fantastic."

Latest contributions are as follows:

Previously acknowledged:

R30 503

R300,00

R250,00

R250,00

R250,00

R250,00

R250,00

R250,00

R250,00

Peninsula Caravan Club

The Volmoed Trust

TOTAL

R89 771,75.

In addition to money raised by The Argus, funds totalling R34,189,99 were collected by other media for Sendingkerek's umbrella Klawer Disaster Fund. The following breakdown was given of the total: SABC's Radio Good Hope (R150 000), The Argus R89 771,75, Die Burger, R78 731, 51; and a gift of R20 000 from Rapport. Donations totalling R9 456,48 were also sent directly to the Sendingkerek.

Further donations can be sent direct to The Klawer Disaster Fund, Ned Geref Sendingkerek; Private Bag X One, Bethul (7501). Anyone seeking further details can telephone 923 2151.
Plight of coloured workers stressed

KIMBERLEY — Debates on the plight of farm workers, on toothless local government bodies and on health issues kept delegates to the Labour Party congress busy yesterday.

Delegates said coloured farm workers often lived in poor conditions, were lowly paid and could be evicted at any time. People serving on local government bodies complained that all the major decisions were taken by the white councillors and officials.

Mr David Curry, Minister of Housing in the House of Representatives (HoR), said the Labour Party was responsible for the building of 32,000 houses through the HoR.
A little Eden ... hunting

Fisherman on South Africa's most southerly tip complains that a nearby missile test centre disrupts their fishing and ruins their livelihoods: "It is God that this sea belongs to, but they have come and taken it for themselves."

EDDIE ROCH reports

Fishermen off southernmost tip of Africa that has been developed by generations of residents at Wasekhuwastin on the southern tip of Africa, they have the foundations for a village of "coloured" fishermen who have waged a resilient fight to retain their way of life for nearly 200 years.

The community has already survived three attempts to evict them from their海边home and expand the village. Now, American intelligence reports have identified them as a potential site for a missile test range. The villagers are determined to fight for their rights and keep their way of life.

"They built a fence that ran out into the sea," one resident said, "and they are sitting in front of their land. Last year they began with the bombing of the sea." The fishermen say they are losing their livelihood and are calling for international intervention.

The villagers are not the only ones affected by the missile testing. Local industries, such as the seafood processing plant, are also in danger of losing business. The village is facing an uncertain future as the missile testing continues.

In the 1980s, when "coloured" people were still on the margins of society, a group of local fishermen built their village on the southernmost tip of Africa. Today, the village is under threat from a missile test centre that is being developed nearby.

"We are not just fighting for our rights," says the village chief. "We are fighting for our way of life."

The villagers have appealed to the international community for help, but so far their efforts have been in vain. The missile testing continues, and the future of the village remains uncertain.
ground for fishermen and rockets

"My father and his father were born here. I was 10 years old when I began to work on the boat. At that time it was a little bit of school, a little bit of work."

"This village has a fleet of 10 primitive fishing vessels, called "Honu." Each takes a team of eight men and a skipper to the reefs. Once the boats load the fish into the bags, the skipper lets the men each throw out two or three hand lines. And the net - bag is a relentless tug of war.

Then I go out and join the other men on the way to the reef."

"The village has a fleet of 10 primitive fishing vessels, called "Honu." Each takes a team of eight men and a skipper to the reefs. Once the boats load the fish into the bags, the skipper lets the men each throw out two or three hand lines. And the net - bag is a relentless tug of war."

"We don't get a salary," he says. "Each man gets half of the fish he catches."

"When we catch fish, we can buy our food and clothes."

"As we continue to catch fish, we can buy our food and clothes."

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"As we continue to catch fish, we can buy our food and clothes."

"As we continue to catch fish, we can buy our food and clothes."

"As we continue to catch fish, we can buy our food and clothe..."
'We care about the fishermen'

ARMSCOR’S Overberg Test Range near Arniston has created some problems for the fishing community at Waenhuiskraans but it is not true that the firm does not care for the welfare of the community, says a representative for the corporation.

"The past winter has been a difficult one for the fishing community. The weather was very bad for long periods at a time and fish were scarce," said Armcor’s manager of client and media relations, BR Relief.

"As a result of a busy test schedule at the range over a period of six months, various sea areas were closed for a total of 50 days. This did not make matters easier.

"The fishing boats were, however, never stopped from putting out to sea although certain fishing banks where they do fish in winter were closed at times."

After becoming aware of the problems being experienced by the fishermen, Armcor had initiated talks with the Fishermen’s Union of Waenhuiskraans, Relief said.

"These talks took place in a positive spirit and practical solutions were found which will ensure acceptable access to the fishermen’s traditional winter fishing areas in future."

He added that jobs had been created for the local community at the test site and that development of the nearby town of Bredasdorp had increased the market for fish from the village.

"The impression created that Armcor is not involved with and does not care for the people of Waenhuiskraans is therefore devoid of all truth."

15-20/12/89