

General 8/2/83 1/6/83

R60-m canal planned to help farmers

By Stephen McQuillan

Work should start next week on a R60 million emergency canal to ease the plight of 177 drought-stricken farmers in the Free State, it was disclosed today.

Engineers are to build a 100 km link between Orania on the P K le Roux Dam and Kalkfontein Dam on the Riet River.

Blueprints are almost finished and men and equipment are being transferred to the site.

Much of the over-stretched efforts of the Directorate of Water Affairs have gone into this scheme, along with the R33 million emergency plan to reverse the flow of Vaal River. Both projects have been given priority.

Water will eventually be transferred to Kalkfontein where it can be sent down-river to the Riet River Government water scheme.

More than 230 homes, based around the village of Jacobsdal, depend on water from the irrigation scheme.

Main crops of the area are maize, wheat, fruit and vegetables.

The established wine industry in the area is also threatened because of the drought.

The canal scheme was delayed a month because plans had not been finalised.

The canal is part of the giant Orange River Project which has been shelved indefinitely because of a cash shortage. The canal is the only part of the scheme to be given the go-ahead.

"The livelihood of the farmers in this area depends on irrigation," said Mr Bert Boonzaaier, liaison officer with the Department of Environment Affairs.

"The Riet River has stopped flowing and Kalkfontein Dam, which supplies the farmers, contains only three per cent of its normal capacity.

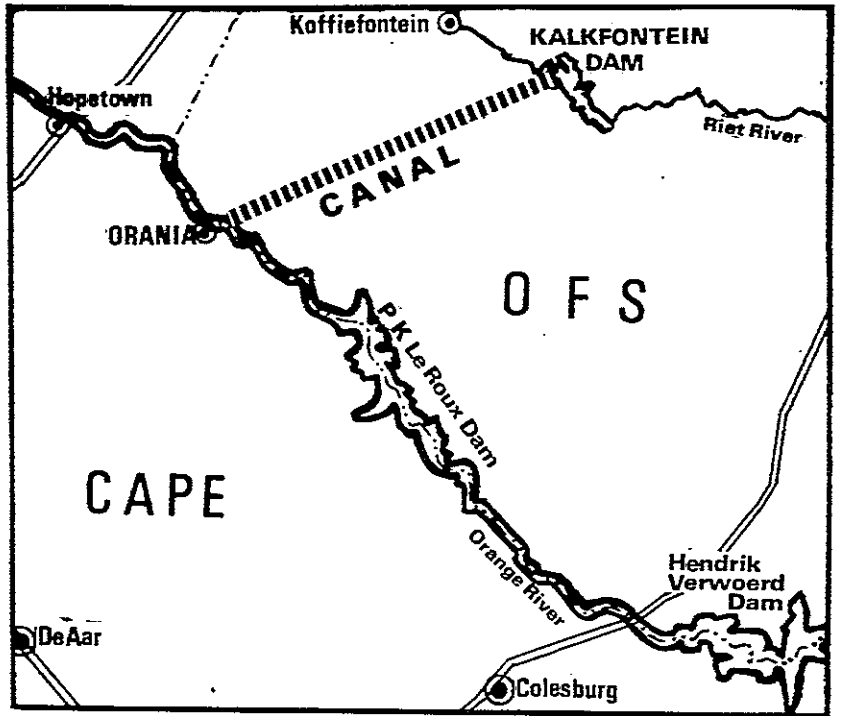
"Farmers have been suffering from the effects of exceptional drought. A lot of cash was spent on developing the wine industry and farmers will suffer heavily without more water."

The Government has already given farmers cash aid.

The canal scheme, which includes a pump station and a series of balancing dams, should be completed in about two years.

Construction workers are moving into a work village of 140 houses plus single quarters at Orania. The village was used to house workers building the P K le Roux Dam years ago.

The Riet River irrigation scheme was started in 1934 and completed around 1938.



The canal which will link the P K le Roux Dam and the Kalkfontein Dam. It will lessen the effect of drought on crops along the Riet River.

B. Bus Sci.

Examiners' Initials		

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2. Candidates are not to communicate with other candidates or with any person except the invigilator.
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any dishonesty will render the candidate liable to disqualification and to possible exclusion from the University

Dordrecht sheep farmers will count their costs for years

3 General
D. DISPATCH
11/6/83

DORDRECHT — "To be honest, I don't want to talk about it," Winston Moorcroft said, and then proceeded to talk about it — "it" being the drought.

Mr Moorcroft's farm, located a few kilometres from here along the Jamestown road, is in one of the areas of the Dordrecht district worst affected by the drought, according to the extension officer at Dordrecht, Mr Danie Schoeman.

A long conversation with Mr Moorcroft over the lunch-table at his comfortable farmhouse, followed by a tour of the pastures and kraals that support his 4 000 sheep, revealed that the drought has not only parched his land, but has also thrown his account books well out of balance.

For any farmer, the economic hardships brought on by drought are as trying as the agricultural problems it brings — indeed, the two are intimately related.

So Mr Moorcroft's story, a story of strained finances now and a gloomy financial picture over the long-term, must in many ways be a typical story of drought-stricken farmers throughout the country.

As a sheep farmer, Mr Moorcroft is feeling the economic effects of the drought in three main ways:

- Poor or non-existent markets for slaughter stock.
- Prospects for poorer than average crops of wool and lambs.
- Heavy expenditure on

feed, which is necessary because grazing is extremely poor.

Mr Moorcroft said he "panicked" in December and sold sheep at R19 a head. In better times, those sheep might have fetched three times that amount. But Mr Moorcroft sold them because he didn't want to be burdened with excess stock he wouldn't have been able to carry through a winter of poor grazing and high feed costs.

Already he has reduced his herd by 500 to 600 sheep, and he said the total cull would probably amount to 1 000.

Countless other sheep farmers acting along the same lines and for the same reasons have produced a glutted market, and an accompanying sharp drop in prices. Although the R19 received by Mr Moorcroft in December was extraordinarily low, farmers say that prices are down by anywhere from 20 to 50 per cent.

Even in the best of times, farmers customarily sell off a portion of their herd — excess stock, such as old ewes — in the summer, and the receipts form an important part of their annual income. So with this past season's depressed prices — and in some cases there has been no market at all — farmers are now beginning to feel the effects of a dwindling "cash-flow".

Mr Moorcroft said that his recent efforts to organise his finances on a "cash-flow" system had been met with laughter — of a sympathetic na-

ture, presumably — from his bank manager.

Another farmer put it this way: "Until now we didn't feel a cash prob-

lem because we were living off money from last spring's shearing." But now the money was running out, and money he would normally depend

MARK SCHACTER
reports on the drought in the Dordrecht district.

the drought, will yield less wool than normal.

"Drought can cost a kilogram of wool per sheep," Mr Moorcroft said.

lamb crop will probably be even more costly. Certainly it will be more longlasting, because every lamb lost now means the loss of one money-producing animal for years to come.

It is nature's way for there to be a decline in the birthrate under adverse conditions such as drought. And when lambing time comes around in August and September, nature will undoubtedly take its course. The indications are already clear.

"We had to start feeding ewes in March to get them to conceive, and rams are not very active," Mr Moorcroft said.

One farmer explained in detail the cost of a poor lamb crop. He said that every lamb lost meant:

- R15 to R20 worth of wool every year for five years (after which the sheep would be sold as excess stock).
- The value of the sheep when it would eventually have been sold for slaughter — about R50.

In the case of female lambs, the loss of future lamb production.

This farmer said he expected his 1983 lamb crop to be about 20 per cent smaller than usual.

The third major financial burden imposed by the drought on stock farmers like Mr Moorcroft is the need to buy feed. The reason is simple: the drought has caused such poor growth on the veld that at this stage pastures almost everywhere are exhausted, or close to it.

When feed replaces grazing as an animal's

principal source of food, production costs soar. Mr Moorcroft will spend R14 to fatten a sheep he expects to sell for between R40 and R50. If grazing were plentiful, fattening would cost him less than R2 a head. Mr Moorcroft said he was now buying R1 000 worth of feed every week.

With demand for feed high throughout the country, prices are soaring, and supplies are short. Mr Moorcroft said he was "begging and borrowing" feed from wherever he could get it.

As if all this weren't trouble enough, there was still, as Mr Moorcroft pointed out, the added factor that the animals he was now forced to feed out of the bag were not fattening as well as they did when in good pasture.

Generally it appears that farmers are bending but not yet breaking under the heavy financial strains caused by the drought. Some farmers will tell you of other farmers they know who have "packed up", but more often they will tell you of farmers' wives who have "gone into town" to find work to supplement the farm's lagging income.

As for Mr Moorcroft, his farm is still very much a going concern, and his wife has not "gone into town".

But he has three young sons who, he said, want to grow up farmers. Mr Moorcroft thinks his boys should consider a more secure way of making a living. "I'm encouraging them to take up a trade," he said. — DDR



The drought has dimmed hopes for good crops of wool and lambs in the coming season.

on from stock sales wasn't there in sufficient amount.

When shearing time comes around again, in November, drought will again dip its hand into

At about R3 a kg, that amounts to a heavy loss of income for someone with a herd the size of his.

The effect of the drought on this winter's

3 General

Frontline city under siege

By EVELYN HOLTZHAUSEN

IN THE frontline of the drought, Durban has become a city under siege. The plug is never pulled on bathwater, and blocks of flats display charts measuring the amount of water used daily.

Now the severe water restrictions that affect everyone have become an accepted way of life. And as winter tightens its grip with scant hope of rain for the next five months, the city's 827 000 residents have united in a common cause to save water.

Pyjama-clad householders read their water meters by torchlight in the chill of dawn to monitor their daily allowance of 400l.

The emphasis is on recycling as much water as possible in an effort to stretch what little they have.

Brim-filled baths are a luxury of the past, people have forgotten what it's like to water their gardens with hoses and far from being taken for granted, water has become a precious commodity to be conserved, controlled and treated with respect.



water is collected in buckets and used to water gardens, wash cars and water plants. Dishes are allowed to pile up, and only washed every second day.

With these and many other conservation methods many householders have found that they can survive well within the 400l limit.

"We have six people living in our communal house," said a Durban student, "and we find that we manage on an average of 200l a day."

Mr Basil Peacy, local property manager of a national property company, said: "There is a tremendous spirit of co-operation and we have placed daily charts in the foyers of our buildings to let residents know their daily target and whether they are inside or outside the limit."

Deputy general manager of the Maharam Hotel Andrew Jones said he held daily meetings with heads of department to discuss water consumption.

Guests

"Through careful monitoring we have cut our consumption by more than 30 per cent," he said.

Among the measures implemented were the centralising of dishwashing points - instead of one for each restaurant there was one central point - water from "chilling units" was kept for washing, and unused fresh room "jug water" was collected for recycling.

"We have found too that guests seem to play the game and we have not had occasion to make any particular appeal to any single guest," he said.

Each room had circulars explaining the need for conservation and people seemed generally to be towing the line.

This week a specially hired team of water meter readers started their second reading of the 85 000 meters in Durban. They read on average 7 000 meters a day.

Desalination of seawater is another option being explored by the Durban City



Headboy Aaron Metrikin and headgirl Andy Spitz with fund-raising prefects

Picture: NICO VAN DEN BERGH

Schools raise R12 000

By DAVID FORRET

SOUTH Africa's major industrialists have been given an ultimatum to cut their water usage by 20 percent or face the possibility of sterner measures by the end of this month.

This blunt warning came from Mr Dale Hobbs, chairman of the Rand Water Board (RWB), who said that some consumers seemed unaware of the "extremely serious situation" confronting South Africa as a result of the drought.

"The choice is quite simple," he said. "Unless we save water, we run the risk of having no water at all."

"If we continue at the current level, and we have another dry season, there is a possibility that the Vaal Dam could be empty by October

Pupils at the seven King David schools in Johannesburg decided to join the campaign after reading in the Sunday Times Drought Alert of the plight of rural blacks. At the high school in Links...

Water boss warns: Save or else

reach of industrialists. However, special consideration would be given to some industries if their production was affected.

Many South African mines have already achieved and surpassed the 20 percent target, some by as much as 40 percent, according to Mr...

THE current drought is the worst in living memory. No sector of society has escaped effects.

White farmers are in a desperate position. The Government has announced a massive relief program but despite this, many will be forced off the land. Industry will also feel the pinch. In addition to downturn in the economy, it will also face water power cuts if next summer does not bring normal rains.

The worst affected are black South Africans in white rural areas and townships. Those in white rural areas face unemployment and the threat of having to move.

In the homelands, where water shortages are a way of life, the drought has made a normally bad situation desperate. Crop failures and the lack of grazing have spelled disaster.

For most peasant farmers and in South Africa. Many families rely on remittance income to supplement their own production. High unemployment in urban areas has caused this remittance income to dry up. Stock losses, disease and hunger are the order of the day.

Many rural blacks throughout the country are being faced with the stark option: Starve in the homelands or move to the towns where it may be possible to exist somehow. Hundreds of children have already died.

The drought has brought into stark relief what is happening to our land and water resource base. The facts are extremely worrying, especially in the black homelands where some of the worst abuses are taking place.

In most homelands the land simply cannot support the populations.

The natural grazing over vast areas has been irreversibly damaged, even before the drought. Most areas lack the simplest infrastructure necessary for sound agriculture which the white farmer takes for granted.

What happens in the homelands affects us all. As they become less viable, it becomes increasingly difficult to implement viable rural development programmes.

Our most serious problem however, remains resource deterioration. To come grips with this problem requires a policy decision the part of the Government as long as they persist in turning people to, and leaving people in the homelands the problem will get worse.

Disaster looms a SA wait for rain



By MICHAEL TARR

MP for Marburg South

will one day become norm and we should start now perfecting the requisite technologies.

Desalination plants, still expensive, are technically feasible and should be investigated for areas such the Western Cape.

We have shown competence in the provision of large dams. Many source water have remained untapped and feasibility studies on rivers such as Umkomaas and Umzimzim should be undertaken immediately.

The current policy is a environmental disaster that is happening now.

WATER RESTRICTIONS
YOUR DAILY ALLOWANCE
165 KL. PER DAY
ESTIMATED DAILY CONSUMPTION

Mrs Magda Scheepers, manageress of one of Durban's biggest blocks of flats, updates the water-ration table kept in the foyer

Council taps a pipe poser

By SHAUN HARRIS

PIPES providing the major water supply to Durban were being turned into "sieves" by people desperate for water.

At places where the pipes pass through parched rural areas, thirsty people are puncturing them and forcing air valves open to get at the water.

But the leaking pipe problem has now been solved. Durban City Council and the Umgeni Water Board have installed taps on the pipes.

Now people living in parts of the Valley of a Thousand Hills and rural settlements outside Durban are ensured a stable water supply.

According to the Umgeni Water Board the taps have been installed for two reasons: to provide a service to the local community and to protect their pipes.

A senior engineer said this week: "We can't

substantiate it usually and the work required would not be completed in time to alleviate the drought.

police the whole 40km pipeline from Nagel Dam to Durban.

In the Umgeni River Valley, where "leaks" in the pipe were being patched up nearly every week, eight new taps have been installed this year.

The leak problem has stopped and queues of women form in the evenings to draw water from the new taps.

□ □ □

Pipeline supervisor Mr Larry Eales, who has installed most of the taps in areas outside Durban, said his job had become much easier since the taps were installed.

"I was being called out regularly to repair leaks, where holes had been knocked in the pipe or joints forced open at air valves," he said.

"This has virtually stopped since the taps were installed."

headboy Aaron Meptrikin said many pupils cared for those less fortunate. "So we got together and decided that it was time we did something positive about it."

Decision

A fund-raising campaign to support a charitable body in Israel was already in the pipeline, but pupils decided to channel the money to Operation Hunger.

The Linksfield high school raised R4 440 alone.

The proud headmaster, Mr E Wolf, this week congratulated his 29 prefects, who organised the fund drive. "They've been particularly innovative and have got things going really well. I think what they've done is admirable," he said.

A cheque will be handed soon to the acting chairman of Operation Hunger, Dr Frans Auerbach.

Appeals

Mr Hobbs warned that Reef water supplies could dry up by the end of next year if the drought was not broken and the present consumption levels remained the same.

"Obviously, we would introduce water rationing long before that ever happened, but this could have many serious consequences for the economy."

Rationing is one drastic measure that might be con-



Mr Dale Hobbs... punitive tariffs may be possible

sidered if Transvaal industrialists do not meet the RWB's minimum 20 percent saving level.

Pointing out that only an eight percent saving had been achieved so far, Mr Hobbs said: "Unless we reach the intended 20 percent sav-

ing very soon, the board will be obliged to request the imposition of a punitive tariff system so that the consumer has to pay more when he goes above the quota."

Though householders have made a substantial effort to save water, the larger saving expected from industrialists has not materialised despite the appeals of the RWB.

The announcement last week of a mandatory 20 percent saving was the first direct instruction to industry since water restrictions were introduced earlier this year.

Mr Hobbs is convinced that the 20 percent is well within

percent saving. An option might be to transfer water to the Chamber of Mines.

The mines accept the severity of the situation and all of them are doing whatever they can to save water.

Hard hit

Coal mining operations in some areas — mainly Natal and the Transvaal — have already been hit hard by the eight percent drop in power generated by Eskom stations because of the drought.

This has caused a loss of revenue by some coal mines — consequently forcing them to reduce staff — and many other mines would be seriously affected if power rationing was introduced to save water.

The mines' water savings have been brought about by making full use of underground water supplies, recycling treated sewage effluent and simple "good housekeeping".

One scheme that is currently under investigation is the construction of a pipeline to transfer water from one Free State mine with a surplus underground supply to another mine without adequate water reserves.

This scheme alone could cost as much as R4-million.

Research into more efficient water use is vital. Industry can make great savings. Agriculture is the greatest and most inefficient user of water in South Africa.

Israel should serve as an example to us where highly water efficient irrigation systems have been developed. Use of sewage effluent

for irrigation and the maintenance of a grass cover is essential to ensure the PIV of water. The same applies to all water catchment areas.

Urban dwellers face the threat of electricity cuts in the homelands. This means nothing as they have never had electricity. Wood is their main source of energy.

High population pressures have resulted in the rate of use being faster than the rate of natural regeneration. Again serious environmental degradation takes place as all woody plants are used for fuel. The drought has helped to accentuate this problem.

The only solution is to encourage people to leave the land. This will enable rural development programmes to be tackled with those who are left behind.

These if implemented with skill, knowledge and determination, will help halt the downward spiral in which the homelands are trapped.

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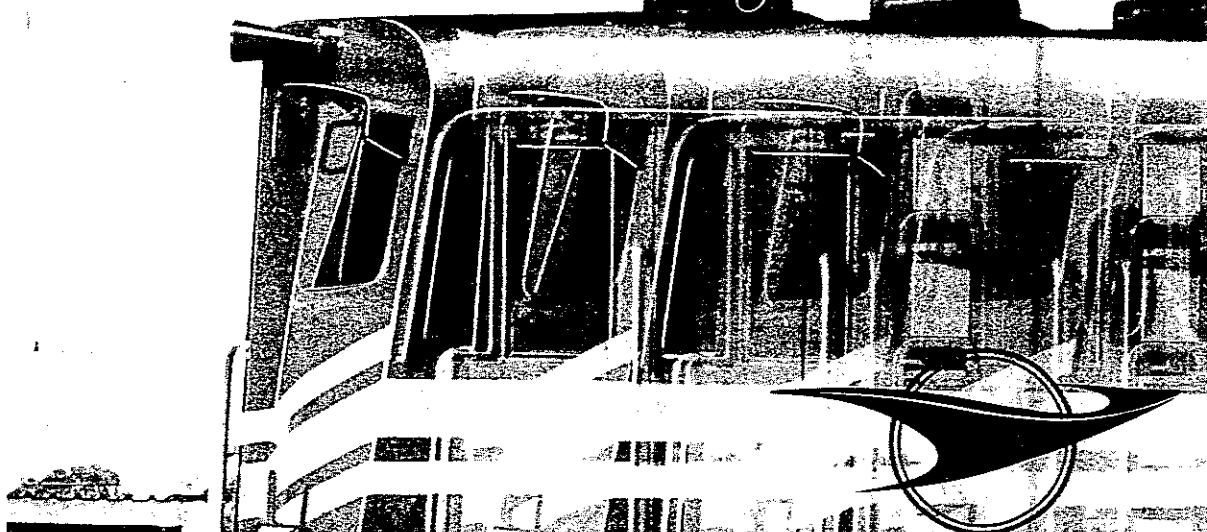
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A bushveld atmosphere with basic luxuries such as toilet, bathing and sleeping facilities. And the convivial atmosphere of a large kitchen, for cooking and washing which is situated outside your chalet.

Comfortable because servants do the routine work for you.

Exclusive because your chalet is situated on a "mini farm" which has tame eland, zebra, ostriches, geese, chickens as well as farm animals.

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Besides the mini farm on which you will live, there is a vast game farm with plentiful game such as kudu, blesbuck, impala, giraffe, njala, rhebuck, waterbuck, zebra, red hartebeest and other game grazing in their natural state.

"Open safari vehicles" to take you sightseeing on the game farm.

Or, if you prefer, lovely walks which comprise approximately 20 km in all, where you can enjoy the freedom of nature.

Two "rest camps", with sheltered resting and braising facilities and luxury flush toilets as well as chairs and table under the trees, are situated on the game farm. You can have a braai here whilst listening to the wondrous nature.

It's exclusive

To preserve nature at all costs, the chalets are only offered to selected families. The number of owners will be strictly limited.

Privacy is guaranteed. Visitors on a daily basis from outside will be strictly limited, or not admitted at all.

The scheme—Time Sharing

At an unbelievably low cost of R6 500 — a R1 000 deposit and monthly payments of R100 thereafter for 10 years — gives you

4 four never-to-be-forgotten weeks annually. For 10 years, on a game farm. And it's only an hour's drive from the Pretoria-Johannesburg area.

The four weeks are scattered through the year which gives you the opportunity of breaking away from it all for a while and re-visit your spirit in the peacefulness of nature.

This scheme is backed by the Dean Retail Group of Companies, in conjunction with Southlink Holdings.

Invitation Come and see for yourself

We'd like you to come and have a look at the development. Get into your car and spend a day on the farm so that we have the opportunity of showing you everything.

Bring along some meat — we'll go into the sandwiches, paprika and coffee — and let's enjoy a braai in the veld.

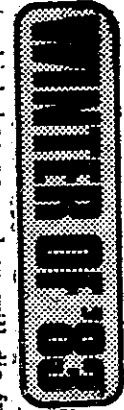
Please contact us a day in advance and speak to Diederik Mostert at: (012) 43-7731 (work) or (012) 83-5087 (home).
 Postal enquiries: P.O. Box 3570, Pretoria 0001 or phone (012) 83-5087.

Medical Reporter

Funds are urgently needed to feed about two million people in South Africa in the hard, dry months that lie ahead.

Appears are pouring in daily from churches, missions, schools and clinics from the country's poverty-stricken rural areas where hunger and disease are rife, says Mrs Ina Perlman, organiser of Operation Hunger.

Funds urgently needed to feed 2 million in rural areas



is desperate this winter," she said. "Some people have resorted to boiling thorns to eat."

Operation Hunger had been feeding about 150 000 but South Africa's massive problem has been exacerbated by the

drought which has ravaged huge areas of the country. Doctors predict that thousands of hungry children will die from disease as their undernourished bodies cannot fight back. Hardest hit this winter

are the unemployed who have little or no money to buy food.

"We are getting tragic reports from farming areas where large numbers of farm labourers are being laid off and desperately need aid."

said Mrs Perlman. She said although the public response had been extremely good, much more money was needed. "There will be no easing of the situation until the first batch of crops are harvested next summer," she said.

Anyone wishing to make a donation must send it to: Mrs I Perlman, c/o Operation Hunger, PO Box 97, Braamfontein 2017.

Power rationing unlikely — if more water is saved

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Electricity rationing may be avoided until late next year if more water can be saved.

Big water savings, summer rains — even if they are poor — and emergency measures to provide more water for power stations should allow minimum electricity needs to be met up to December 1984.

This was the opinion of major Electricity Supply Commission (Escom) users at the first meeting of a new water and energy crisis management group.

But unplanned power cuts, caused by lower voltages, are expected for short periods at peak load times in the next 18 months.

And it is now clear that electricity will cost more and that the drought will boost inflation.

R130 000 raised to aid hungry

Food and cash aid worth more than R130 000 has been collected for the Checkers Drought Appeal since it was launched last month.

The appeal, aimed at the public and at private industry, provides relief to an estimated 1,5 million people battling starvation in rural areas.

Food convoys organised by Operation Hunger transported non-perishables to rural areas regularly, said a spokesman for the supermarket chain.

"Companies and organisations have given either money to purchase food or, where appropriate, their own products," the spokesman said.

The news that rationing is unlikely for the time being has come as a relief to municipal undertakings not yet ready to make their own emergency plans.

But they are being asked to shoulder the initiative for street-level "policing" of water consumption.

The chairman of the emergency group, Dr Rudolph Fockema, said the committee was counting on consumers, primarily those in the Rand Water Board (RWB) area, making an immediate 20 per cent saving in water.

"With this, together with cuts in water to agriculture and a limited inflow of rain into Vaaldam in the next wet season, we should pull through," he said.

Initiative

Dr Fockema said it had been suggested that municipalities should now start consumer committees for certain water supply areas to "police" users.

This could save another 10 per cent of water in the RWB area.

Professional officers from the South African Consumer Council, Mr Tom Senekal and Mr Lou van der Merwe, said that increased manufacturing costs would be passed on to the consumer and this would increase inflation. But the Government could regulate the situation.

Escom's general manager (operations), Mr Ian McRae, agreed that prices would inevitably increase but he could not say when.

Chamber of Mines technical adviser Mr Gordon Grange, who warned at an earlier meeting of Escom consumers that mines could not cut electricity without damage to the economy, said after last night's meeting that he saw no reason to change his view of the economic picture.

"But the imminence of electricity rationing was not there to the same extent as it was at the last meeting," he said.

Pleased

Mr Piet Botes, of the Association of Municipal Electricity Undertakings, said he was pleased with the outcome of the meeting because members faced with fixed costs could not have afforded rationing.

It would have meant reduced earnings for them and higher electricity tariffs for consumers. The association had not produced a plan for action in the event of rationing being introduced, he said.

to possible exclusion from the

Five countries need emergency food aid

The Star's Foreign
News Service

BULAWAYO — At least 10 million people in five Southern African countries will need emergency food aid if they are to survive the winter.

This figure, which does not include South Africa or the independent homelands, has been calculated by officials in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland.

And the feeling among relief workers is that it is, if anything, conservative.

One of the worst-hit countries is Zimbabwe where the drought has been described as the "biggest single national disaster of the century".

A merchant bank which carried out a nationwide survey said the hardships suffered during the war years would be "small in comparison to the suffering to come".

Agricultural officials estimate that several hundred thousand cattle will be lost, forcing many farmers out of business.

In a massive rescue operation, 270 000 cattle are being railed from Matabeleland to Mashonaland at an estimated cost of R60 million.

Game rescue

A game rescue operation has been mounted in the south-east to save herds of sable antelopes and white rhinos.

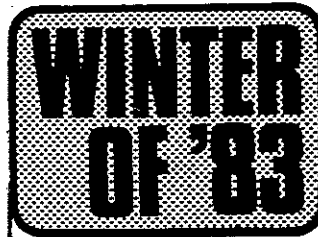
But in the parched game reserves of Hwange and Gona-re-Zhou, 6 000 elephants and several hundred hippos will have to be culled.

Estimates of the number of people, mainly subsistence farmers, who will have to be fed by the Government, vary from three to five million out of Zimbabwe's total population of 7,5 million.

The normally prolific maize harvest will be only 600 000 tons, 400 000 tons short of what is needed to feed the nation. But stockpiles from previous years

Ten million Africans may starve this winter

(3) General Star
7/6/83



are expected to make up the shortfall.

Neighbouring Mozambique has no such surplus to cushion the tragedy in its rural areas.

At special briefings government Ministers have pleaded with Maputo-based diplomats for massive amounts of aid to save about four million people from starvation.

Mozambican officials say the drought is the worst in their country's history and, if the rains do not come in October, the country will be in "very serious trouble".

In Botswana about half the population of about one million are already receiving emergency food rations while thousands of cattle are being slaughtered before they die of starvation or thirst.

Food is being distributed to 430 000 villagers in Lesotho,

about a third of the kingdom's population.

Early this year the Prime Minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan, appealed to the international community for help.

But he was astute enough to wait until Taiwan had shipped 1 000 tons of white maize before establishing diplomatic relations with the rival Red Chinese.

Food programme

The World Food Programme plans to distribute nearly 4 500 tons of emergency food to 108 000 Swazis over the next two months.

Taiwan bought nearly 1 000 tons of maize, worth more than R1 million, from South Africa as a gift for Swaziland.

Ironically, the worst drought in Namibia this century has begun to ease after unusually good rains in the central and eastern parts — but the southern and western parts are still suffering.

Elephants are being culled and zebras relocated in the drought-stricken Etosha Game Reserve.

The Namibian Red Cross is conducting a feeding scheme for schoolchildren in Kaokoland.

●See Page 3, World section.

DROUGHT THREAT TO NEW FACTORY

By Lynn Carlisle

AMID signs of a development "take-off" at Nelspruit, the Lowveld town may be left high and dry in its bid to attract the siting of a R50-million fertiliser factory because of doubts about adequate water supplies.

With Nelspruit pushing ahead in the slipstream of good decentralisation incentives and the spinoff from the R800-million Ngodwana pulp and paper mill, a fertiliser factory to supplement prospects of an additional 13 000 ha irrigation development would have added real growth to the area.

With local committees pushing Government to exploit potential water resources (a committee met Cabinet members and received "good vibes" over building another new dam a fortnight ago), timing additional water supplies to coincide with the start of fertiliser produc-

tion is all-important.

A "no comment" reply was received from one spokesman at fertiliser producers National Products Industries - a Swaziland based company with offices in Johannesburg - to the issues of the Nelspruit site at Rocky Drift being too expensive and that the factory might be sited out of the Lowveld.

"Admittedly, water is the serious consideration in terms of quantity, timing and ultimate cost," said NPL's technical manager and engineer Donald O'Connor.

But all is not lost although another site was under consideration.

"We are still looking very seriously at a site ar-

angement with the Nelspruit Municipality (which is developing the Rocky Drift industrial township 14 km out of town)," said O'Connor.

Charles van der Veyeren, chairman of the Crocodile River Irrigation Board, who met a Cabinet Minister in Cape Town on May 23, said that one good kick-back of the drought was that Government looked on water development as being a "high priority" in the Nelspruit decentralised region.

"I'm quite happy we'll be getting their support. Government will complete the 163-million m³ Braam Raubenheimer Dam by 1985, and the indications now are that the team there will move on to one of several other suitable dam sites late next year."

Nelspruit town clerk Flip Boshoff said that sales of residential stands had "taken off" since January. If sales continued at that rate all 219 stands would be sold out by October.

"All light industrial and commercial stands were snapped up at record prices this year," Boshoff

sugar mill going up at Komati while rumour of a new rail link from Komati to near Nelspruit existed.

Delta Manganeese were also thinking of expan-

ding with a view to exporting out of Maputo.

Attempts to contact officials at the mill, at Malelane, before going to Press were unsuccessful.

Industrial Waste
3/6/83

IG
Asked about the pro-
spects of other big fac-
tories being established
at Nelspruit, he said: "We
are negotiating for some
quite big ones, but it
would be dangerous to
disclose details of these."
Boshoff said that there
was "talk" of another
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Mr Errol Moorcroft
Parliamentary Staff

THE devastating drought in black homelands was forcing black people to move to towns and cities in increasing numbers to escape starvation, the Assembly has been told.

Mr Errol Moorcroft (PFP Albany) said the effect of the drought in the black homelands was "nothing less than a disaster of major proportions."

He appealed to the Minister of Co-operation

ARGUS 2/6/83
36 anal

'Drought forcing blacks to move'

and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof, to "face up to the realities of the situation and not to take evasive action behind clouds of teargas and rolls of barbed wire."

Speaking in the debate on the budget vote for Dr Koornhof's department, Mr Moorcroft said: "King Canute ordered the rising tide to recede and he failed. This honourable Minister is ordering the black tide from the homelands to return, but he too will fail."

Mr Moorcroft, the chief Opposition spokesman on agriculture, said the Minister was underestimating the forces that drove people to leave the security of their homes to enter the "forbidden" white areas.

"A man might sit back passively and watch his crops wither and his cattle die, but when his children start dying then he will move. And he will move to wherever he thinks he has a chance of finding work to save his family."

Explosive

He said: "Sending these people back solves nothing - rather does it build up an explosive situation in the rural areas."

"it is my great fear that the spark of revolution in this country will not come from our teeming urban townships, but rather from the poverty-stricken homelands. And that spark will be carried into our cities by people who have nothing to lose."

Starvation

In a grim outline of drought conditions in the black homelands, Mr Moorcroft called on the Assembly to consider the following facts:

- This year alone more than 130 000 cattle had died of starvation and disease in the homelands:

- Transkei had calculated its loss of livestock at R100-million:

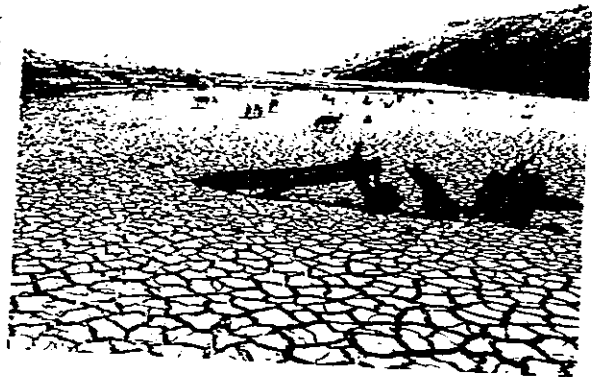
- Ciskei had lost 10 percent of its national herd since January this year. If so many had died before winter, at least another 20 percent of the territory's cattle would die during this winter.

Mr Moorcroft quoted the director of Transkei's veterinary services, Dr Carlos Santos, as saying the worst was still to come.

Go-ahead for SWA council

THE Government has given the go-ahead for the proposed new State Council in South West Africa.

In a statement, the Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, said the Administrator General of the territory, Dr Willie van Niekerk, had said



Dr Koornhof under siege

CONSERVATIVE Party speakers provoked the Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof, to react angrily to what he called "personal" insults during the debate on his budget vote.

Early in the debate Mrs Helen Suzman (PFP Houghton) moved on behalf of her party that the Minister's salary be reduced.

The Conservative Party, when the debate resumed yesterday, introduced a motion calling for Dr Koornhof's salary, in excess of R54 000, to be deducted altogether from his department's budget.

BACKED OFF

While the PFP condemned the Minister for "inhuman treatment" of blacks in the Western Cape and the removal of blacks from "black spots" such as Driefontein, the CP argued that the Minister had backed off from removals and that consolidation of the black national states had come to a standstill.

Mr Casper Uys, CP Barberton, who moved that the Minister's salary be deducted, said Dr Koornhof was doing the greatest disservice to



Dr Piet Koornhof

When Mr Uys introduced the motion, Mr Horace van Rensburg, PFP Bryanston, told the Minister across the floor: "Never mind, there is always the Salvation Army."

Another Conservative Party speaker, Mr F van Staden, Koedoespoort, said that whites in urban areas were extremely dissatisfied with the influx of blacks which was being permitted by the Minister. Government policy was resulting in blacks taking over white areas.

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NOTE CAREFULLY

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2. Blue or black ink must be used answers. The use of a ball point able. Red or green ink may be underlining, emphasis or for which pencil may also be used.
3. Names must be printed on each (e.g. graph paper) where sheet examination book(s) are used.
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South Africa

TRIO-RAND/S.P.C.T.

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In a statement, the Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, said the Administrator General of the territory, Dr Willie van Niekerk, had submitted a proposal for the establishment of such a council to the Government.

"The South African Government will not stand in the way of the proposed interim arrangement as the parties of South West themselves wish it to be put into effect in the period before independence."

Mr Botha stressed that "the interim arrangement should not hamper or jeopardise the current international negotiations which are of course proceeding."

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City slums report 'being considered'

THE MINISTER of Co-operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof, has announced that the report on the upgrading of urban slums in the

Eastern Cape is in the final stages of consideration by the Government.

Dr Koornhof made this announcement during the debate on his budget vote yesterday.

In the same debate Mr Andrew Savage, PFP Walmer, pointed out that rural slums were worse than urban slums, the only merit of rural slums being that, from the Government's point of view, they were out of sight.

CONDITIONS

Dr Koornhof said that the Metropolitan Black Planning Council had been appointed in the Eastern Cape to improve the deplorable conditions in which thousands of blacks were living.

He called on the private sector and employers in particular to provide housing once basic services had been laid on.

He said that apart from general upgrading, development action was to be instigated in areas such as Kwadwesi, Kwamagxaki, the Red Location, Zwide shanty town, and Motherwell.

Dr Piet Koornhof

When Mr Uys introduced the motion, Mr Horace van Rensburg, PFP Bryanston, told the Minister across the floor: "Never mind, there is always the Salvation Army."

Another Conservative Party speaker, Mr F van Staden, Koedoespoort, said that whites in urban areas were extremely dissatisfied with the influx of blacks which was being permitted by the Minister. Government policy was resulting in blacks taking over white areas.

Mr van Staden also accused Dr Koornhof of being disloyal to the policy of former Prime Minister Dr Hendrik Verwoerd and moving away from separate development.

For one of three key rivers supplying water to the vital Eastern Transvaal power station complex, the Komati River, is running at twice the expected capacity because of unseasonable rains.

The value of the fluke rainfalls in the Eastern Transvaal can be estimated only in millions of rands.

In early April the Electricity Supply Commission (Escom) announced an R80 million plan to shift generation from the drought-hit Eastern Transvaal power complex to coastal and Vaaldam area power stations to stretch precious water supplies.

The scheme was launched to buy an extra five weeks of uninterrupted electricity supply for the water-dependent stations.



Unseasonable rainfall last month is estimated to have stretched water supplies to four of the eight huge Eastern Transvaal power stations for six to eight weeks.

The above-average rainfall occurred in two periods at the end of May, said a spokesman for the Weather Bureau. Some areas had twice the average rainfall, with one town reporting up to 23 mm on each occasion.

The Komati River bonus is one of the factors influencing Escom's delicate side-stepping of the electricity rationing issue, according to Mr Bert Boonzaaier, liaison officer for the Directorate of Water Affairs.

"The increased flow of the Komati River will take the pressure off a little," he said. "It is providing substantially more water than we expected at the moment — about double the expected flow."

"The increased flow of the Komati is one of the factors that appears to have put Escom's minds at ease on electricity rationing — for the time being at least."

Other key rivers, the Vaal and Usutu, are running at the expected flow.

Escom has to manage on its present supplies in the Eastern Transvaal until the end of September, when the Government's R33 million scheme to reverse the flow of the Vaal River should be complete.

Project engineers are on schedule, with three of the seven weirs completed and the fourth expected to be finished before the end of the week.

Work on weirs five and six began last weekend, and on the seventh on Monday.

Work has also started on the new pipeline link from Grootdraai Dam — key to the emergency scheme — and Trichardt, from where water will be distributed to power stations.

Pipe link

A new pipe link is being built alongside an existing pipeline, doubling the capacity.

Mr Boonzaaier said only one minor problem had been encountered so far — working through hard rock on the first weir. But it was unlikely there would be any serious delays.

If some hidden obstacle delayed the scheme seriously, water engineers could fall back on another plan to buy more time for the drought-hit power stations.

Mr Boonzaaier said Water Affairs officials had had talks with representatives of Witbank municipality on the use of its reservoir.

It is possible to transfer water from the reservoir to the power stations if the weir scheme is delayed.

Electricity and water chiefs are celebrating a multi-million-rand "gift from the gods".

By Stephen Meakin

Fluke rains may stave off power cuts

Komati River is flowing at twice expected capacity

Escom starts R2-m changes

Pretoria Correspondent

Escom has started modifications costing R2 million to the giant Kriel power station's water treatment plant so that it will be able to use the "lower quality" water from the Vaal systems.

This is part of Escom's strategy to extend the available water supply to its vital Eastern Transvaal power stations as long as possible.

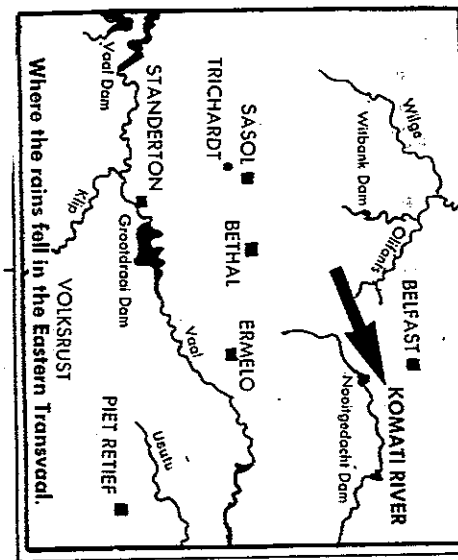
The R33 million projects to divert water from the Vaal River system to the Eastern Transvaal is planned to be finished by September.

Vaal River water will be pumped to Grootdraai Dam near Standerton, and some from there to Witbank Dam.

Escom's public relations chief, Mr Etienne du Plessis, said the Duvha power station's water supply network had already been switched from the Komati system to Witbank.

The giant Matla power station will also receive water from the Vaal after September.

Mr du Plessis said that with this water supply Escom hoped to keep at least the Kriel and Matla power stations — joint generating capacity of 6 200 megawatts — running at full capacity until October 1984.



3) General Agricultural sector: protection
 Hansard Q. Col. 1467 6/6/35
 903. Mr. P. R. C. ROGERS asked the
 Minister of Industries, Commerce and Tour-
 ism:

- (1) Whether the Government is giving consideration to financing out of the State Revenue Fund measures for the protection of all industries affecting the agricultural sector; if not, why not; if so, what is the nature of the measures proposed to be so financed;
- (2) what is the estimated amount paid by the agricultural sector in respect of protection for (a) (i) nitrogenous and (ii) other types of fertilizer, (b) weed-killers, (c) pesticides, (d) tractors, (e) implements and (f) tyres during the latest specified period of twelve months for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES,
 COMMERCE AND TOURISM:

- (1) No. Protection to viable local industries is being granted by means of moderate and selective import duties. In so far as protective duties may have a detrimental effect on the competitiveness of export products, it is being compensated for by means of export assistance as contained in Categories A and B of the export promotion scheme.
- (2) Figures are not available. The whole question of the cost of protection for the consumer, the industrialist and the agricultural sector is at present being investigated by the Bureau for Economic Policy and Analysis at the University of Pretoria.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Grahamstown, Professor and Mrs KEITH HUNT (right) played host at a civic reception for delegates to this week's Assocom regional congress in the city. With them were Mr BOB GOODWIN (left), a former president of Assocom and currently a member of the President's Council, and Assocom deputy president Mr BILL YEOWART.

Strong call on Orange water

General S. Post 11/6/83

GRAHAMSTOWN — The spotlight at the Assocom regional congress held here this week focused unerringly on the appalling consequences for the region's economy of the drought.

And arising from the concern expressed by businessmen was an appeal to the Government to complete the scheme to divert the water flow of the Orange River "as a matter of extreme urgency".

Delegates representing chambers of commerce from Mossel Bay, George, Knysna, Plettenberg Bay, Oudtshoorn, Grahamstown itself, East London, Graaff-Reinet and Port Elizabeth needed no reminding of the effects of the drought — savage water restrictions in Grahamstown have prompted hoteliers to display appeals for water conservation throughout hotels.

At Rhodes University, authorities were on the point of sending students home early as a water-saving measure, but opted instead for a temporary R15 increase in fees.

As it is, bathing is prohib-

ited and heavy fines are imposed for any student who showers for more than three minutes. Toilets are flushed only with recycled shower water.

Proposing the motion which urges the Government to proceed with the remainder of the Orange River Project, Grahamstown Chamber of Commerce representative Mr Tony Johnson said the tragic consequences of the drought could ill be afforded.

"This region, with good cause, has the highest priority in the search for decentralised development and I suggest that the question of water needs be examined in the context of that effort," he said.

"If it is true that country towns are greatly dependent on their hinterland — and ours is an agricultural hinterland — consider the impact of the development of irrigable land for agricultural production in this area where our prime products (wool and mohair), are exported today from the farms without really touching the local towns."

Mr Johnson said the Orange River project was bold and imaginative but because of pressure on State expenditure it had not been completed and the benefits of diverting water from the Orange River — presently flowing into the sea — into the Sundays and Fish rivers had accordingly not yet been realised.

Mr Solly Rubin, president of the Port Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce, argued that if funds could be found to search for oil then funds should be available to provide water — the lifeblood of industry and agriculture — to the areas where it was desperately

required.

Another member of the Port Elizabeth delegation, Mr Bill Gibson, said a message telexed to the congress by the Director-General of Environmental Affairs was revealing because it demonstrated the Government's thinking on the matter.

The message pointed out that the action called for had "a rather sweeping connotation, with astronomical financial implications".

But, Mr Gibson pointed out, "any investment made in the project would rapidly be recovered in the form of new jobs which it will cre-

ate and the increased economic activity in the area".

The congress adopted this motion:

"With due regard to the negative impact of the current drought on the rural areas of the Eastern Cape, and bearing in mind the key role played by agriculture in the economic development of the region, and the priority that the Government has placed on economic development in the area, this congress requests Government as a matter of extreme urgency to implement those phases of the Orange River Project which have an impact on Region D."

er than the rule.

Mr Nico Steytler senior lecturer in criminal law said the government's decision may have been a "totally litical one".

~~3~~ (3) General ~~67~~
Stockenström Coloured community
Hansard 10/6/83 Q. 61.1520-1521
3. Mr. E. K. MOORCROFT asked the
Minister of Community Development:

- (1) Whether alternative land for the Stockenström Coloured community has been found; if so, where; if not.
- (2) whether any progress is being made in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what progress;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?



1521

FRIDAY, 10

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(1), (2) and (3) This Department has not yet been approached to find an alternative area.

SLAUGHTER!

Soldiers shoot 67 000 donkeys

3 General
~~12/6/23~~
S Express
12/6/23

NEARLY all the donkeys in Bophuthatswana are to be shot — and the carcasses buried — because of the drought.

The donkeys will be shot by soldiers who will move from village to village. President Lucas Mangope told Bophuthatswana's Parliament in Mmabatho this week.

The mass slaughter of the donkeys was to save grazing for cattle, sheep and goats in the drought-stricken state, he said.

Mr Dawid Beuster, managing director of the Bophuthatswana Agricultural Development Corporation, said the corporation had tried in vain to sell the donkeys to canning factories for pet food — but this was uneconomic.

"Nobody eats donkey meat — the dead animals will be buried where they lie," he said.

By JEAN LE MAY

However, donkeys owned by people who depend on them for their livelihood or for transport will be spared.

"Such people should ask their chiefs to submit their names to the local magistrate, who will issue a permit — but they will need to have good and valid reasons for their animals to be reprieved," Chief Mangope said.

There are 67 947 donkeys in the country.

Mr E M Mokgoko, Minister of Agriculture, said yesterday that nobody would be allowed to keep more than four donkeys — and then only if it could be proved that the donkeys were necessary to make a living.

"They are useless animals — all they do is eat up the valuable and very scarce grazing," he added.

A trained 'transport' donkey changes hands in Bophuthatswana for up to R15 — but Mr Mokgoko said no compensation would be paid because only 'idle' donkeys would be shot.

Meanwhile, the drought in parts of Bophuthatswana is so severe that the Government has started a R42-million relief scheme to cut down stock losses.

But old Mr Isaac Molokwe, whom we met driving his donkey cart through the Leeunpoort area of Bophuthatswana this week, was shattered by the news that the donkeys would be shot.

"How will I make a living without my donkeys? I carry water for the whole village in my cart — and I can't afford to buy a bakkie," he said.

"The people will be very sad to lose their donkeys."

General Star

Delays to power cuts, some relief to farmers

Good rains, but too soft and not nearly enough

Widespread weekend rains which continued today brought a little relief to farmers, but for the rest of drought-hit South Africa it was not expected to have any significant effect on the water crisis.

Experts say sufficient rain may fall in the head waters of the Vaal River and various dams feeding power stations in the Eastern Transvaal to put back the threat of electricity rationing further.

The rain that has brought some relief to farmers could be followed by snow over high ground, the Weather Bureau said in Pretoria today.

But the weekend rain which has affected many parts of the country — falling heavily in the George and Mossel Bay area — is expected to start clearing by tomorrow (tue) and rather colder conditions can be expected over the interior over the next day or so.

The northern Free State also had good rains. But the PWV area was on the edge of the good rain area, said the weathermen.

The rains were caused by a trough of low pressure in the upper air over the western parts of the country, and a moist air flow from the Indian Ocean over the central and eastern parts of the country.

A Weather Bureau spokesman said the weekend rains were unusual for June and that with such occurrences South Africa could get snowfall over high lying areas such as the Drakensburg.

"Much of the rain activity is expected to be over by tomorrow except over the south eastern parts of the country as the weather system moves gradually in that direction," he said.

In the agricultural areas of the Eastern Transvaal and the maize triangle, enough rain has fallen in most areas for farmers to start winter ploughing for next year's crops, according to agricultural spokesman.

The sugar crop was likely to be saved.

Wheat farmers in the northern and eastern Free State say they are likely to get some benefit from the rainfall to enable them to start their ploughing. Bloemfontein had a soaking.

Chairman of the Rand Water Board (RWB), Mr Dale Hobbs, said: "I just hope it rains more. There's been very little so far."

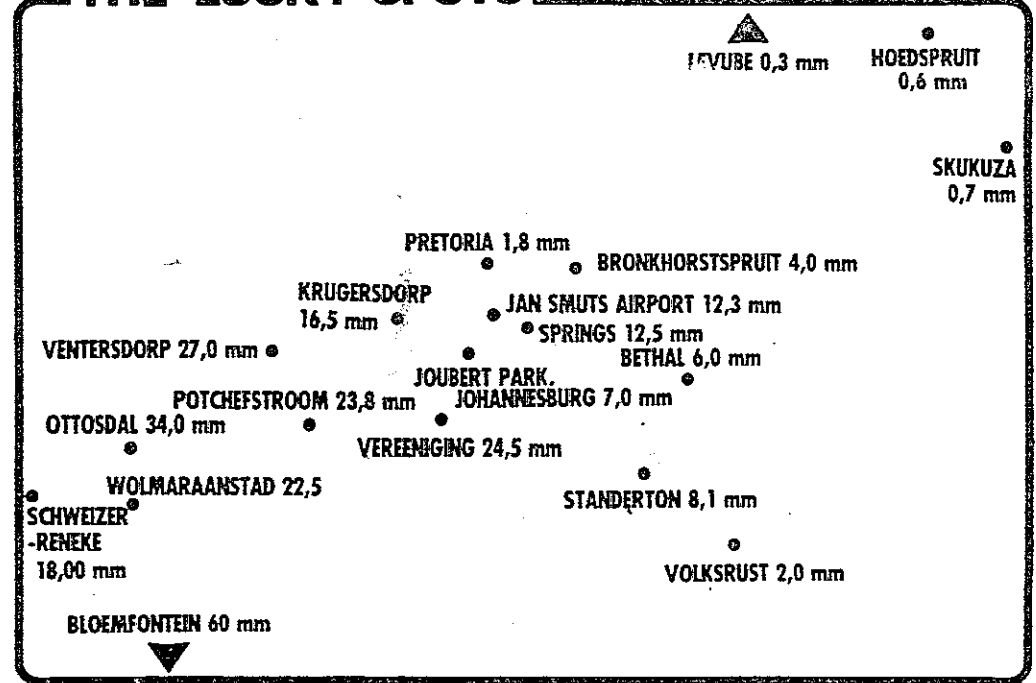
"We would need about 150 mm over the whole Vaal Dam catchment area to make any significant difference to our water crisis."

"This rain is not nearly enough to consider any relaxation of water restrictions."

Rain has been falling over parts of the Free State and Namibia since yesterday, according to reports.



THE LUCKY SPOTS



Memories ... in central Johannesburg the Schubert sisters, Ulrike and Renate, stand under a giant umbrella and consider the almost forgotten sight of rain. © Pictures by T. or Samson and Phil Little on.

Drought may start surge to the cities

6/11 ARGUS 11/6/83
3 Grant
[scribbles]

Weekend Argus Bureau

PORT ELIZABETH. — Top officials have warned that there is an imminent danger of an influx of drought-impooverished Ciskeians and Transkeians to South African cities, including Cape Town.

The chief director of the East Cape Administration Board, Mr Louis Koch, and the chief commissioner of the Department of Co-operation and Development in his area, Mr George Reynolds, echoed the stern warning by Mr Errol Moorcraft, PFP MP for Albany, in Parliament this week.

The jurisdiction of these officials includes the drought-stricken Border areas around East London, King William's Town and Queenstown.

Accelerated

"We will have to be alert for an accelerated urbanisation so that we can be prepared," Mr Koch said.

"I am not aware of a noticeable increased migration to cities, but this is definitely a reality we will have to look at."

A place were such a process was likely to manifest itself first was Mdantsane in Ciskei, on East London's doorstep.

It was difficult to measure such a migration, particularly as those entering areas illegally would attempt to do so unnoticed.

However, Administration Board inspectors in townships would soon realise if the number of people to a housing unit was changing drastically.

There would also probably be a significant increase in the number of people prosecuted under influx laws, but the urbanisation would also be from farms within South Africa to the cities.

One way of neutralising possible large-scale urbanisation because of the drought would be to remove the motivation for moving from drought-stricken areas by providing aid to reduce the effect of the drought, said Mr Koch.

Mr Reynolds agreed that it was likely that drought-stricken people would stream to cities to find an alternative income. "This will worsen our current housing problems considerably."

Mr Moorcraft said in an interview that his warning referred not only to the Eastern Cape, but also the Western Cape, Durban and the Pretoria/Witwatersrand/Vereeniging area.

Squatter camp

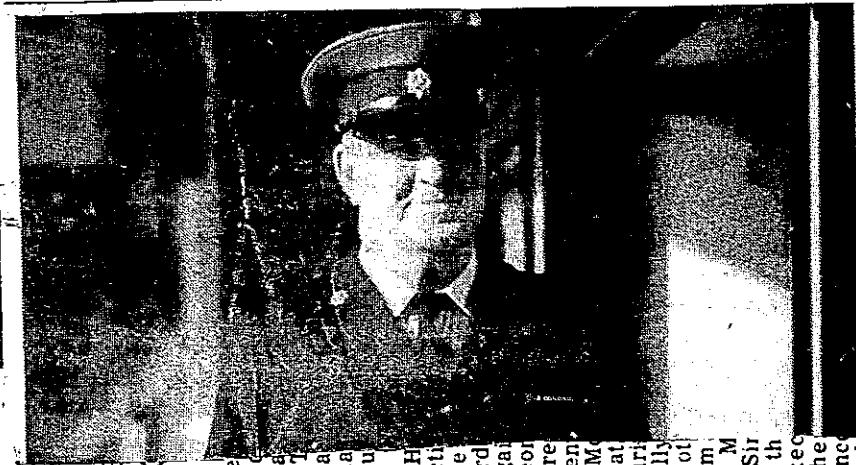
It was difficult to measure the degree of migration, but the Western Cape squatter camp populations were probably increased by the drought.

The Langa courts there were already working flat out to deal with the prosecutions for illegal entry into the area.

"One gets the feeling that squatting in Port Elizabeth has almost got out of hand. There appears to be a build-up of illegal people in cities."

Such an influx would also increase arrests for crime through desperation as unemployment was high and employers would be scared to provide work for those from other areas.

Asked to comment, Ciskeian Government officials said statistics on migration from rural areas were not available.



Feet on the beat that's 'Tiny' Strydom

By BRUCE HOPWOOD
Weekend Argus Reporter

WARRANT Officer "Tiny" Strydom has been walking the streets of Cape Town since 1947.

He is an old-fashioned bobby on the beat, and even after 36 years' duty at Caledon Square, Warrant Officer Strydom still prefers a foot patrol.

"All the skollies knew where me the 'oubaas van jare',"

It is not surprising that pleasant situations or ever while walking his beat. Junior police boxer strikes a darkened avenue.

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A comparison of opposites. A healthy two-year-old grasps the skeletal arm of kwashi baby Alpheus (2).

Homelands families will soon be starving

By Carolyn Dempster

Thousands of people have been driven to the brink of starvation in South Africa's drought-seared homelands, and the worst is yet to come.

This is the grim forecast of drought relief helpers, mission sisters and health workers in Lebowa — one of the areas hardest hit by the prolonged drought.

Families who have had to survive two years of dwindling crops and a meagre water supply have been virtually crippled by the third successive year without rain. May and June are normally the good months, but this year the villagers wonder if they will be able to survive until September.

Fields of desiccated, yellowing mealie stalks stand testimony to imminent famine, and even the carefully nurtured plots of wild spinach lie in withered ruins. Women and young children spend the greater part of the day fetching, carrying or waiting for water at small wells, springs or mission stations. Some have to walk up to 7 km just for one plastic barrelful — enough for a day.

Kwashiorkor, the "disease of the Third World", is rife, with children dying from malnutrition at the rate of one a week in Lebowa's Tholongwe district. An increase of between 20 to 30 percent of "kwashi cases" has been reported at clinics and hospitals, with the situation worsening daily.

At Jane Furse Hospital, near Groblersdal, acting superintendent Dr Peter Grant speaks of a kwashiorkor "epidemic". The flood of malnourished babies has swamped the children's ward at the hospital — the largest in the district, with four in a cot and two to a bed. The babies have to be discharged after a maximum of two weeks because of the urgent need for

WINTER OF '83

beds and treatment. "I have to send them back into the community, I have no choice," said the doctor. At the Helene Franz and Blaauwberg hospitals the sisters attempt to educate the mothers of "kwashi" babies, telling them what to feed the children on discharge. "But with eight or nine children in the family, any nutritional food the mother gets will be shared. We don't even know how many babies we have treated will die in a couple of months' time. Some just keep on coming back," said one of the sisters.

More than 14 000 children are already on a supplementary diet of milk and soup in a school feeding scheme instituted by Operation Hunger — a relief body attached to the South African Institute of Race Relations. But in the Matibeskraal region area alone it has been estimated that a further 4 000 families will need protein soups and food soon.

There are simply no statistics for other outlying villages situated too far away from government or church bodies for them to ascertain how bad things really are.

For the first time in years, hospitals are treating adults and adolescents suffering from pellagra — a condition caused by a vitamin B deficiency.

The symptoms are cracked and bleeding skin, a darkening of pigmentation and finally, in extreme cases, dementia.



FINANCE/STOCK EXCHANGE

Tongaat chief urges rural jobs scheme

ARGUS
15/6/83

3 copies

Handwritten notes:
Drought
15/6/83

THE Government and private enterprise should set up a vast scheme to provide work for the rural population on projects like building roads and dams, says Mr Chris Saunders, chairman of the Tongaat-Hulett group.

effect on the agricultural sector.

He says in the group's annual report this could prevent a large-scale drift to the towns as a result of the drought.

"Its continuation will exacerbate the situation, which will materially affect sectors of the economy not normally affected by the weather. Entire industries may be disrupted by electricity costs and water rationing.

Otherwise urban migration will increase to such an extent that the authorities could be hard pressed to deal with the resulting problems.

"The drought and its aftermath will accelerate the problems of unemployment and under-employment in rural subsistence economies.

"While winter rainfall might alleviate the critical water shortages in many parts of the country, the drought has already had a disastrous

"There is therefore an urgent need for relief employment schemes aided by the resources of the relevant government departments and private enterprise, whereby rural rehabilitation and development can be accelerated."

TWO PROJECTS

Tongaat-Hulett, which employs more than 47 000 people, will itself go ahead with two major construction projects, a R175-million sugar mill on the Natal north coast and a R30-million brick factory near Pretoria.

This is in spite of the fact that Mr Saunders foresees a fall in profits this year.

The group's pre-tax profit was R87,4-million in the year to March. Sugar accounted for 28,4 percent of this.

Earnings were 116,1c a share and the total dividend is 58c a share. No comparison is possible because these are the first results since the Tongaat-Hulett merger.

Audrey d'Angelo



The search for water goes on as villagers dig in the clay soil where they are certain there is water.

By Carolyn Dempster

"It's the old story of Africa. Witchcraft, water-holes and back to survival," said one of our party as we watched the women dig for water.

The ravages of the worst drought South Africa has experienced in 35 years are easily apparent in the Northern Transvaal. Off the tar road and into the homelands every figure that sways into vision through the haze of choking dust is preoccupied with obtaining the most precious of all liquids — water.

Large plastic containers or five-litre paint tins are the most popular form of receptacle. Balanced carefully atop bobbing, smiling faces, at first it seems as if the entire population is container crazy and on the move.

There is an air of gaiety among most. The women smile and chatter as they sit waiting their turn at the well or water-hole tap for three or five hours before they walk the seven-odd kilometres back home.

Quest for water is the daily obsession

WINTER OF '83

They have not yet allowed themselves to slip into the lethargy of desperation, but there are no boreholes, the rivers have disappeared into the sand and the springs and wells have dried up.

Against the mountainous backdrop of the Wolkberg we came across a group of old women and young children hoeing a hole. Next to them a strange structure of thorn bushes encircled a depression, which, through the wooden bars of a padlocked gate, we could see contained muddy water. This water belonged to another village, but since there was water there they were digging in the

hope that they, too, would strike it lucky, they explained. The thorn bushes were to keep the animals and other villagers away.

And yet the tragic irony of the water shortage is that while Lebowa is slowly shrivelling up and dying in the drought, the sprinklers at the University of the North — fed by a borehole — continue to rotate slowly on the university's golf course. In the afternoon the villagers gather at the perimeter of the course, waiting for the groundsmen to leave. Then, they hurdle the fence and fill their buckets from the sprinklers, says Mrs Ina Perlman, director of Operation

Hunger, who witnessed this phenomenon during one of her regular trips to the area.

In Pietersburg the townsfolk have not really felt the pinch of the drought yet. They are supplied with water from the Ebenezer Dam which, according to reports, is still 84 percent full. It is tragic that the pipeline which runs through the arid Lebowa homeland cannot be tapped by the people who need it most. Only one enterprising citizen has discovered that somewhere along the line there is a leak, so he filches water by night and sells it by day — at R1,50 a barrel to the schools and villages.

It's not yet as bad as it could be. A heavy shower in April filled the few dams and depressions, so most of the population can still get water of some kind. But the months ahead hold no promise and unless boreholes are sunk and pumping schemes are initiated now, hundreds will stream into the cities in search of food and water in the months ahead.

Oil firm launches drought fund

A large South African oil company, Total, has created a drought relief fund to help the agricultural sector.

Total's executive chairman, Mr Alphonso Hough, said his company's contribution to the fund would be more than R300 000.

It will be administered by the various regional agricultural unions "on a

basis which is proportional to the turnover which Total enjoys in each region.

"The fund will get a portion of the income our company derives from fuel sales to the agricultural sector. The idea is based on the levy concept which will be paid voluntarily by the supplier of goods and services to agriculture," Mr Hough said.

- (2) whether the public servants concerned were transferred with retention of status; if not, why not?

†The MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes.
- (a) Mr. V. V. Smith.
- (b) 2 years and 6 months.
- (c) Magistrate, Louis Trichardt.
- (d) (i) Magistrate's Office, Newcastle; and
- (ii) for the reasons mentioned in section 13(1) of the *Public Service Act, 1957* (Act 54 of 1957).
- (e) None.

(2) Yes.

Handwritten: 340 282, Howard 15/6/83, Port Alfred, Q. 61. 1543
 Mr. E. K. MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:

- (1) Whether there is street lighting in the Black township of Port Alfred; if so, how many street lights are there;
- (2) whether a charge is levied for street lighting in the township; if so, what is the charge?

The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

- (1) There are no street lights in the Black township of Port Alfred.
- (2) No charge is levied in respect of street lighting.

Handwritten: 220 104, Howard 15/6/83, Matoks/Ramagoep area, Q. 61. 1543 - 1545
 S. Dr. W. J. SNYMAN asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:†

- (1) Whether the State took a decision in

1975 on proposals in regard to the Matoks/Ramagoep area becoming a White area; if so.

- (2) whether compensatory land was bought north of Blouberg in respect of the above-mentioned area;
- (3) whether the farms or portions of the farms Auf Der Haard, Ganspan, Fritchley, Eyam, Alfred, Wentworth, Terveen, Ysselmonde, Rosyth, Louisiana and Crieff have been deproclaimed as White areas since 1975; if so, when in each case;
- (4) whether this decision has since been amended; if so, (a) when and (b) what is the purport of the amended decision?

†The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

- (1) No. A decision was taken by Parliament during 1973 that the Matok/Ramagoep area be deproclaimed and that the residents be resettled.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) With exception of the farms Ysselmonde, Crieff and Terveen the other farms and portions of the farms concerned were deproclaimed on 24 September 1982 by Proclamation 186/1982.
- (4) Yes.
- (a) On 17 March 1983.
- (b) That the farms and portions of the farms situated north of Blouberg which were deproclaimed by Proclamation 186/1982 be retained as a Black area and that the farms Buiksloot, Vlieland, Ameland and the Remainder of the farm Urk also be deproclaimed in order to create a better economic viable area at Vivo.

†Dr. W. J. SNYMAN: Mr. Speaker, arising

ing out of the hon. the Minister's reply, does he therefore agree that, as it was originally put to the farmers, all the land which was bought as compensatory land for Matoks and Ramagoep will therefore not become White land again?

†The MINISTER: Mr. Speaker, I really do not want to enter into a dispute about this with the hon. member now. If he is interested in it, the opportunity for that can be created. If he has any more questions about this, he is welcome to put them directly to me.

Handwritten: Dendron/Vivo area, 15/6/83 Q. 61. 1545
 Dr. W. J. SNYMAN asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:†

Whether farms in the Dendron/Vivo area have been made available for leasing to White farmers; if so, what is the total area of the farms?

†The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

Yes—54 863 hectares.

Handwritten: Howard 15/6/83, Atomic Energy Corporation, Q. 61. 1545 - 1547
 Mr. D. J. N. MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs:

- (1) Whether the Atomic Energy Corporation or any subsidiary of this Corporation (a) acquired shares in, (b) loaned money to, (c) made payments in advance to or (d) transferred money in any other manner to certain companies, the names of which have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply; if so, (i) what total amount of money was involved and (ii) what (aa) was the purpose and (bb) were the terms and conditions of these transactions;
- (2) whether any repurchase option was given to the original owner or principal shareholder in each case; if so, who are these persons;

(3) whether he will furnish the House with the names of these companies;

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS:

- (1) (a) Yes.
- (b) No.
- (c) No.
- (d) No.

(i) The total purchase price was R4 million of which R2 million is still held in trust.

(ii) (aa) The purpose of the transaction was to ensure the timely manufacture of certain high precision and critical equipment for the AFC and its subsidiaries.

(bb) The main terms and conditions were that the AFC obtain total financial control and management of the group at minimum cost to the AFC. The R2 million which has been paid thus far, has not been paid to the seller directly but has been used on his behalf to finance the group of companies.

(2) and (3) The original chief shareholder was given an option, which will expire within 5 years, to repurchase the shares at the purchase price paid by the AFC plus interest calculated at prime bank overdraft rates. If the option is not exercised the AFC can dispose of the assets as it sees fit.

As in the case of any other supplier to the AFC, it is not considered to be

to the scheme. We are installing terminals as fast as possible, and as soon as that has been completed we will launch a further publicity campaign.

Post Office savings bank accounts

*8. Mr. P. G. SOAL asked the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications:

- (a) How many Post Office savings bank accounts had been opened as at the latest specified date for which figures are available and (b) what was the total amount invested in such accounts at the end of each of the latest specified 12 months for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS:

(a) 2 564 645 as at 30 April 1983; and

(b) Month	Amount
May 1982	R273 073 869.41;
June 1982	R273 187 980.59;
July 1982	R274 230 778.74;
August 1982	R275 332 848.24;
September 1982	R279 664 622.39;
October 1982	R282 531 518.30;
November 1982	R282 310 310.55;
December 1982	R281 117 291.95;
January 1983	R280 640 741.95;
February 1983	R280 734 161.46;
March 1983	R303 369 351.66;
	and
April 1983	R307 801 818.65.

NOTE: The information covers only the ordinary savings accounts and not also the electronically operated savings accounts of the Post Office Savings Bank, known as Telebank, or Post Office Savings Bank Certificates. Details in respect of Telebank accounts were given in reply to the previous question. As regards Savings Bank Certificates, I may men-

tion that there are 126 730 certificate accounts in which a total of R847 555 800 was invested at the end of April this year.

Handwritten: Hazard 17/6/83
Positioning of trunk road

*9. Mr. P. R. C. ROGERS asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

- (1) Whether any members of his Department had consultations with officials of any department of the Cape Provincial Administration or any other Government departments on the (a) positioning and (b) final decision in respect of the positioning of the trunk road through the farm Haddon, situated in the magisterial district of King William's Town; if so, (i) why, (ii) what (aa) department of the Cape Provincial Administration was and (bb) other Government departments were consulted, (iii) what were the recommendations of the other government departments, (iv)(aa) when did the consultations take place, (bb) who was present at them and (cc) how long did they last and (v) on what grounds was the decision in respect of the final positioning of the road taken;
- (2) whether the consultations were conducted on site; if not, where were they conducted;
- (3) whether his department supported the final decision in respect of the positioning of the trunk road; if not, why not;
- (4) whether his department had the final say in respect of the positioning of this trunk road; if not, which authority or authorities had the final say in this regard?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

(1) (a) and (b) Yes, the Department was consulted by the Roads Department of the Cape Provincial Administration on the positioning of the trunk road between East London and Stutterheim through the farm Haddon.

(i) The Department is consulted from time to time on the alignment of major roads by the Cape Provincial Administration.

(ii) (aa) and (bb) None, as other authorities concerned are consulted by the Roads Department.

(iii) Falls away.

(iv) (aa) Correspondence on the matter was conducted during July 1982 and February 1983.

(bb) and (cc) Fall away.

(v) The final decision was taken by the Administrator-in-Executive Committee.

(2) The Department was only approached in writing and was not involved in any meeting or consultation on site or discussion of the matter anywhere else.

(3) Yes.

(4) No, the Administrator of the Cape Province has the final say in this regard.

Positioning of roads

*10. Mr. P. R. C. ROGERS asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

(1) Whether his Department has the final say in respect of the positioning of roads involving boundaries with (a)

national states and (b) independent Black states; if not, which authority or authorities have the final say in this regard;

(2) whether his Department (a) is consulted and (b) has to decide on the positioning of any other roads in the Republic; if so, what types of roads in each case?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

(1) (a) and (b) No. The positioning of roads within the various national states and independent states is the responsibility of the respective Governments. The demarcation of boundaries, in the final instance, is subject to Parliamentary approval.

(2) (a) Yes. The Department is consulted regularly on the positioning of main and trunk roads.

(b) No.

Handwritten: General Hazard
Stockenström
17/6/83 Q.61.1594 - 1597

*11. Mr. E. K. MOORE ROFT asked the Minister of Internal Affairs:

(1) Whether he or any member of his Department received a memorandum from the Coloured community of Stockenström dated 10 November 1981; if so, (a) when and (b) what was the purport thereof.

(2) whether he or any member of his Department replied to or acknowledged receipt of this memorandum; if so, (a) who and (b) when;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS (Reply laid upon the Table with leave of House):

- (1) (a) and (b) Yes, my predecessor received a memorandum dated 10 November 1981 from a Mr. D. F. N. Bailey and a Mr. W. H. S. Loots on behalf of the "Katrivier-Kleurlinggemeenskap in die Stockenström-Area" on 16 November 1981. The memorandum contains a historical background of the settlement of Coloureds in the area during the 19th century and thereafter. It also asks that they be allowed to remain in the area and by implication that the area should not be included in the Ciskei, and if this was not possible, for the community to be given land in another Rural Coloured Area. My predecessor was also asked to receive a deputation.
- (2) Yes.
- (a) The Administrative Secretary of my predecessor acknowledged receipt and my predecessor also wrote to Mr. Bailey on two occasions.
- (b) On 18 November 1981, 29 December 1981 and 16 March 1982, respectively.
- (3) The hon. member's specific reference to the memorandum enabled the Department and myself to trace facts that make a correction to my written reply to the hon. member's question No. 530 necessary. As will appear from (1) above the memorandum did contain a request for alternative land, albeit a request for land in a specific kind of area. When replying to the hon. member's question No. 530 neither I nor the Department identified this request. While apologizing for unknowingly having given the hon. member what now appears to have been incorrect information, I must add that over the years there may of course also have been other

requests amounting to approaches to the Department for alternative land or accommodation, as, according to the memorandum, the compilers thereof have been submitting memorandums since 1958: I presume on various matters and to different departments and authorities.

The Department of Internal Affairs is not involved in the resettlement of communities but can, where necessary, assist resettled persons under its welfare and farmer assistance schemes. It also assists Coloured communities in negotiating with other government agencies or bodies and in the handling of various public and private difficulties. In this sense officials of the Department are in regular contact with the Katrivier community. It was of course not possible to give them land in another Rural Coloured Area as occupation and ownership of land in those areas are regulated by the Rural Coloured Areas Law of the Coloured Representative Council (Law 1 of 1979). My predecessor's eventual response to the request for an interview was that it should stand over until more clarity could be obtained about certain aspects, these being especially land ownership and the people involved therein. The Department has since and is still assisting the community and the Department of Co-operation and Development which is primarily concerned with the matter, with the tracing of land owners and their title deeds.

Stockenström

*12. Mr. E. K. MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Community Development:

Whether a decision has been taken by his Department to resettle the Coloured community of Stockenström; if so, (a) when and (b) where will this community be resettled?

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

No, the hon. member is referred to my reply to Question 3 of 10 June 1983.

(3) General H. ...
Dendron Vivo area
5/6/83 Q. Co. 1545
*Dr. W. J. SNYMAN asked the Minister
of Co-operation and Development.*

Whether farms in the Dendron Vivo
area have been made available for leasing
to White farmers; if so, what is the total
area of the farms?

*The MINISTER OF CO-OPERATION
AND DEVELOPMENT:

Yes—54 863 hectares.

B General

R.B.

A kwashiorkor baby is 'blessing' to drought family

By Carolyn Dempster

To have a kwashiorkor baby in the family is considered a blessing in disguise by the mothers of Lebowa.

Because when the small undernourished child returns from hospital, the packets of skim milk and protein-enriched food the authorities provide for it will be shared by the whole family.

But drought has not yet reaped its full toll in the arid and rocky homeland.

Although the number of kwashiorkor cases has almost doubled at Jane Furse Hospital in south-east Lebowa and a child a week dies in the Tholongwe area, this is just the thin end of the wedge.

"We used to have

maybe five or six deaths a year from kwashi in this area," said Sister Francesca Sehone, the sister in charge of the Subiaco Clinic in Tholongwe.

"Now we are seeing a death a week — and May and June are normally the good months."

A survey by health workers attached to Jane Furse found that in three large villages, 25 percent of the population does not have any resources to buy food - even taking into account migrant labour wages.

"It's absolutely tragic," commented Mrs Ina Perlman, director of Operation Hunger.

"When you consider that rural poverty is the norm with 2,9 million children under the age of 15 suffering from malnu-

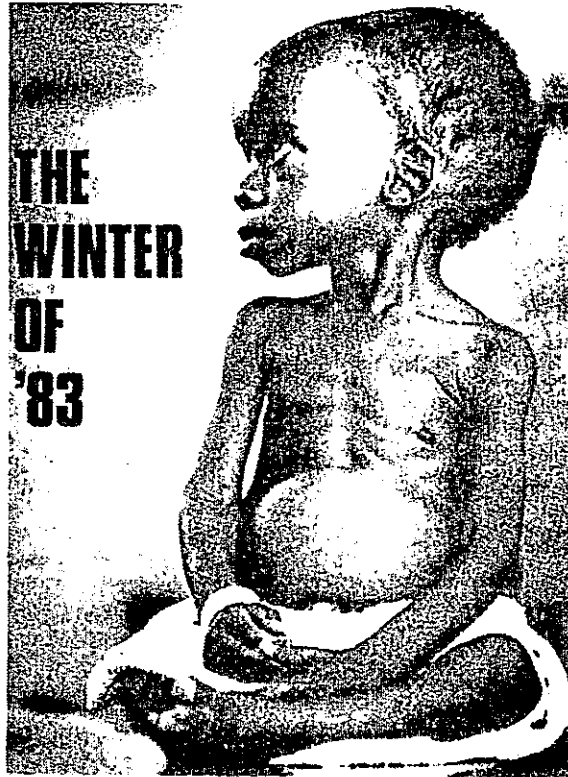
trition you can't imagine what the drought will do."

At the Helene Franz Hospital near Bochum the children sit huddled in blankets, four to a cot, peering passively at the strange faces around them.

Their hair has lost its characteristic tight black curl and lies in tufts of soft down. The arms and legs are either emaciated or swollen and cracked, veins distended over swollen abdomens with protruding bellybuttons.

Many cough spasmodically. Once their resistance has been lowered they are easy prey to any disease that might sweep through the community - whooping cough or measles could be a killer.

But possibly the worst sight at Helene Franz are



the pellagra cases.

On the green lawn in front of the hospital a woman of about 20 sat idly picking the hem of her dress. Her skin was darkened almost to the point of complete blackness, a vacant smile on her face.

"She has pellagra, but it is already too late because she is slightly

mad," said one of the sisters.

The incidence of pellagra, a condition caused by a vitamin B deficiency, has rocketed in Lebowa - and this can be directly related to the drought and the deprivation it has caused, say the doctors and health workers.

Pupil drive raises R6 500 for hungry

By Carolyn Dempster

It took just eight days for the Standard 9 pupils at Lenasia High School to raise R6 500 for Operation Hunger, the relief organisation which will be supplying essential food to drought-hit rural families this winter.

The decision to do something positive about the drought was taken when the students saw newspaper articles about the starving children in the Northern Transvaal and Natal homelands.

"Immediately the pupils started a fund-raising drive," said Mr Bashir Patel, the class teacher. A film show was held at the school and the student body was 'taxed' R1 a pupil, with an initial R1000 to launch the campaign. "Once the parents heard about the drive, they gave generously. It is a worthy cause," added Mr Patel.

The cheque was handed over to Mrs Ina Perlman, director of Operation Hunger, this month by representatives of Standard 9 at a ceremony at the school.

Operation Hunger has received donations totalling R171 000 since the effects of the drought were first highlighted in earnest in the Press. This excludes the Checkers food donation campaign and the mealie meal donation to the value of R100 000 made by Tiger Oats and National Milling.

However, Mrs Perlman has a word of advice for potential fund-raisers. "If people intend to raise money for Operation Hunger, they must have an authorised certificate from us in terms of the Fundraising Act."

Mrs Perlman can be contacted at 724-4441.

THURSDAY, 16 JUNE 1983

† Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

3 General D. Col. 1579 -
Drought relief scheme 1582
16/6/83

901. Mr. P. R. C. ROGERS asked the Minister of Agriculture:

Which (a) stock feeds and (b) supplements qualify for (i) rebates, (ii) loans and (iii) subsidies in terms of the new drought relief scheme?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(a) Stock feeds →

(b) Supplement (Stock Licks)

(i) Rebates

Manufacturers	Lick	Reg. No.	
Voermol	Super 18	V 355	
	Weimol	V 1514	
	20 Molasses meal	V 1995	
	Molasses	V 2141	
	Protomol	V 2142	
	Molasses meal	V 2583	
	L.S. 33	V 2678	
	Block	V 4172	
	L.S. 45	V 5427	
	Winslek	V 7038	
	Molovite	V 7266	
	Supermol	V 7267	
	Rumevite	Cattleblock	V 2361
		Production lick	V 2437
Sheepblock		V 2627	
Econo lick		V 4592	
Seasalt		V 5530	
Pansalt		V 5603	
Maintenance lick		V 5806	
Sheep lick		V 5808	
Sheep and Wool lick		V 7106	
Epol		Weaner lick	V 110
	Cattle lick	V 148	
	Summer lick	V 2349	

(i) Rebates—Natural hayfeeds

Maize hay/cowpea hay/sorghum hay/miscellaneous bean residues/cotton residues/cane residues/ground maize residues.

Whole maize;
Maize meal;
Drought granuals (pellets);
Lucerne pellets;
Ground Lucerne;
Lupinseed;
Molasses (including caustic soda);
Registered stock licks;
Oil cakes;
Voermol Rukor V 4499;
Sterilized chicken manure.

(ii) Loans: The same as (a)(i).

(iii) Subsidies: The same as (a)(i).

Manufacturers	Lick	Reg. No
Eastern Cape	Winter lick sourveld	V 5540
	Winter lick sweetveld	V 5541
	Sheep lick	V 7555
	Drought ration	V 7556
Central Co-op Veekos	Grasveldlek	V 2792
	Bossieveldlek	V 2793
	Energy lick	V 3083
Kynoch	Promin voermielie	V 7607
	Complete mixed protein lick	V 7576
	Energy lick	V 8182
Northern Transvaal Co-op (NTC)	Winter lick	V 2058
	Energy lick	V 4273
	Oorlewingslek	V 8033
Westra Industries (Westra)	Winter lick	V 3912
	Complete mineral Sheep lick	V 5592
Bergpan Salt Works	2nd Grade Cattle salt	V 2286
Bloemhof Salt and Chemical	1st Grade Cattle salt	V 4997
Eastern Transvaal Co-op	Beesonderhoudslek	V 7622
	Skaaponderhoudslek	V 7623
Louis Trichardt Mills	High energy summer lick	V 5021
	Winter lick	V 4163
Nola Industries	Revo completely mixed ruminant lick	V 4423
	Wool Sheep lick	V 6077
Delmas Milling	Vita-pro 45	V 7328
	Vita-pro 35	V 7330
	Vita-pro 38	V 7331
	Vita-pro 25	V 7332
	Wool Sheep lick	V 7530
3X Voere	Winter lick	V 8128
	Karoo Energy lick	V 8224

(ii) Loans: The same as (b)(i)

(iii) Subsidies: The same as (b)(i)

(3) General
Apr 16/6/83

Is little jojoba a big investment?

It has been called a little wonder bean — an all-purpose product that could save the sperm whale from extinction.

The jojoba (pronounced hohoba) bean produces an oil and its promoters claim it can be used as a substitute for sperm whale oil.

The marketers of jojoba beans say there is worldwide demand for the product and that a litre is worth at least R20.

South Africans are being offered the chance to invest in a number of jojoba farms.

Duineveld Jojoba is marketing 250 sq m lots for R1 300 (R325 deposit and R40 a month).

Risk is high, warns Pretoria researcher

The Research Institute for Horticulture in Roodeplaat, Pretoria, warns that the production of jojoba oil in South Africa should be seen as a high-risk venture.

Dr J T Meynhardt, deputy director of the institute, writes in a Department of Agriculture newsletter that too little is known about the suitability and potential of growing jojoba beans in South Africa.

The beans are not regarded as an agricultural crop. They are planted from "wild" seeds as no tested and cultivated plants are available.

Many of the farm investment schemes are in the south-western Cape.

"But although the climate is acceptable, much of the soil in this region is sandy and not suitable for jojoba production."

Dr Meynhardt also questions the claim that jojoba

The investor does not buy the land and does not own any shares — he is merely entitled to the profits of the 47 bushes planted on a particular area of the farm.

The company promises to cultivate, maintain and process the jojoba for no further charge for the first six years.

After six years, when the jojoba plants begin to produce a profitable crop, the company is entitled to charge investors a maintenance fee.

Investors are told to expect their first return in the fourth year and after 12 years, when the plants are fully developed, they are promised a minimum of R750 each

year for an initial investment of R1 300.

The agreement the investor signs does not guarantee a minimum return or profit.

The contract states that after six years Duineveld Jojoba will continue to manage and maintain the farm at the "purchaser's expense". No figure is specified and the investor has no say over what makes up company expenses.

Investors are also given the right to maintain, process and sell the beans themselves, if this is their choice.

Is there any chance that Duineveld, like some of the earlier farm investment schemes, could be over-optimistic about the projected profits?

Mr Malcolm Anderson, an investment adviser employed by Duineveld, said:

"We promise investors a return based on one fifth of the current world price, assuming that only half the crops bear fruit."

Mr Anderson is an independent consultant hired to market the scheme.

There were three

Farm investment companies market a variety of unusual products but most use the same method to obtain money for their schemes. Salesmen encourage investors to buy rights in the company in return for attractive profits. In the fourth and final part of our series, Consumer Reporter COLLEEN RYAN investigates a company that sells jojoba beans.

directors who owned 30 percent of the rights in Duineveld, said Mr Anderson — who is also a big investor in the farm.

Mr Anderson said the farm management periodically invited overseas experts to visit the farm to give advice and observe progress.

He said a professor from Stellenbosch University also visited the farm regularly to "advise us".

The Star checked with the university and the professor Mr Anderson named said he had visited the farm only once.

"I do not want to be involved with this. I gave them advice just as I would to anyone who requested it," he said.

When The Star contacted the company again to

clarify this point, the managing director of Duineveld, Mr Barry Launspach, confirmed the professor had visited the farm only once.

Mr Anderson has an unusual method of marketing the jojoba scheme. He provides potential investors with copies of articles written on jojoba beans and the Duineveld project.

"We prefer to use documentation from independent bodies — we have to be able to prove everything we say," he said.

Some of the articles state that jojoba oil can be used as a lubricant in car engines. Two of the reports said Duineveld intended to send samples to the Automobile Association for tests. Was this ever done?

"There was discussion

on this, but I don't think we did have AA tests done," said Mr Anderson.

Is the farm project affected by the drought?

Mr Anderson said water was not a problem for the company.

"Jojoba plants can go for a year without water, so we are unaffected by the drought. Plant seedlings are watered by tankers during the first two years."

Another possible drawback is that investors may not re-sell their rights without the permission of the company.

Mr Anderson said the company would re-sell the rights for investors, but only after all plots had been sold.

There were 1 000 ha for cultivation and 300 ha had still to be planted and marketed, he said.

19645 23/6/83
36440

W Cape outrage at Govt's maize policy

Staff Reporter

WESTERN Cape farming and business interests today expressed outrage at Government policy which prevented local consumers enjoying the benefits of maize landed in Table Bay.

"We are being made to pay for the drought up north," said Mr Gert Bosch, secretary of the Western Cape Agricultural Union.

FIRST BATCH

This follows confirmation in Parliament yesterday by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, that Western Cape consumers would have to pay the same price for imported maize, landed at their doorstep, that they paid for maize from the interior of South Africa.

The price paid for interior maize is R170 a ton plus between R30 and R40 for railage costs.

The first batch of im-

ported maize landed in Cape Town last week cost R172 a ton. Railage costs would be much lower due to shorter distances.

The second consignment to be landed shortly will cost the Maize Board only R160 a ton.

Mr Philip Myburgh, the deputy Opposition spokesman on agriculture, said the price of imported maize could drop to as little as R151 a ton.

He said local farmers could have saved between R10 and R20 a ton on the first consignment if they had been given the advantage of their close proximity to the harbour.

This advantage would have increased by another R10 a ton for the second load.

He said the fact that local consumers would not benefit was unfair to the Western Cape, which depended on maize for

milk and meat production.

Western Cape agricultural interests recently sent a delegation to the Minister and the Maize Board, and there was great dissatisfaction at the reply they received.

OFFSETTING

Mr Myburgh said the Maize Board profit on imported maize was offsetting the loss caused by the poor crop due to the serious drought in the interior. This meant Western Cape consumers were effectively paying for the drought.

Mr Brian McLeod, the director of the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce, said the Western Cape was in a no-win situation.

"If we have to pay railage for maize from the Transvaal and Free State, should we have to do the same when the maize is landed right here?" he said.

Drought forces trek of workers from the Karoo

Cape Times 17/6/83 36 General

Own Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH. — The central Karoo's crippling drought and the onset of winter are making Beaufort West, the largest town in the area, a "mecca" for poverty-stricken farm labourers who are trekking along major trunk and dirt roads in caravans of donkey carts loaded with families, furniture, poultry and other possessions.



Still only 25 years old, Mr Schalk Frieslaar has trekked through the Karoo from Rooipoort, Sterkfontein, Murraysburg, Waaifontein, Soutpoort, Fraserburg, Brandfontein, Oppermanskraal, Victoria West, and Nelspoort.

The "trek" labour exodus from major towns like Carnarvon, Murraysburg, Victoria West, Fraserburg, Prince Alfred Road, Laingsburg and Loxton (areas called the Nuweveld in the north and the Koup in the south) is not unusual, but this year's disastrous drought, said to be one of the worst in history, and the already freezing cold weather in the Nuweveld, Sneeu-berg and Winterberg mountain ranges, are driving entire families towards Beaufort West.

Snow peril

According to Mr Solly Essop, chairman of the Karoo Farm Workers' Union, if it now snowed in Karoo's mountainous regions "many will perish in the mountains".

"There is not much work in Karoo towns any more because of the crippling drought, and coloured labourers are trekking into our area by the thousands," said Mr Essop, a Beaufort West businessman and former member of the old Coloured Representative Council (CRC).

'Willing hand'

"Already about 30 to 40 families are outspanned near Nelspoort, about 60 kms from Beaufort West. Schools, churches, town and divisional councils, white farmers' unions and co-operatives, farmers themselves and shopkeepers are giving a willing and helping hand, while the Department of Internal Affairs has sent many social workers and other staff into the field to assist these desperate and illiterate people.



Rev George de Vos, Nelspoort's church minister, with the Karoo's 'trek' children.



Mr Pieter Lund, chairman of the Beaufort West Farmers' Union and a member of the area's Koup Divisional Council, confirmed "conditions can become critical".

'Survey'

"However, we have all put our heads together and believe through a spot-check survey employment for these luckless north and central Karoo trek-labourers exists in the Merweville and Leeu-Gamka areas to the east," said Mr Lund.

"But we doubt these people will be keen to make the trek to these areas because they are traditionally not from that part of South Africa. If they now have to live by trapping hares, dassies and other small game with outmoded snares, then they must really be going through bad times."

MORE AID FOR FARMERS

FM 17/6/83

3
GONELQ
The government is expected to give farmers another R50m/year in drought relief. The R150m granted three months ago, according to industry sources, is already looking inadequate.

An SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) working committee has sent new proposals to the Ministers of Finance and Agriculture. If approved by the ministers' advisory body, the Jacobs Committee, the suggestions could be implemented as early as next week.

SAAU chief economist Johan Willemse says the proposals include interest rate relief, production credit and water provision. He will say no more until the measures have been passed, but says they should greatly increase the scope of initial R150m drought aid introduced in March.

Willemse says it soon became apparent that the assistance would not be sufficient to keep farmers on the land. "Surveys showed considerable deterioration in the financial position of agricultural producers," he says.

For example, summer grain crops like maize and sunflowers totalled 16 Mt in the 1980-1981 season, but will probably weigh in at only 4,8 Mt in 1982-1983. In cash terms that will mean a fall from R2 046m to R853m.

Carry-over debts to co-operatives ran to R370m in 1982 and will probably reach R896m this year.

"Such losses forced agriculture to ask for more aid," says SAAU president Jaap Wilkens. "But we are continuing to look at long-term measures to place agriculture on a sound economic basis."

Drought

W/E ARGUS 18/6/83

dries up

3 General

SA's lever

of power

Weekend Argus Reporter

ONE of South Africa's most important levers of power in Africa — the largely hidden export of food to countries as far north as Nigeria and Zaire — has dried up in the drought and the political and strategic consequences could be enormous.

Many of the African countries have been forced into long-term contracts for the supply of food from other countries. Even if the drought were to break soon, South Africa would be unlikely to regain its lost influence and trade for years to come.

The total value of exports to Africa before the drought was some R1,52-billion a year, of which about 20 percent was made up of food. But annual trade with Africa is now down to about R890-million, although part of this decline has been caused by the recession in most of sub-Saharan Africa.

An official of the National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo) said today that all maize export contracts, including those with African countries, had been summarily cancelled because of the drought.

Normally, he said, South Africa exported between three and five million tons of maize a year, but now probably would have to import two-and-a-half million tons before next May just to satisfy domestic demand.

"Our exports to Africa have simply dried up and it will be years before we can recover our lost position. Many countries, including the United States, are stepping into our African markets and signing up long-term contracts.

"They operate on the basis of giving African countries long-term, low-interest loans which are tied to the purchase of maize and other agricultural products. In some cases the Americans seem to be subsidising their farmers by simply giving African countries grants with which to purchase US maize."

The spokesman estimated that by the end of August, maize farmers will have debts to co-operatives alone of about R1 000-million. "They face ruin. It's as serious as that. It is going to take the country a long time to get back to normal. And if farmers continue to leave the land or sell up at the present rate we will probably never get back to the point where we were exporting 5-million tons a year."

According to the American financial publication Business Week, South Africa is also importing wheat, oilseeds, soybeans and groundnuts — all products normally exported. And in a report it says the butter and meat exported to Zaire might also be affected by the drought.

This week the South African Sugar Association warned that because of the drought the country might not be able to meet its export quota of 850 000 tons granted in terms of the International Sugar Agreement.

Since international export quotas are granted on the basis of production, South Africa's share of the international market could be cut back proportionately for years to come.

This week a cutback came a step closer when the first sugar imports were offloaded at South African ports to make up a domestic shortfall.

Some African countries are reported to have signed long-term sugar agreements with Cuba, one of the largest communist producers, because their regular supplies have been cut by the drought.

General S. Express 19/6/83

No reprieve for 'surplus' donkeys

By JEAN LE MAY

THE donkey massacre in Bophuthatswana is still on, but some animals may get a reprieve.

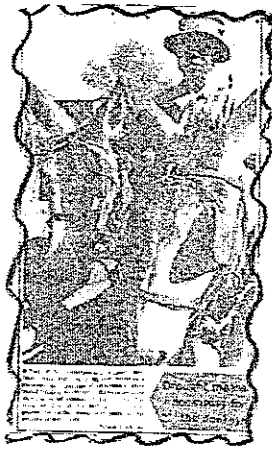
The Minister of Agriculture, Mr E M Mokgoko, has disclosed that a survey of surplus animals is underway, which means that thousands of donkeys may be saved after all.

But he made it clear there would be no reprieve for 'surplus' donkeys. They will be shot.

The Sunday Express reported last week that most of the 67 000-plus donkeys in the drought-stricken state were to be shot to save valuable grazing for other livestock.

People who relied on the animals for a livelihood would be able to obtain permits to keep them, President Lucas Mangope told the Bophuthatswana parliament.

Reacting to a comment by



● FLASHBACK ... last week's Express picture.

Mr Dawid Beuster, chairman of the Agricultural Development Corporation, that the report on the donkey shooting was 'absolute nonsense'. Mr Mokgoko said:

"Mr Beuster cannot overturn a decision made by the

chiefs of Bophuthatswana or contradict the statement made to parliament by our President.

"The decision was made that the donkeys would be shot and buried by members of our armed forces and it will be carried out."

Mr Mokgoko added that since the report appeared the Department of Agriculture had received many calls from people interested in buying donkeys or donkey skins.

"I have not yet been given any figures because the negotiations will be carried out between the owners and the prospective buyers," he said.

Brigadier H S Turner, Secretary for Defence in Bophuthatswana, said the army had not yet started shooting donkeys because a survey of surplus donkeys was being made by the Department of Agriculture.

"The army has not yet

been brought into it - we will only receive instructions once the survey has been completed," he said.

An SPCA spokesman, Mr Eric Nash, said it was "regrettable" the donkeys had to be shot, but the matter "must be seen in perspective".

"It is obviously vital for the community of Bophuthatswana that its essential livestock, such as cattle, goats and sheep, should not die of drought. Many of the donkeys are probably not earning their keep.

"We hope the shooting will be supervised properly, and that it will be done humanely so as not to cause any suffering to the animals."

However an anthropologist who has worked extensively among the Tswana people said he had heard there was "a great deal of opposition" in Bophuthatswana to the massacre.

Drought sparks Karoo farm labourers' trek

S. TIMES
19/6/83
③ General

By Eugene Abrahams

THE drought has brought a trek by unemployed farm labourers in the Karoo to the biggest town in the area.

This massive exodus by farm labourers to Beaufort West has been aggravated by rife unemployment and the onset of winter in the Nuweveld, Sneeuberg and Winterberg mountain ranges.

Roads to and from Beaufort West are laden with donkey carts and caravans ferrying entire families with furniture, poultry and their worldly possessions.

Labourers are streaming in from towns like Carnarvon, Murraysburg, Victoria West, Laingsburg and Prince Alfred Road.

The town clerk, Mr J van der Merwe, said the presence of the la-

bourers was not a problem at present.

"But it can become one when it starts getting colder.

"Most of them only come into town to buy their provisions, while others come here visiting relatives and looking for work.

"But work is hard to find here, so they drift out again and stay on the outskirts of town in their donkey carts.

"They have a sort of 'community' out there," he said.

About 30 or 40 families are camping near Nelspoort, about 60km outside Beaufort West.

Schools and churches near the town coupled with town and divisional councils, farmers' unions and co-operatives have opened their doors for the "trekkers".

This was confirmed by Mr I G Pieter, superintendent and secretary of the local management committee.

He said: "The people of Beaufort West are trying their best to help these people by contributing food."

The chairman of the Beaufort West Farmers' Union, Pieter Lund, said conditions could become critical for the unemployed labourers.

He said a spot-check survey had shown that employment for these people existed in Merweville and the Leeu-Gamka areas to the east.

"But we doubt whether these people will be keen to go there," he said, "as they are not traditionally from that area.

"They are really going through hard times, as most of them are having to survive by trapping hares and dassies."

US maize shipment arrives

Cape Times 20/6/83

3 Genl

Staff Reporter

THE first 25 000-ton shipment of maize imported from the United States was discharged in the Cape Town docks yesterday.

This was the first delivery of the 600 000 tons of maize to be imported from the United States and Argentina in the next six to seven months — the result of the South African maize shortage caused by the drought.

The manager of the Maize Board, Mr Hennie Nel, said in Cape Town yesterday that most of the present import — yellow maize — would be used for animal fodder, but some of it could be used for human consumption as well, as 30 percent yellow maize would be added to white maize from July 1.

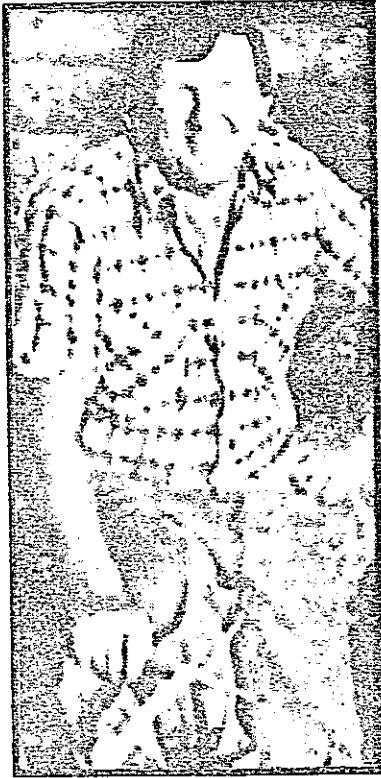
Most of the maize discharged was earmarked for distribution points in the Western Cape but some will be taken as far as East London.

Mr Nel said the maize, which South Africa was forced to import, was an essential form of nutrition for South Africa as the whole dairy industry and chicken industry depended on adequate supplies.

He said the maize shipment was of a good quality and free from plant diseases.

He said the prospects for a good harvest this year were good, but he was worried about the unseasonal rain in the Free State and certain areas of the Transvaal. He hoped this rain would not be the forerunner of another dry season.

THE DAMS OF DESPAIR



MR DES TORR — spent R200 000 building 24 dams

A FARMER spent a fortune building 24 dams as a safeguard against drought ... but they have not held a drop of water.

The drought beat him to it. Without and heavy rains for a year, the dams, valued at R200 000, have remained as dry as the day they were built.

Mr Des Torr, who owns six farms in the King William's Town area spoke this week of his big investment against the prospect of drought ... and how it failed.

"I have always maintained that only a bad farmer gets caught out in a drought, so I began building the dams about two years ago.

Dust-bowls

"I believed that to be a good farmer you had to plan ahead.

"Well, this has just about sunk me."

The dams, 23 of which are stock dams and one large dam intended for irrigation, were all completed by Mr Torr a year ago.

"All I needed was a good few thunderstorms to fill them up, and then I would have been smiling."

But a frown is all he can muster as he watches hundreds of citrus trees die and the condition of his cattle rapidly deteriorate.

His dams are empty dust-bowls



By PETER MALHERBE

He expected to yield over 30 000 pockets of oranges on his citrus farm near Komga.

Now he is engaged in a desperate battle to keep the trees alive.

With a meagre supply of water being drawn from the Gonubie River, he is hoping to save 750 pockets of oranges.

His new irrigation dam, which has a 40m wall and should have a water "throwback" of 750m, would have been able to sustain the fruit.

Dry river

It is empty.

Mr Torr's tale of woe is just one of the countless dramas unfolding as farmers struggle to survive in the worsening drought.

A farmer from Komga, Mr Gordon Renton, believed he was lucky

to have a river flowing through his property.

But all that remains of the strong flowing Kubusie River now are a few isolated pools of water.

"That's normally a gushing rapid," said Mr Renton, pointing to a broad stretch of dry, boulder-strewn riverbed.

Mr Renton is pumping the last of the water from the depleted river.

Then, he doesn't know what he will do.

Some farmers have struck water on their farms, but "lucky strikes" are few and far between.

Ruined

Companies specialising in drilling boreholes are doing a brisk trade as farmers make last-ditch attempts to save their crops and livestock.

One farmer who struck it lucky was Mr Ivan Kieck, who farms at Blue Water near East London.

Four months ago, Mr Kieck watched his water supply dwindling.

He hired a drilling company ... and, armed with a forked stick, he set out to find an underground water supply.

On February 12 water was struck.

With an estimated capacity of 100 000l an hour it was described as "the greatest flow yet tapped in the East London area."

"Without the borehole, my crops would have been a total failure," said Mr Kieck.

It is Ciskei the situation is desperate.

Most farmers there are fighting for survival.

The headman at Sandile village, Mr Simon Sikit, had to kill one of his prize Jersey cows some time ago.

It was so starved and weak that it could not support itself.

Ciskeian harvests have almost totally failed this year because of the drought.

Animals there are so hungry that they have taken to eating plastic litter.

At the Ayliff Methodist Agricultural Centre near Peddie, the crop of maize and vegetables has been totally ruined.

The harvest was to have fed children from the church's creche and local school.

Said the minister at the centre, the Rev Allie Zim: "It's going to be a terrible winter."

Dale's pack chokes in dust

THE drought has taken its toll on the pride of King William's Town ... the Dale College rugby team.

It has been said over the years that nothing would be able stop the Dalians taking to the field for their game of rugby.

Well, the drought has. No longer can matches be played on the school's fields.

The hallowed grounds have been reduced to a desert of dust, making matches a farcical impossibility.

Games scheduled as "home" matches are now being played on the opponent's fields ... and it has cost the Dalians dearly.

"The situation is critical," said the Dale College headmaster, Mr Malcom Andrew.

Sunday Times Reporter

"We are now just hoping that we can revive the grass when we get water."

Grass on the fields is all but dead and the dust lies about 18cm deep.

Rugby practices still take place on the college fields.

Camels

But when a practice is in session it looks like a group of camels thundering through a desert.

"The boys have mastered the art of a two-second scrum," said Mr Andrew.

"They take a deep breath — and in they go. I can assure

you they make sure the ball comes out fast."

Two boreholes have been drilled on either side of the main field, but to little avail.

The small output of water is not even enough to settle the dust for practices.

Now the college is planning a third borehole.

If they strike lucky — or the big rains come soon — the fields could be restored to their former glory by the end of the year.

"We know that the grass is still alive," said Mr Andrew.

A "home" game against traditional rivals Selborne College on June 4 was played in East London.

And the match against Kingswood College, scheduled for King William's Town

last weekend, had to be transferred to Grahamstown.

Dale lost both matches by a small margin.

"It has obviously affected us," said Mr Andrew this week.

"I don't doubt for one moment that the team would do much better playing on their home grounds."

Sinusitis

Mr Andrew said one of the side-effects of the drought has been a "sinusitis plague" at the school.

"Nearly everyone is choked up.

"I'm sure it comes from all the dust in the air."

Self-help to beat starvation

By Carolyn Dempster

Staving off starvation has become of vital importance to Northern Transvaal rural black women — and if they can do it themselves with little help, so much the better.

An enterprising scheme to cultivate vegetables in small garden plots is the first self-help programme started in the villages around Turfloop — the University of the North.

The brains behind the simple but effective scheme are those of Mrs Maria Mativha, a teacher and wife of one of the Turfloop lecturers. Aware of the potential devastation the drought could wreak, she organised a small women's group to test her idea. She encouraged the women to buy a variety of seeds at a reduced cost — cabbage, beetroot, spinach and chives — and then set aside a small portion of their garden for vegetable patches.

She showed the women how to prepare the patches. Each patch was fenced off to prevent stray goats from chewing



Mrs Madibe at work in the vegetable garden she has established through the help of a women's group. It

could save her family of 10 from malnutrition this winter.

up the shoots and to ensure that every woman kept up with the programme — watering days were specified for every garden.

Mrs Madibe's garden shows what can be achieved through the project. About 10 patches

flourish with healthy vegetables — enough for the family and neighbours.

Mrs Mativha has told the women to boil the cabbage leaves, the beetroot leaves and any of the other edible green foodstuffs. They are then dehydrated and stored. In

the months ahead they will be the only other food, besides mealie meal, that the families will have.

The scheme is flourishing. Where only three women started in the pilot group, there are

now 19 and Mrs Mativha provides the focal point — getting seeds at cost and finding fencing at a cheap price. To succeed she needs sponsors for the fencing and seeds so Operation Hunger has agreed to organise the finances.

ARGUS 23/6/83

Tswana troops start culling donkeys

Argus Correspondent
PRETORIA. — The Bophuthatswana Defence Force has started shooting donkeys under an order issued last month.

Defence Force members have moved into villages in the Mafikeng area to carry out the shootings because of insufficient grazing in drought conditions.

Mr E M Mokgoko, Bo-

phuthatswana's Minister of Agriculture, said today: "Not all the donkeys will be shot".

The Defence Force will shoot only "surplus" donkeys in the villages. "People who need donkeys should apply to the chiefs and magistrates in their areas for permission to keep them."

The owners should state clearly why they

want to keep the animals. "If they cannot give good reasons why they need the donkeys, then they will be shot."

There is no specific number of donkeys people will be allowed to keep.

"We know some people need two and others six donkeys to pull their carts, and they will be allowed to keep them, pro-

vided they have permits."

The shootings have angered some people.

A 10-year-old boy, Kagiso Mahlola, said: "We depend on donkeys for a living at home and, if they are shot, things are going to be very different."

He was fond of the animals. "This matter upsets me very much," the boy said.

19645 23/6/83
36440

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Staff Reporter

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"If we have to pay railage for maize from the Transvaal and Free State, should we have to do the same when the maize is landed right here?" he said.

KaNgwane, 11 000 peasant farmers face starvation if their plots don't yield crops this winter. In KwaZulu, Operation Hunger (OH) normally funds a feeding programme for 32 000 children. Now the number has more than doubled and kwashiorkor and malnutrition are spreading.

Checkers recently launched a drought relief programme which has raised R220 000 in goods and money from public donations in two months.

According to company PRO Julie Francis: "We launched a drought appeal campaign and are providing staff, facilities and co-ordination. Food bins have been established in each store for customer donations and we are organising the delivery of food-stuffs to rural depots of OH.

"Checkers also subsidises selected food lines to the tune of R100 000 every week which will benefit not only drought victims, but customers who are also feeling the effects. We have opened a bank account with preferential interest rates for deposits and OH can draw on this account when finance is required."

Donation

OK Bazaars director Allan Fabig says: "OK is making a straight donation of R100 000 in food products selected by a panel of nutritionists. Distribution will be through OH, but we will cover costs."

According to Pick 'n Pay chairman Raymond Ackerman: "We are offering relief at grassroots level. Every GM and store manager has a drought relief budget. We collect food in stores from our customers and our policy is to more than double what our customers give. We have already given R250 000 in direct drought relief. We are cutting margins and buying forward heavily on cheese and butter."

The SA Sugar Association (Sasa) has been involved in water provision in KwaZulu since 1980. According to Sasa's Richard Bates: "We sponsor the KwaZulu Water Development Fund, whose task is the installation of boreholes and water facilities in KwaZulu.

"Sasa initiated the fund's establishment and now administers it from our offices. In addition, Sasa itself has donated R170 000. The Durban Corporation has donated R200 000 and the rest has come from individuals and companies. To date we have collected R900 000 and installed 200 boreholes."

The Premier Group's Wally Walters says Premier has donated R100 000 for drought relief. "Of this, R75 000 will be channelled through OH and R10 000 through the Red Cross.

"The remaining R15 000 will be allocated to smaller organisations. We will also be holding produce at special rates for as long as required."

The Employment Bureau of Africa, recruiting arm of the Chamber of Mines, is expected to announce a substantial drought relief project soon.

DROUGHT ^{(3) General} Business helps out ⁽²⁾

Fri 24/6/83

SA's private sector is becoming increasingly involved in drought-relief, with money, foods, goods and skills being donated by a wide variety of companies. Whether enough is being done, given the extent of the distress in black rural areas, is another matter. But the effort is being made.

A measure of the drought disaster can be gauged from isolated statistics. In



Private sector drought appeal

at licks

kaemia

MOUTH - Smokey the cat is alive and well thanks to blood transfusion.

The 18-month-old Siamese cat was dying of leukaemia when a veterinary surgeon treated, using blood from one of her own cats.

She was a walking skeleton and the vet said there was only a drop of blood left in her body. She said the cat's owner Mrs Audrey McMillan of Tavistock Devon, is very glad.

The only chance was a transfusion and Smokey was given surgery for three days. She is fit as a fiddle and is enjoying about the farm.

She paid about R80 in vet's fees but I would have paid twice the cost," she said. (Sapa-AP)

By J S MOJAPelo
Pretoria Bureau

THE shooting of the 67 000 donkeys in Bophuthatswana by the country's defence force has started.

Mr E M Mokgoko, the Minister of Agriculture in Bophuthatswana, was not available yesterday to confirm Press and Radio Bophuthatswana reports that the shooting of the donkeys has already started in the Mafikeng area.

The Rand Daily Mail was told that Mr Mokgoko was in parliament and would not be available till today.

The Secretary for Agriculture, Mr N Seabi, was also not available.

Mr Mokgoko is reported as saying that only "surplus" donkeys would be shot.

The Minister is quoted as saying that people who need donkeys should apply to the chiefs and magistrates in their areas for permission to keep their donkeys. The own-

67 000 donkey slaughter starts

(3) General ~~News~~ RDM 25/6/83

ers should state clearly why they wanted to keep the animals.

"If they cannot give good reasons then the donkeys will be shot," Mr Mokgoko is quoted as saying.

A Sunday newspaper reported on June 12 that nearly all the donkeys in Bophuthatswana were to be shot and their carcasses buried, because of the prevailing drought in the homeland.

The reasons given for the shooting were that this would

save grazing for cattle, sheep and goats. There are about 67 947 donkeys in the homeland and according to Mr Mokgoko.

The Bophuthatswana Agricultural Development Corporation said it tried in vain to sell the donkeys to canning factories for pet food, but the project was uneconomical.

Dr M Levien, the chairman of the Pretoria branch of the Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals, said they have recently received re-

ports from members of the public of the maltreatment and mishandling of donkeys.

Some officials of the society were at a public hearing last week to see the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Justice in Bophuthatswana in order to enter the homeland and investigate the allegations. Dr Levien said.

Dr Levien said it would also be interesting to know the type of fire-arms used by the members of the defence force for the culling project.



Three Scouts will attend an international Scout jamboree in Canada next month demonstrated their rigging skills at a camp yesterday. They are, from left, Felix von Petersdorff, 17, Richard Clarke, 16, and Victor Msomi, 22.

Picture: NOEL WATSON

A gem of a diamond

A GIANT DIAMOND has been found at the Premier Mine at Cullinan, near Pretoria. It was reported yesterday.

The find comes five years after the discovery of the 354-carat Premier Rose at the same mine.

The Premier Rose was reported to have been bought from De Beers for R4 500 000 and later sold to a New York dealer for about R10-million.

A spokesman for De Beers, Mr Ivor Sander, said yesterday the new diamond was recovered on Wednesday last week.

Diamond buyers in Johannesburg said they had heard of the diamond but knew very little about it. - Sapa

Cafe owners up milk price

Mail Reporter

CAFES will sell milk at 73c a litre and 38c a half litre from July 1.

A spokesman for the Tea-room, Restaurant Proprietors and Caterers Association said yesterday that members would sell one litre of milk at 69c plus 4c GST, and half litres at 36c plus 2c GST.

He said the prices were based on the wholesale prices charged by the South African Milk Distributors Union.

TRPCA and SAMDU had agreed the prices, he said.

(160) RDM
Hunger strike
24/6/83
Doctors collapse

Mail Correspondent
JERUSALEM - With Israel's medical services at a

standstill, hospitals and clinics are closed. In effect, Israel's medical services have ceased to function.

R4m bonus
bond prizes
unclaimed

Mail Correspondent
DURBAN - Unclaimed Defence Bonus Bond prizes



Apr 25/6/83 (3) General

Locust plague is a possibility after drought

By Hannes Ferguson,
Farming Correspondent

The present drought may be followed by swarms of locusts early in 1984, says the locust control director of the Department of Agriculture, Mr I Venter.

He said recently that swarms of the tropical migratory locusts had been identified in the Springbok Flats north of Pretoria.

The last serious outbreaks coincided with the 1933 drought. It took four years and a small army of locust fighters to get them under control.

Millions of rands damage was done to crops and grazing, and the Springbok Flats were virtually denuded twice.

The first swarms arrived in April 1932 — exactly 44 months after leaving their breeding grounds along the River Niger in West Africa.

Mr Venter said that since 1936 international co-operation in Africa had kept the locusts at bay. The Africa-wide drought and collapse of efficient government in parts of the continent had, however, brought them back to the grass and maize-fields of central Transvaal.

Eighteen swarms in the Roedtan area had been sprayed with insecticides on June 2 and June 3. On June 7 and June 8 about 10 swarms were sprayed in the Soetfontein area.

Hannes Ferguson
Farming Correspondent

The health situation in kwaZulu is deteriorating rapidly now the drought is biting so hard.

Dr K Madidi, the kwaZulu Minister of Health, yesterday accepted a gift of 12 tons of enriched maize meal from a Silvertown milling firm.

In his speech he said the drought was the worst he had seen in kwaZulu.

During the past planting season there had been total crop failure, said Dr Madidi. Farmers had reaped nothing — no maize, beans, pumpkins or

Star ~~10/1~~ 29/6/83 9(3) General

kwaZulu gets help as drought bites

sugar.

kwaZulu's farming population consisted mainly of peasant farmers eking out a precarious existence at subsistence level — which meant they planted for the pot. So the crop failure meant starvation.

From their cattle the farmers got milk which partly balanced their diet. But the grazing had

been denuded because of the drought, so there was little milk.

kwaZulu had implemented many schemes to encourage people to apply good farming methods. They had been told to grow vegetables and keep poultry for meat and eggs.

All these self-help schemes were beginning to bear fruit.

Hospitals and clinics had been able to report a noticeable decline in the incidence of the more severe cases of malnutrition such as kwashiorkor and marasmus.

But the present drought had changed that, said Dr Madidi. More cases of malnutrition were being discovered.

He said he had visited a hospital on the Natal South Coast only last week and had found a ward full of kwashiorkor cases.

As Minister of Health he was distressed at the turn of events. The Silvertown firm's gift showed people outside kwaZulu realised the plight.

Trucks of mercy roll

3 General
S. Times
26/6/83

By BLAISE HOPKINSON

THE first relief trucks carrying food hit the road this week as two vital aid projects got under way to help drought-stricken people.

Both schemes, involving major food companies in South Africa, were a direct response to the Sunday Times Drought Alert, and both are distributing food through Operation Hunger and the Red Cross.

The national food chain, OK Bazaars, delivered a truckload of 5 000kg of tinned food to the Jane Furse Hospital in Lebowa on Wednesday.

The load was part of the company's R100 000 pledge of food for the hungry. In the next few weeks more trucks will be dispatched to the hardest hit drought areas.

The Jane Furse Hospital cares for as many as 90 tiny victims of kwashiorkor and other diseases caused by malnutrition at a time.

The tins will be distributed by local women's committees under the auspices of Operation Hunger.

Tiger Oats and National Milling Company have pledged a further R100 000 of drought aid, and the first truckload of maize meal was



Roy McLean of Tiger Oats sends off famine relief to the north

Lebowa's director of health, Dr Abner Makungane, said he was extremely grateful for the OK donation which will "help our people who are on the verge of starvation because of the drought".

Homework

He added: "We must also try and do for ourselves a bit of homework. It is not always winter. It is not always summer."

He said his countrymen must be prepared to meet the hardships of the drought. He warned the worst was yet to come and thousands

would suffer through the remaining winter months.

Dr Makungane said he hoped this example would be followed by other major South African businesses.

"To me malnutrition is endemic in Lebowa and also in the whole of South Africa. OK Bazaars has started the ball rolling and I hope that other affluent companies will take note of this action."

The OK truck contained 9 000 tins of beans, peas, corned meat and jars of peanut butter — which will provide as many as 30 000 meals. Under the Tiger Oats

Worse

Other large companies are entering the drought relief arena and each week Operation Hunger, World Vision and the Red Cross are receiving more offers of help.

"We must ensure that the food goes to those who need it most."

"Things are going to get much worse in the near future."

"We must ensure that none of our people suffer from malnutrition or starvation again," the Red Cross president, Dr Piet Smit, said.

Drought will have long-term effects

By RUTH GOLEMO and EBEN VEINER

THE drought has had such far-reaching effects on commerce and industry that the economy will only be able to recover in five or six "above normal rainfall years".

This is the opinion of the South African Agricultural Union's Chief Economist, Mr Johan Willense.

He said his calculations show that a third of South African industry is linked to agriculture and 36 percent of the retail trade is dependent on it.

The net income from agriculture has dropped from R2 600-million in 1991 to R1 900-million in 1992.

An additional R1 000 to R1 200-million drop is expected this year.

"Farmers have a whole lot of debts to repay before they will get back their cash flow and have any money to spend."

"And, the consumers will suffer."

"In about two or three years there will be little meat on the market and fruit

Debts

"Research in the mining areas had shown that workers have reduced their spending considerably."

Chemical companies manufacturing fertilisers, crop chemicals and the like are hard hit.

And so is the motor industry — especially manufacturers of farming implements and tractors.

Mr Willense said: "Farmers have been advised to reduce their crop inputs considerably."

"So, where farmers were spending a lot of money on top dressings for their land and for weed killers before the drought, they are now cutting down on these items — killing the supplier's means of livelihood."

In the maize belt farmers have been forced to lay off more than 15 percent of their black labour force as one of a series of desperate measures to reduce input costs.

Mr Paul Jordaan, a prominent farmer in the Bothaville district, said that he will have to lay off almost 25 percent of his work force.

Farmers in the Western and Eastern Transvaal and the North Western Free State are plunged into debts totaling an alarming R1 000 million at the Summergrain Co-Op, as against a mere R85-million three years ago.

"It is a known fact that hundreds of farmers are facing bankruptcy this year,"

Mr Willense added.

"The Government's drought aid scheme is insufficient and more than 12 000 farmers will not benefit from it," said Mr Tobie Lombard, secretary of the National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo).

Nampo has urged farmers to produce maize for the South African market only.

Sacked

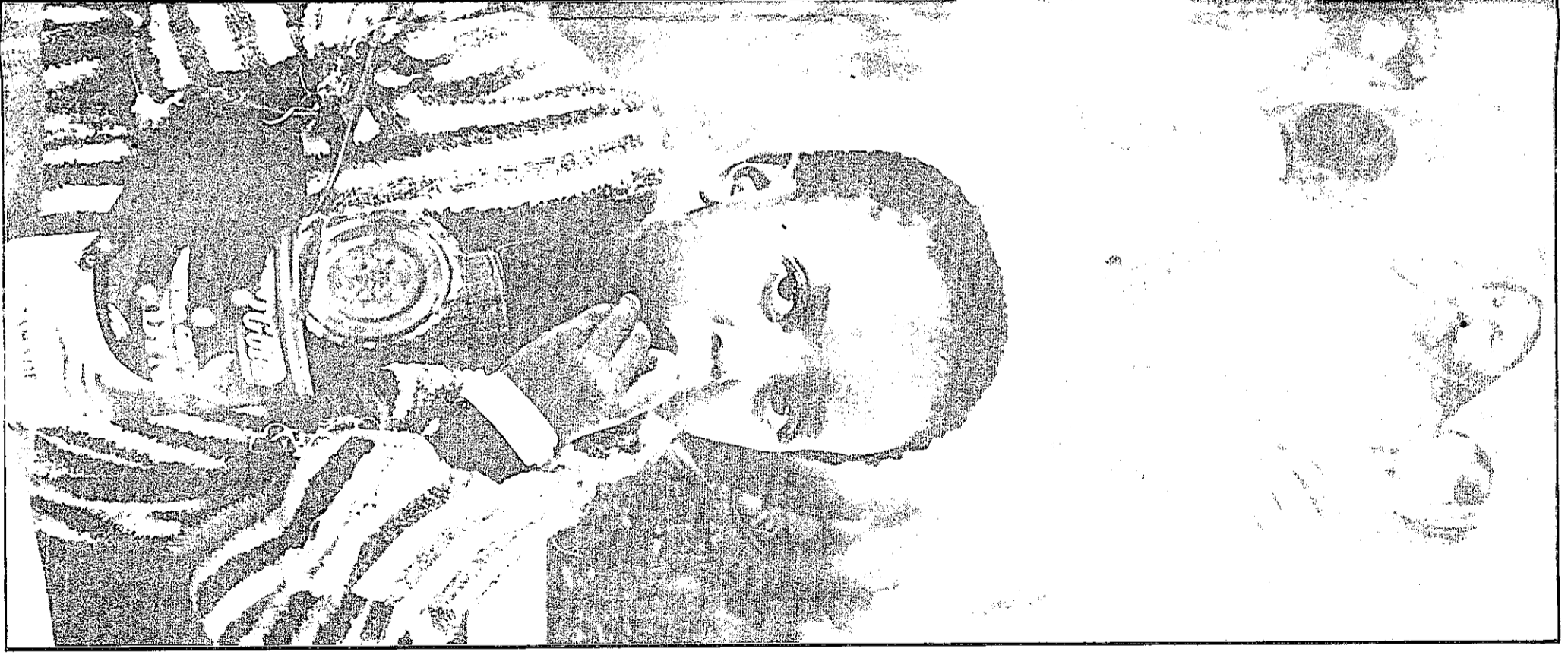
Mr Lombard estimates that more than 48 000 black farmworkers in the maize belt will be laid off, affecting half a million people.

Furthermore the jobs of thousands of workers in the seed, machinery and fertiliser industries will be jeopardised because of a drastically reduced product output necessitated by loss in demand.

"Vestak (the manufacturer of farm implements) and machinery in Bothaville) has already sacked a large number of their work force," said Mr Lombard.



MRS PAUL JORDAAN
Heavy work-force cutbacks



TINNED AID... Derek, aged three, a child at the Jane Furse Hospital, tucks into a tin of pilchards.
Picture: JAMES SOULLIER

Dairy farmers under fire for water wastage

Sunday Times Reporter

DAIRY farmers in the Natal midlands are using millions of litres of valuable water to spray-irrigate their pastures.

Also, dairymen have hit consumers a double blow by hiking the price of their milk by 10 percent from next month.

Agricultural economists in Maritzburg have estimated that it takes 1 000 litres of irrigated pasture to produce one litre of milk.

They say that if 2 000ha of rye grass — used as fodder — is being irrigated to a depth of 55mm a month, 44 farmers are consuming the monthly water supply allotted to 66 000 city dwellers.

City folk, who have been taking ankle-deep baths since the water restrictions were imposed, are outraged at these figures. So too are industrialists who say they could use the water more profitably to keep the country's economy going.

Rather than use 1 000 litres of water to produce a litre of milk, economists maintain that the Government should buy powdered milk abroad and pay farmers not to produce milk.

A few grams of powdered milk could be mixed with a litre of water to produce instant milk — probably at a far lower cost than the cost of producing fresh milk.

The Dairy Board, say economists, could maintain the current milk price levels on the powdered product and pay the difference back to the farmers in the form of a subsidy.

But the president of the Natal Agricultural Union, Don Sinclair, has hit back strongly at suggestions that farmers are wasting water.

"Doesn't the country want us to produce food?" he asked. "Is it more important to export steel at a loss than it is to produce milk and vegetables?"

Mr Sinclair, who is also a dairy farmer, said farm irrigation in the Umgenc catchment area has already been cut back by 50 percent.

Farmers are irrigating only three days a week as opposed to the normal seven days of a week.

Of the milk substitution scheme, Mr Sinclair is adamant: "It's just not a proposition."

Farmers, he claims, cannot be expected to cutback water consumption any further.

To do so would seriously threaten their production — which would leave supermarket shelves bare of their products.

Speaking at the association's recent 56th annual meeting, Mr Gordon-Hughes said, refined sugar would have to be imported to meet the local production shortfall.

"The effect of the drought on many cane growers has been nothing less than catastrophic," he said.

It was also reported this week that six Tongaat-Hulets sugar mills were due to close down after only 11 weeks of milling and workers would have to be laid off.

The managing-director of Tongaat-Hulets and chairman of the South African Sugar Association, Mr Dick Kitzway, said it was not yet known how many workers would be laid off but they would be offered unemployment pay of 70 percent of normal wages for six months.

And says the chairman of the South African Cane Growers' Association, Mr Lawrie Gordon-Hughes, the industry is facing the biggest drop in production ever.

He said the current estimate of the sugar crop for the 1983/84 season was 1 560 000 tons compared to the crop of 2 125 000 tons last season.

Laid off

Subsidy

Sunday Times Reporter

NATAL sugar farms have been "devastated" by the drought and some farmers will be lucky to harvest 10 percent of their crop.

Mr Rex Hudson, assistant general manager, economist of the South African Sugar Association, said some areas of the Natal north coast are so parched that farmers would have to replant their crops next year as the drought had killed cane roots.

"Rain now would only save some farmers from replanting. It could do nothing to help this year's crop."

go south

Sugar farms

go south

3-General



WINTER OF '83

All reports by The Star's Farming Correspondent, Hannes Ferguson

3-General

Left: The drought has taken a heavy toll on the animals in the area... by August this cow will more than likely be a skeleton in the sand.

Right: Barren bushveld... not even a donkey could live here. It is estimated the grass will take at least three years to re-grow.



Bushveld burial ground

Drought and debts force farmers to their knees

The Transvaal bushveld is facing disaster.

Successive droughts have broken the spirit of the farmers and plunged them into debt.

The downward spiral of social decay has driven many of the survivors to the cities in search of a better life.

From Dwaalboom, Thabazimbi and Sentrum in the south-west to Messina, Waterpoort and Alldays in the north-east, about 8 000 farming families have managed a living in the years since World War 2. Now, there are only about 1 200 left.

In a typical case the Reformed Church parish at Matlabas recorded 259 families in

1946. Today it has 37.

The drop has resulted from successive droughts, and urban booms.

Drought-stricken farmers have been forced to sell their prosperous doctors, advocates and businessmen anxious to avoid taxes have pushed up land prices by snapping up the farms.

Today only 34 percent of farms in the district are occupied by their owners.

Farmers are finding it increasingly difficult to recoup interest charges on more borrowed capital, — the main cost item in cattle farming — from the production of smaller herds on smaller farms where veld has gradually deteriorated through overgrazing and ecological changes.

As the number of farmers has dwindled, so have public services suffered.

School bus routes have been shortened, schools and post offices closed down, district surgeons transferred and many

good Limpopo valley is really worth about R100. Koedoesrand veld about R80. Soutpansberg and Messina veld even less.

It has become impossible for a farmer with average means to enter cattle farming. They have been tempted into overgrazing and veld quality has deteriorated, with the result that the minimum size for a viable farm has now grown.

In 1972 the average Bushveld farm covered 3 000 ha grazing 340 head of large stock. The minimum viable farm size was about 2 500 ha. In 1978 the average farm measured 3 800 ha, and grazed 430 cattle.

Today the average is 5 000 ha hosting 550 cattle. A farm smaller than 4 000 ha grazing less than 440 cattle is considered non-viable.

Farmers who owned farms above the average size farms in 1973 — and made a reasonable living from them — now find themselves in the non-viable bracket.

They could be forced out of

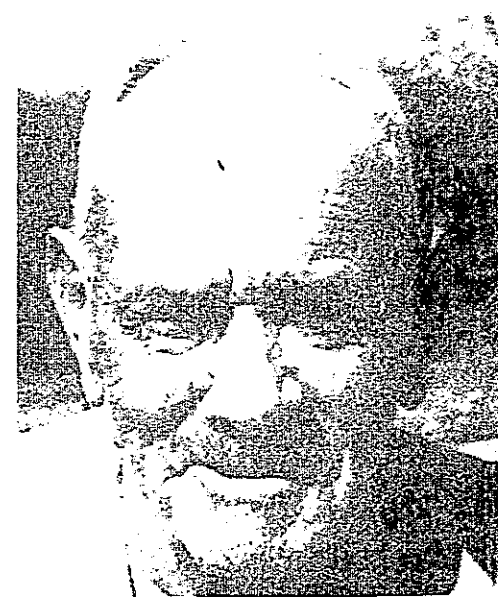
months' time, the animal would not be worth much to the farmer.

If more hectares were to become necessary to feed the same number of cattle, minimum viable farm sizes would grow even larger — in which case though the veld would survive, nothing else would.

At the same time the State has implemented its settlement policy. Promulgating legislation passed in 1979, the Government now encourages new farmers to settle in a controlled strip — about 10 km wide — along the Limpopo.

According to the plan, farms can be financed by the State for 100 percent of their land's production value, at an interest rate increasing from zero in the first two years up to four percent in the sixth year.

If, however, the State proves unable to create conditions favourable to a rise above four percent in the return on cattle farming, the new scheme would collapse.



Mr J.S. van Eyck... "It's the worst drought I can remember."

Bushveld farmer Mr J.S. van Eyck has been around for some time. Born in 1901, he has seen more droughts than most of us — eleven to be exact.

But the present one is the

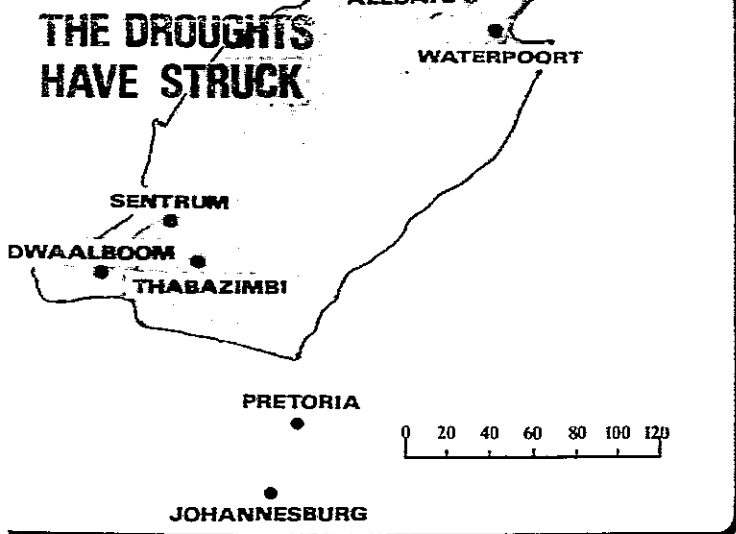
Veteran of droughts is

WHERE

ALLDAYS

MESSINA

THE DROUGHTS HAVE STRUCK



services curtailed. The current two-year drought has become a Bushveld disaster threatening the farmers who have remained. Apart from a few areas such as Marmitz, grazing has been reduced to dying thorn-trees and shrubs. Termites have destroyed the few remaining tufts of mostly unpalatable grass. Northern Lebowa has suffered as much as the rest of the region, with cattle dying and crops failing. Drought has not brought land prices down, however. The city dweller may live in a recession, but land has remained a popular hedge against inflation and a tax refuge for the rich. Estate agents have estimated that since 1979 land prices have more than doubled. A hectare of veld in fertile parts of the Limpopo Valley cost R300, and one in the Koedoesrand area about R200. As cattle prices have lagged behind land prices the production value of Bushveld grazing has risen only marginally. Agriculturally a hectare of

They could be forced out if they cannot get additional land. To do this they would have to shoulder a heavy bond burden. In a drought year they may not be in a position to pay interest. Even in good years returns on cattle farming have been generally less than Land Bank interest rates. During the period 1969 to 1982 average return on capital invested in cattle farming in the Bushveld was three percent. In these circumstances the present drought has rapidly assumed disaster proportions financially. The State has been forced to step in. It has granted cattle farmers feed loans to keep their cattle but requires them to graze only one large head of cattle on as much as 13 or 14 ha instead of nine ha, to enable the veld to recuperate — a long process. The feed loan is also no manna from Heaven. If a farmer borrowed from the State at the rate of R22.50 a month for each head of cattle, and the drought broke only in, say, 12

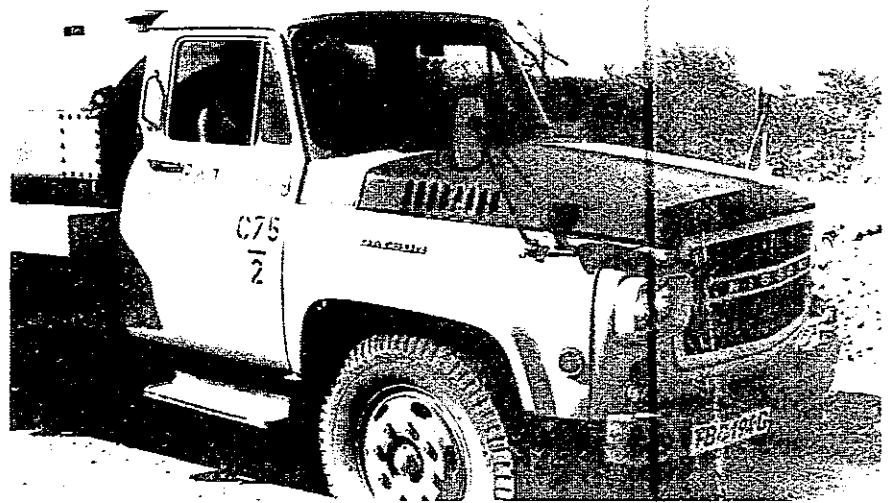
months, the new scheme would collapse. Also, the finance covers only production value. A 4 000 ha farm could have a market price of about R200 000 of which perhaps R500 000 would be production value. This would leave a balance of R300 000. For most of the intending settlers this becomes an impossibly tall order. So the success of the Government's settlement policy depends on its ability to bring down the price of land. The only weapons the State can employ are its new powers to enforce white occupation on newly purchased farms in the Limpopo strip. But estate agents believe it will take about five years to make a dent in the market. Bushveld farmers themselves say both the settlement and occupation schemes were still-born. Too little, too late. Bring water and reasonably priced electricity to the Limpopo, however, and private initiative would make the Bushveld blossom like a rose, it is said. This could be true, but what constitutes a reasonable price for electricity? The projected Escom power line for Matlabas would require a farmer to pay a monthly extension fee of R500 before he used a single unit of electricity. Only the larger farms could possibly afford power. From Pontsdrif to the Marico Bushveld, farmers power their pumps with diesel engines. The water potential for large-scale irrigation is doubtful. Many farmers on the banks of the Limpopo have built their own diversion weirs — a practice at present tolerated by both the South African and Botswana governments. As an alternative the Agricultural Union has suggested that dams in the South African tributaries be built near their confluence with the Limpopo, supplying water to a canal parallel with the river. An irrigation scheme of Vaal-barts proportions could be established here, but at great expense. With development dependent on water and power — power prices prohibitively high and no new water source in sight — the Bushveld has reached its wits' end. While planners have argued about canals and power lines, occupation clauses and settler financing, day-to-day anxieties in this hard-luck region have steadily risen. The drought has taken its toll in ruined grazing, cattle losses, bankruptcies and kwashiorkor cases which serve as a constant reminder that the human side of the Bushveld disaster deserves a crash programme — not a leisurely planning exercise.

— eleven to be exact. But the present one is the worst of all, he says. The veld has become so bare now that it will take at least two good years to recover. He has survived only because he has never overgrazed, he says. Nevertheless the carrying capacity of his Maasstrom farm has deteriorated over the years. In 1919 he started farming with 400 head of cattle on 2 ha, a one-to-five ratio he could easily maintain. In 1935 two good seasons restored his veld after the 1933 drought but he could not graze more than 300 head of cattle. The value of cattle had also decreased, Mr van Eyk said. In 1939, when an ox fetched 12 pounds, a Chevrolet Coupe cost 240 pounds, or 20 oxen. Today, a car cost R12 000 or the equivalent of 40 oxen at R300 each. He did not qualify for a pension, he said, because he had a farm. But his present 1 000 ha did not give him much more than a pension might have provided. He was able to make ends meet only because his daughter and son-in-law, a salaried stock inspector, lived with him.

droughts is sure this is the worst

Success will come if the Lord wills it

Andries Botha, another hardy son of the Bushveld, had just started a farm near a small town in Soutpansberg district when the drought struck. Having bought a neglected 1 250 ha farm with help of the Department of Agriculture, he had improved it in a hurry to be able to run 20 head of cattle properly — fencing, providing water, everything. When the drought dried up his veld as well as his income. His last shower of rain was in November last year, and in February he had to take a job as a lorry driver for the Roads Department. His wife of two years went to work as a shop assistant. After her work, mostly after dark, their farm work consists of looking after cattle, fencing and building. They spend half their savings on wire, poles, wages, fencing material and feed. Farmers with small calves must graze elsewhere because leopards are a deadly danger to them. He has not yet been able to buy leopard-proof kraals. Working for the TPA he does not have time to go hunting. He thought of quitting but entered his mind. One day the rains will come and he will gradually get an income from his cattle again. He believes that after 10, 20, or 30 years he will have a better farm and a bigger herd than it is the Lord's will.



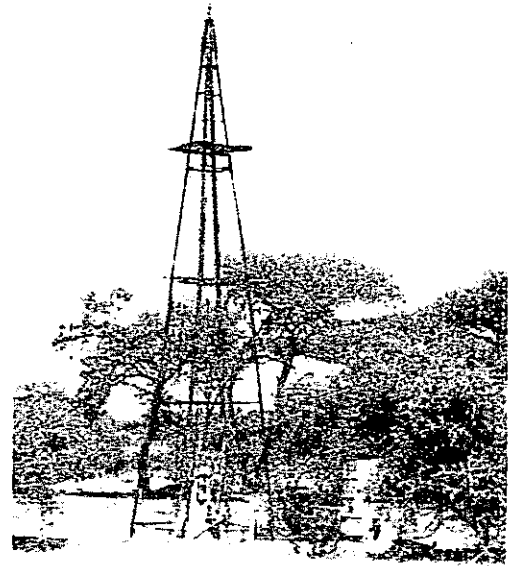
Soutpansberg farmer Mr Andries Botha... making ends meet by driving a Roads Department lorry.

Lack of power stymies pioneer

Mr A de Villiers is one of the young pioneer farmers who settled in the bushveld when the Government started its 'border propaganda'. Recently married, he took along his in-laws who scraped together about R100 000 to provide the young couple with working capital. He bought his 600 ha of rich Limpopo Valley soil near Swartwater three years ago to go in for irrigation farming. He was well qualified and the Department of Agriculture lent him R72 000 for his farm and R98 000 for a modern pivot sprinkling system.

As the expected power supply has not been laid on, he now finds he cannot make a living. Mr de Villiers has to pump his water from the river with a huge diesel-guzzling engine, making the irrigation water prohibitively expensive. He tried intensive tomato production on about 5 ha. Farming scientifically, he produced 40 000 cases. The fuel cost R3 500, other direct costs are R7 600, wages R900, boxes R25 100, totalling R37 100. The markets of the Witwatersrand being 550 km away and railway or road transport

having been withdrawn, he has to hire private transport costing him R20 000. If he gets less than R1.20 a case on the market, he has to borrow from the bank to live. Game coming across the river from Botswana has done R2 800 damage since January. Mr de Villiers said he had gone all the way, so had his wife and his in-laws, but he felt the Government had not. It should not have called for settlers without providing for proper infrastructure — power, transport and medical facilities. He soldiers on, hoping for the big break... somehow, sometime.



Despair and decay beyond the Soutpansberg district.

Farmer bides his time in the bush

A real son of the bushveld, Mr W Coetzee who farms on 1 900 ha near Zanzibar on the banks of the Limpopo is one of the lucky ones. He did not go all-out for cattle or irrigation farming but concentrated on speculating with cattle, buying and selling according to grazing and available hay. Having bought his farm 16 years ago for R15 a hectare he had little debt. His wife is the district nurse and with his cattle profits and her salary they can make ends meet. He keeps a ratio of one head

of cattle to 14 ha, takes much care to conserve his veld, but finds it extremely difficult to provide water in all his camps. For each successful borehole he has to drill 10 dry ones. On the fertile riverbank soil he plants 125 ha of feed crops, fattening cattle and storing hay for the not-so-rainy day. He lives in hope that the Government will provide proper infrastructure — electricity, transport, telephones. This would enable him to buy his farm into top gear and become an intensive cattle irrigation farmer.

Drought, recession hits farmers worldwide

ARGUS
28/6/83

3 General

FARMERS worldwide have been hit hard by the effects of the economic recession and by adverse climatic conditions in the past year.

This conclusion emerges clearly from the latest annual report on the situation of world farming produced by the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, which groups together 63 national farmer organisations from 49 countries.

The report points out that harvests in many regions in 1982 were excellent and in regions where support prices kept pace with inflation — such as Western Europe and East Africa — poor farm incomes improved.

But in countries relying heavily on export markets (for example North America) the good harvest added to existing stocks and weak demand meant that farm incomes fell to disaster level. As a result, trade disputes became more acute and solutions to them were not easy to foresee.

Poor weather conditions have spelt problems for farmers — and the economies of their countries as a result — in

many other countries.

Severe drought affected Western and Southern Africa, Australia and parts of India and Indonesia.

Even where farm prices were raised significantly (for example in Zimbabwe), poor production performance cut incomes. Losses of livestock will be particularly long and costly to make up.

Severe economic problems in yet other countries have also taken their toll of farm programs and farmer incomes, particularly in Latin America, Tunisia and parts of Western Europe.

In many developing countries, acute shortages of foreign exchange due to balance of payments difficulties have meant cutbacks in imports of farm supplies such as fertiliser, equipment and spare parts essential to maintain cash crop and food production.

In the developing countries, the chief demands by farm organisation seek:

- Compensation for crop and livestock losses resulting from unfavourable weather and disease:

- Measures to ensure that commodity prices are profitable at farm level and allocation of adequate funds to provide basic infrastructures in rural areas;

- Reduction in the heavy taxes frequently levied both on agricultural exports and on imports of essential agricultural requisites; and

- Credit facilities for Agri Circumstances.

Boost demand

In the industrialised countries, farmers are generally seeking programmes which will (i) boost demand (eg the newly-formed "Food From Britain" organisation, establishment of an agricultural export agency in Canada, increased use of EEC intervention stocks for animal feed), or (ii) reduce supplies (for example the US Payment-In-Kind programme), as well as (iii) credit measures aimed at enabling farmers to remain in business in spite of sometimes heavy debts and interest charges which they are facing because of general economic and financial conditions in their countries (Canada, Denmark, France).

(3) General
Star

Hydro scheme could have beaten drought

29/6/83

An elaborate multimillion-rand dam system in kwaZulu could have been answering by now the prayers of people in the drought-hit cities of Natal.

Experts say the scheme could have been supplying an abundance of drinking water to Natal and providing up to a third of South Africa's electricity needs.

Independent hydrologists say the scheme was scrapped after political wrangling with kwaZulu on questions of security and operation.

The plan involved two large dams and one small dam which would generate 3700 Mw of conventional hydro power and 1500 Mw of peak-time pumped-storage power, said an influential report prepared in the mid-1970s for the University of Cape Town.

The dam furthest upstream would have been near Kotongweni Mountain and would have had a surface area of 98 sq km.

It would have featured a conventional hydro power station of 1600 Mw and a pumped-storage station of 1500 Mw.

Thirty km downstream another dam would have been built near the village of Ntulwana, with dam water backing up to the higher dam.

This dam would have been the lower dam of the pumping scheme, creating 1500 Mw contin-

If a hydroelectric scheme scheduled for kwaZulu had been completed, drought-stricken areas of Natal would have had adequate supplies of water.

The dam could also have provided a third of South Africa's electricity. But because of political wrangling, the project was scrapped.

By Stephen McQuillan and Lawrie Bedford

uously. A single generator of 500 Mw would have released water again downstream.

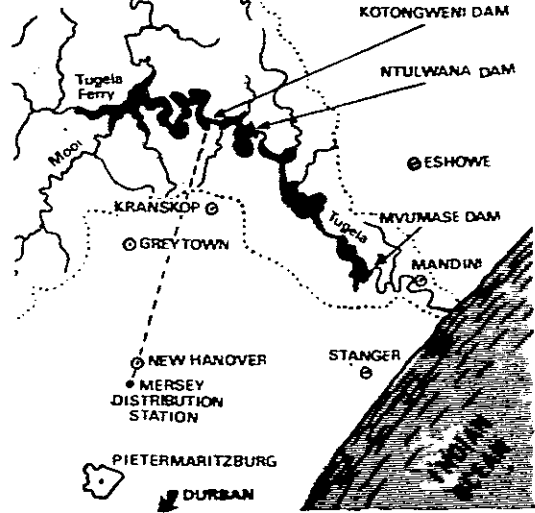
The dam furthest downstream would have been near the village of Mvumase and would have had a surface area of 174 sq km and a power station of 1600 Mw.

Hydrologists say the scheme would have required less imported equipment than a coal-fired power station and the cost would have been considered low.

The scheme would also have irrigated about 20 000 ha in the coastal belt, reduced flood danger and created a vast lake district leisureland on which could have been established a freshwater fishing industry, said the report.

But the scheme no

THE DAMS PLAN



longer exists in its original form. The latest scheme could be considered less ambitious and not as big as the original which would have been one of the largest hydro schemes in the world — larger than the Snowy Mountain or the Tennessee Valley Authority schemes.

The cost of the latest scheme, R800 million, would be met by the Electricity Supply Commission (Escom).

Professor David Stephenson, director of the Water Systems Research Programme at the University of the Witwatersrand, said a Government White Paper on another Tugela scheme, prepared about a year ago, appeared not to have been acted upon.

He said this was possi-

bly because of shortages of manpower in the Department of Environment Affairs, of which the Directorate of Water Affairs is a part.

He said Escom had only recently appreciated the potential of hydroelectric development in South Africa. It was a mystery that a hydro scheme on the Tugela had not been built years ago.

The scheme now being considered would be part of the proposed Thukela (Tugela) River Government Water Scheme. The Mvumase dam would be the upper reservoir of a proposed pumped-storage scheme.

Officials of the Directorate of Water Affairs say the project may be started in two or three years' time.

Case No 28/4/83

Some 36000 farmers jubilant

Staff Reporter

IT'S wetter in parts of Namaqualand than it has been in 12 years.

The crippling drought has at last broken, the farmers are smiling broadly and there are indications of a spectacular wildflower season.

That was the cheerful news from Namaqualand yesterday but in neighbouring Bushmanland critical drought conditions still prevail.

A spokesman for the town clerk's office in Springbok, Mr Robert Kotze, said there had been plenty of rain in the district.

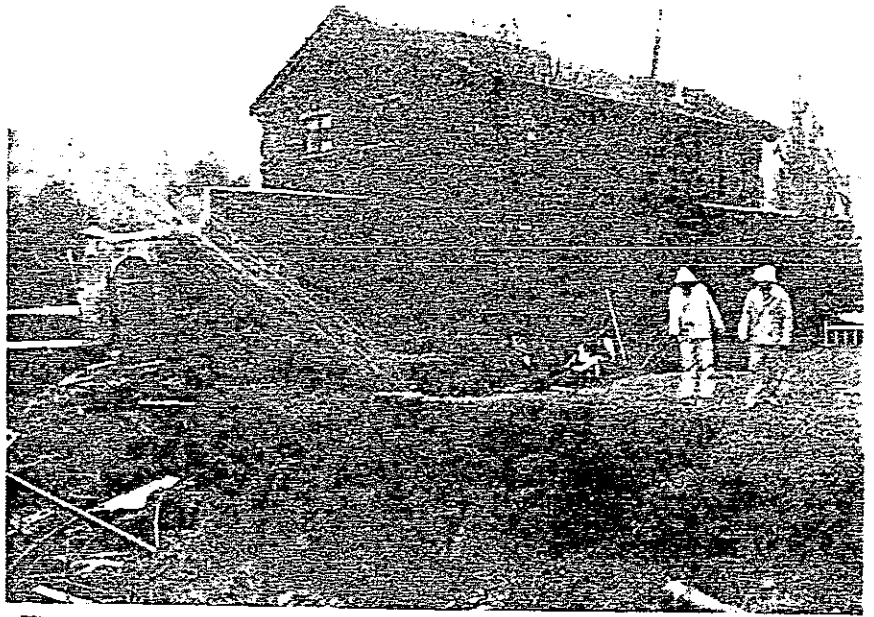
"We expect a good wildflower season this year, but it will be even better if the south-easter stays away."

A Vredendal resident said: "It's wetter here than it's been for 12 to 13 years — it's fantastic."

But the Mayor of Pofadder, Mr O T van Schalkwyk, said conditions in Bushmanland were not much different to what they were six months or two years ago. Everything was still dry.



Helpers at the flooded Hout Bay Road property risk being swept away as they cross the main torrent yesterday.



The threatened home in Hout Bay Road. Subsidence on the other side of the house was equally serious.

Planners feared backlash from Buthelezi

By Lawrie Bedford
and Stephen McQuillan

Political wrangling caused the cancellation of a multimillion-rand three-dam hydro-electric scheme in kwaZulu which could now be supplying an abundance of drinking water to drought-hit Natal, claim sources close to the project.

The original Tugela River Scheme — planned to be one of the biggest hydro schemes in the world — was scrapped because of security fears, problems over who would fund it and whose finger would be on the button, the sources say.

Planners feared the repercussions of kwaZulu's independence and a later backlash from Chief Gatsha Buthelezi over the massive South African investment in a fledgling neighbouring state.

"The Tugela is earmarked for the new independent kwaZulu and, if we started pumping water to compensate for shortages in South Africa, you can imagine the problems and consequent outcry," said Professor David Stephenson, director of the Water Systems Research Programme at the University of the Witwatersrand.

"The big problem with our Government is that, in the recent past, it has tended to push schemes to catch votes without any broad appreciation of the real needs of the country."

Professor Richard Dutkiewicz, director of the Energy Research Institute of the University of

Politics ^{Star} ~~Star~~ _{28/6/83} ^{(3) Personal} sank Natal water plan

Cape Town, confirmed that wavering over the scheme was caused by questions such as who would be in control.

"Arrangements over pricing the Tugela water would have to be organised by the kwaZulu Government in much the same way as Water Affairs determines the inflated price the Electricity Supply Commission (Escom) pays for water from its dams for coal-fired power stations," he said.

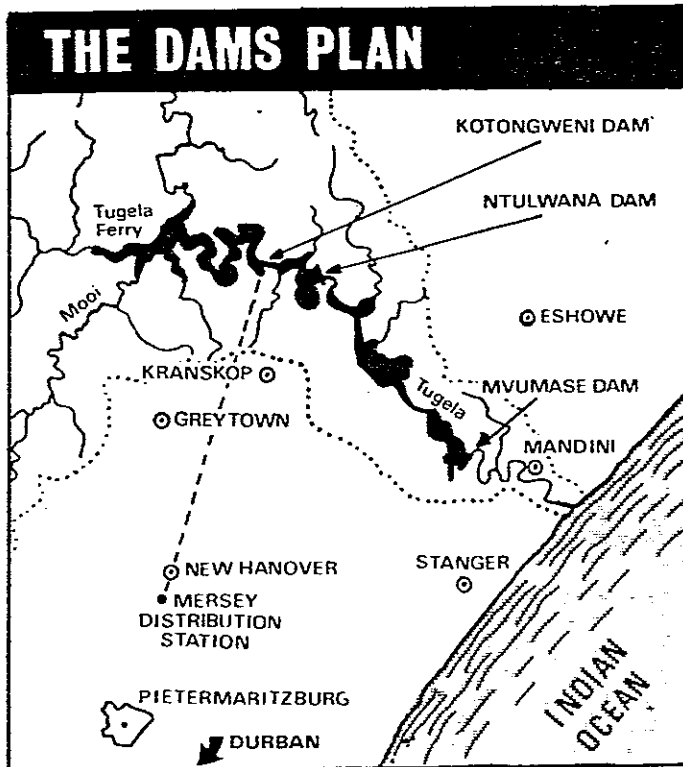
The original Tugela scheme, outlined in the early 1970s, would have provided 5 200 megawatts — a third of today's Escom demand — and assured a large supply of water to Durban, Richard's Bay and other coastal developments, according to a reliable report.

The report's authors, Mr Theo van Robbroeck, now managing engineer (water resources) of the Directorate of Water Affairs, and Mr Bruno Graber, head of Escom's hydro department, recommended an early start to the scheme.

The original "cascade" scheme was proposed as the first step of the hydro-electric development of the Tugela River and would have been built north of Kranskop.

The Directorate of Water Affairs says the scheme did not go ahead because Escom's electricity demand had "levelled off". The spokesman denied that political considerations had played a part in the decision.

An Escom spokesman confirmed that the joint project had been postponed at the commission's request and that the revised two-dam pumped-storage scheme for the Tugela was unlikely to be needed before 1993 or later.



29/6/83 Q. 61. 1746
 Farmers' assistance
 General Household
 Mr. A. SAVAGE asked the Minister of Agriculture:

Whether his Department has provided any (a) financial and (b) other assistance to any farmers who purchased land referred to in his reply to Question No. 103 on 15 February 1983; if so, what are the particulars of the assistance provided in each case?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Reply laid upon the Table with leave of House):

(a) Yes

1.	F. O. W. Anderson	R60 788,47 R24 600,00	— Purchase price of land For the erection of 6 houses for farm labourers
2.	G. de Klerk	R72 497,07 R16 400,00	— Purchase price of land For the erection of 4 houses for farm labourers
3.	D. J. T. Fourie	R88 787,47	— Purchase price of land
4.	G. V. Z. Joubert	R68 221,47	— Purchase price of land

1747

WEDNESDAY, 29 JUNE 1983

5.	P. J. Korkie	R70 753,47 R 8 200,00	— Purchase price of land For the erection of 2 houses for farm labourers
6.	D. E. Landman	R59 438,47 R27 000,00	— Purchase price of land For the purchase of a tractor and accessories
7.	G. C. Landman	R69 255,67 R16 400,00	— Purchase price of land For the erection of 4 houses for farm labourers
8.	A. J. le Roux	R83 333,47 R26 400,00	— Purchase price of land For the erection of 6 houses for farm labourers
9.	J. D. Meiring	R80 718,77 R22 800,00	— Purchase price of land For the erection of 6 houses for farm labourers
10.	M. J. Meyer	R57 958,47	— Purchase price of land
11.	J. P. Odendal	R67 753,47 R11 400,00	— Purchase price of land For the erection of 3 houses for farm labourers
12.	L. L. van Niekerk	R73 046,47 R16 400,00 R78 000,00	— Purchase price of land For the erection of 4 houses for farm labourers For the erection of a dwelling and milking shed with accessories
13.	A. M. van Schoor	R59 748,47 R12 300,00	— Purchase price of land For the erection of 3 houses for farm labourers
14.	A. P. van Wyk	R91 621,47 R16 400,00	— Purchase price of land For the erection of 4 houses for farm labourers
15.	J. C. Vermaak	R62 108,47 R10 500,00	— Purchase price of land For the erection of 3 houses for farm labourers

X (b) No.

(3) General ~~40~~ ~~312~~

Drought strikes children

By Anthony Duigan

Field workers from an international relief agency have found a 50 percent increase in malnutrition and related diseases among children in drought-stricken rural areas.

This report comes shortly after a report from the Bureau for Economic Research (BER) at Stellenbosch University concluded that at least one in three black children under the age of 15 were undernourished.

"Conservative estimates show that about three million children under the age of 15, mostly black and coloured, suffer from, or show signs of, malnutrition," said Mrs T Vergnani, a BER researcher.

Experienced field workers of World Vision, a Christian relief agency assisting community de-

WINTER OF '83

velopment in 173 projects throughout Southern Africa, have reported a disturbing increase — as much as 50 percent — in malnutrition-related diseases due to drought conditions, a spokesman for the agency said.

"This means that at least 100 000 more children in dire need must be catered for and the number is increasing every week," he added.

World Vision had made R200 000 immediately available to alleviate some of the worst suffering and, at the same time, had appealed to its supporters

and the public to raise a further R1 million to support long-term community projects, the spokesman said.

The 40-hour famine — organised annually since 1979 by World Vision — has raised almost R2 million and this is supporting 38 community projects and giving at least one nutritious meal a day to more than 200 000 children.

Besides its drive to keep starvation from the doors of an increasing number of people in far-flung rural areas, World Vision was aiming for a record sum from its fund-raising drive

to help build up development projects in impoverished communities — projects such as water conservation and agricultural reconstruction, the spokesman said.

"While hand-out action is often necessary just to keep men, women and children alive, it is important to invest a proportion of funds in providing self-sustaining development."

The R1 million World Vision hopes to raise in the coming months will be allocated to food (20 percent), development projects to help people become self-sufficient and capable of meeting future needs (65 percent) and expanding existing project controls to meet the demands of the crisis (15 percent).

Donations may be sent to World Vision Drought Crisis Action, P O Box 1101, Florida, 1710.

Kwashiorkor has killed 500 Swazi children

The Star's Foreign News Service

MBABANE — Almost 500 Swazi children have died from the malnutrition disease kwashiorkor in the past year and 2 000 cases were reported, according to a Ministry of Health spokesman.

He said the disease — which he claimed was now being reported in Swaziland for the first time — was reaching epidemic proportions, and blamed the outbreak directly on the destruction of crops by the current drought.

"The situation is frightening. If it continues at this rate there is no telling what it will be like in September and November," he said.

He warned that as the outbreak became more widespread it would become necessary to divert funds from other development projects to save lives.

He also said that he would not be surprised if the disease began affecting older people.

- (6) whether this pumping station is working at full capacity; if not, why not?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (a) R49.4 million.
- (b) 22.1 cubic metre per second (m³/s).
- (c) 4 m³/s.
- (3) No. The final completion of the scheme is subject to a further investigation and the availability of funds.
- (4) Yes. 29 km of canal benching and 2 km of tunnels as fully described in White Paper W.P. N—74.
- (a) A total cost of R1.1 million
- (b) The completion of this part of the canal route was subject to a decision by ESCOM whether to proceed with the construction of a hydro-electric power station at Elizarand. This powerstation has subsequently been proved to be uneconomical and ESCOM has indicated that it will not be constructed.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) Yes.

Positioning of road

1076. Mr. P. R. C. ROGERS asked the Minister of Environment Affairs and Fisheries:

- (1) Whether his Department was consulted on the (a) positioning and (b) final positioning of the proposed road through the farm Haddon in the district of King William's Town; if so, (i) when and (ii) by whom:

③ General Hammond
Orange/Fish/Lake Mentz project
Q. 61. 1825 30/6/83
1073. Mr. E. K. MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Environment Affairs and Fisheries:

- (1) Whether a canal was planned to feed Orange River water from the Fish River into Lake Mentz; if so.
- (2) whether this project or any part of it has been implemented; if so, (a) what amount has been spent on it, (b) what is the capacity of this canal and (c) what is the current extent of use in terms of capacity:
- (3) whether this project has been abandoned; if so, why; if not, when is it due to be completed:
- (4) whether any canals and tunnels in connection with the Orange/Fish/Lake Mentz project were built and subsequently abandoned; if so, (a) at what cost was each of these canals and tunnels built and (b) why was it abandoned in each case:
- (5) whether a pumping station to supply water to Lake Mentz has been built; if so.

1827

THURSDAY.

- (2) whether a meeting took place on this matter; if so, (a) by (i) whom and (ii) which Government departments was the meeting attended and (b)(i) where and (ii) when did it take place:
- (3) whether alternative routes in respect of this road were discussed (a) during the course of the consultations with his Department and (b) at the above-mentioned meeting; if so, how many alternative routes were discussed in each case:

- (4) whether in the discussions on these routes regard was had to the (a) proposed boundary with the Republic of Ciskei and (b) objections and proposals of certain Government departments, bodies and persons whose names have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply; if not, why not; if so, what are the names of the Government departments, bodies and persons concerned:

- (5) whether a final decision on the positioning of the proposed road was taken at this meeting; if so, on what grounds was the route decided upon preferred to the alternative routes:

- (6) whether his Department (a) made any recommendations on and (b) supported any of the submissions made by the Government departments, bodies and persons referred to above; if so, (i) what recommendations did it make and (ii) which submissions did it support?

3 General House
Fish-Sundays River Canal Scheme
Q. W. 1797 30/6/83
1025. Mr. E. K. MOORCROFT asked the
Minister of Environment Affairs and Fisheries:

- (1) (a) What progress has been made towards completing the high level canal in terms of the Fish-Sundays River Canal Scheme at Somerset East and (b) what was the total amount spent on this canal as at the latest specified date for which figures are available;
- (2) whether his Department intends to proceed with this high level canal project; if not, (a) why not and (b) when was it decided not to proceed with it; if so, when is it anticipated that the project will be completed?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES:

- (1) (a) The high level canal has been completed up to the chute where the water is discharged into the Little Fish River as well as from the pumping station at Wellington Grove to the Schoenmakers River. The chute, Little Fish River and the Wellington Grove pumping station link these two parts of the canal.
(b) R49.4 million up to 31 March 1983.
- (2) No
(a) The completion of this canal was

1799

THURSDAY, 30 JUNE 1983

1800

subject to a decision by ESCOM regarding the construction of a hydro-electric power station at Elizarand but as ESCOM has since indicated that it is no longer interested therein, the high level canal is no longer an economic proposition.

(b) During 1982.

Orange-Fish River Irrigation Scheme

1026. Mr. E. K. MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Environment Affairs and Fisheries:

- (1) (a) What progress has been made towards completing the Orange-Fish River Irrigation Scheme as scheduled for the area which falls in Region D of the Regional Development Plan and (b) what (i) was the total amount spent on the scheme in this region as at the latest specified date for which figures are available and (ii) is the estimated cost of works that remained to be completed as at that date;
- (2) whether a target date has been set for the completion of the scheme in this region; if so, what is the date?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES:

- (1) (a) The major structures of the Orange-Fish Scheme have essentially been completed. The outlet works of the Grassridge Dam are at present being enlarged.
(b) (i) R268,1 million up to 31 March 1983 including the cost of the Hendrik Verwoerd Dam.
(ii) R500 000.
- (2) Yes, October, 1983.

Group seeks ex-soldiers^{(3) Kaniwa} to run farms^{S. Tribune 3/7/83} on the border

By Franci Henny

SOUTH Africa's hostile and desolate northern border will soon be populated with young pioneers, prepared to risk the volatile security situation to acquire cut-price farms and uncultivated land that would be unavailable in less hazardous times.

The recently-formed Border Development Association, established by a group of six former Natal University students, has applied to the Government for permission to launch the resettlement scheme.

As far back as 1979, legislation was passed making funds available for people to settle on the border strip along the Limpopo River from Messina to the Botswana border, but until now, few people have taken advantage of the offer.

"The association already has about 30 members and we aim to establish a trust fund to assist young people to take advantage of the Government's offer and get farms. We want to get young people up there and keep them up there," said accountant Mark Allan (30), who intended to farm in the area himself.

The association believed that the problem of "terrorist" infiltration facing border farmers would not disappear overnight and this had provided new opportuni-

ties for people prepared to "take a chance".

"The most serious aspect of farming there is security and defence so we want people who can look after themselves, particularly ex-national servicemen.

"We are not interested in established farmers with conventional methods. This scheme needs something and someone flexible."

If successful, the scheme could provide a convenient quasi-military buffer between the rest of the country and its hostile neighbours.

"We don't see this project as being solely agricultural. There will be spin-offs for business entrepreneurs to build security defence systems, to start fencing and transport companies and so on.

"We are looking for people who want to start their own farms or businesses and, we hope, once they are established, they will plough money back into the association," said Mr Allan.

He said the scheme had already been approved by the Department of Agriculture as being "a good idea" and the association was waiting to be given a fundraising number.

"That and public contributions are all we really need to get the scheme off the ground."

Every 5 minutes a donkey



General S. Express

3/7/83



● Kudungwane villagers rush to drag a donkey carcass to their homes and cut it up for meat
Picture by HERBERT MARUZA

was shot in the head.

By DREW TORCHIA
TRUCKLOADS of soldiers moved into remote villages in Bophuthatswana this week to shoot more than 60 000 of the country's 'idle' donkeys.

The Sunday Express travelled to the tiny village of Kudungwane, 200km west of Mafikeng, to witness the first of a two-month series of mass shootings throughout the country.

Phase two of 'Operation Donkey', the Government's emergency drought relief plan, had begun.

"The operation will be carried out in the most humane and beneficial way," said the Bophuthatswana's Minister of Defence, Brigadier H F P Rieckert.

People realised, he added, that the shootings were absolutely necessary to ease the burden on grazing lands.

But the necessity of the operation meant little to the owners of the donkeys, who were watching the destruction of a deeply rooted way of life.

With every shot, the 200-strong crowd — almost the entire village — sighed, and women placed their heads in their hands and made exclamations of pity.

"I'm very sad to see this happening," said Mr Koot-boy Kgabafedile, 90. "We've had our donkeys for centuries, breeding and walking around our villages. Now all that is finished. But the law is the law — what can we do?"

Numbed by the scene, another old man said: "Jesus rode on a donkey into Jerusalem. How can they shoot them now?"

Added a third villager: "We're resigned to killing the donkeys, but it would be much better if we could all kill our donkeys in our homes. This mass slaughter is horrible to watch — and we won't get all the meat from our own animals."

Seventy-nine of the area's 158 donkeys were declared "unproductive" and collected in a pen before soldiers herded them, one by one towards the end of the village cattle dip

As the smell of blood grew stronger, the animals were increasingly reluctant to move down the dip.

When the donkeys were in place — a wood beam blocked their retreat — a soldier crouched behind each animal and sighted his R1 automatic rifle along its neck.

As soon as the shots were fired, soldiers dragged the carcasses along a blood-stained path to waiting bakkies, from which the meat was distributed.

Whenever possible, female donkeys were shot to keep the birth rate down

A donkey was shot about once every five minutes. The Express witnessed ten such executions.

The first donkey took six shots before it fell. The rest were executed with one or two shots, although one of the carcasses in the bakkies required a further shot when it stirred briefly

"Donkeys have very small brains and it's difficult to hit the right spot first time," said the officer in charge of

the operation, Brigadier H Turner.

A soldier said the operation was "a terrible thing".

"We feel as if we're shooting our own donkeys, but orders are orders and the job has to be done.

"This donkey may have given birth to six babies," he added, indicating the next donkey to be shot. "You can imagine what the owner must feel when he sees it die."

Local residents were required to bring their donkeys to a cattle compound before

they could apply for permits to keep only the donkeys which they needed for transport or farm work. Donkeys which could not be proven to be "absolutely essential" were shot.

"The people realise that this operation is necessary and some have even voluntarily slaughtered their own donkeys," said the district's senior agricultural officer, Mr Isaac Matee

"Nobody has tried to hide their donkeys"

As a back up, however, a Bophuthatswana Defence

Force helicopter circled the area searching for unreported donkeys

Mr Matee admitted that phase one of 'Operation Donkey', during which police were given instructions to shoot all unattended donkeys on sight, had aroused wide spread public protest

Dozens of owners had lost donkeys before they had had a chance to apply for permits.

Mr Matee said they were being given "substitutes" from among the donkeys in the execution compound

SA ^{(3) General} alarm over ^{S. Africa} EEC cash aid ^{3/7/83} to agriculture

By John Miller
Brussels

SOUTH African officials in Brussels are watching with growing alarm the rapid increase of EEC farm spending, which is leading to the crowding out of South African produce from European markets.

Agriculture accounts for around 70% of the EEC budget, and Common Market officials were forced this week to make further money available to prevent runaway agricultural spending from leading the EEC into bankruptcy.

An emergency budget was rushed through, providing an extra £1 000-million for agricultural expenditure, which is so far a third up on the levels for last year.

If the EEC were harming no one else, South Africa, America, Australia, New Zealand and other farming nations would probably be content to sit back and watch from the sidelines.

But the EEC's agricultural extravagance has very real consequences for South Africa, and South African officials in Brussels are watching developments with alarm and dismay.

The problem stems from the fact that EEC money is being poured into the production of farm products for

which there is no market.

Under a system of guaranteed prices, European farmers are ensured that, no matter how much they produce, they will be shielded from fluctuations in the world market and will be certain of a good income.

The result is wild over-production. Butter, beef, wine, olives, apples — the list is endless — all being over-produced and all piling up in stores across Europe.

South Africa's concern is that, as the Europeans continue to produce more and more, traditional sales for South African food exporters in the European market will be affected.

Already this year the EEC has cut back on South Africa's quota for apple exports to the EEC, and similar restrictions on other products could follow.

(It is only because of the poor apple harvest caused by the drought that South African apple producers have not had to suffer from the EEC quota cutback this year.)

South Africa can only hope that countries like Britain which are tired of pouring money into the pockets of European farmers will succeed in applying the reins to EEC agricultural spending.

'CRIES OF HELP' AS

THE CASH RUNS OUT

3/7/85

By RON GOLDEN *S. Zulu*

THE Sunday Tribune—Red Cross Drought Relief Fund is running short of cash and hand-outs of much needed maize meal to many people on the verge of starvation have had to be curtailed.

The public has poured almost R200 000 in the the fund since it opened on March 6 but demand for drought relief has been so great that funds are down to about R30 000.

WHO'S GIVING

- GRAND TOTAL... R198 055,26
 This week the Sunday Tribune
 Red Cross Drought Relief
 Fund acknowledges contribu-
 tions from:
- STUD Filters (Pty) Ltd R1 784,20
 - Dr Martin Wisend, West Ger-
 many R1 252,15
 - Rhuleros Secondary No 2
 School R1 277,04
 - M Padavan Primary School
 R600
 - Totary Annas of Durban &
 Sereva Rotary Club R500
 - Staff & pupils of Durban In-
 dian Girls' Secondary School
 R401,88
 - H Mulla R400
 - Sydenham Catholic Parish
 R250
 - Anonymous R240
 - Anonymous R200
 - Anonymous R100
 - Westville Girls' High School
 R80
 - Carmel College Primary
 School R59,68
 - Christ Church Anglican Guild,
 Johannesburg R50
 - Mr & Mrs P Kavanagh R40
 - Anonymous R40
 - Anonymous R40
 - Prof Mitha, Mr A Hafjee &
 MFH

In KwaZulu there
are hungry people
who rely on your help

In many areas of Kwa-Zulu rural dwellers are said to be barely on subsistence level — if they are lucky.

Dr Steve Knight, medical superintendent of the Bethesda Hospital near Tugela Ferry, said: "The food we get from the fund is a life-saver and we dish it out very carefully to the most needy cases."

"We have families in the area who have been investigated by social workers and who don't have any food. What they get comes from the fund."

"We still have a lot of malnutrition and it could be a long time before the situation improves."

"We had a child suffering from malnutrition who died last week," he said.

Howard Chirwa, a Kwa-Zulu magistrate in the Mhlabathini area, said the main problem was still water although provision of subsistence food was always a headache.

"Most of the people have lost their cattle because of the drought and there is no grass left. We are really suffering," he said.



Help for the hungry
 □ Lee-rani Govender (left) and Nasem Kathrada donated a cheque for R2 264,94 to the Sunday Tribune Drought Relief Fund on behalf of the pupils and staff of the Mountview Secondary School. The donation, for food, will bring relief to KwaZulu residents in an area where the drought is causing continual hardship. The two pupils represent the school's Standard 9 classes, who raised the most money.

Inka Mars, vice-chairman of the Natal region of the Red Cross, estimated the fund would need another R250 000 to continue its work at the levels brought about by demand.

She said even if the drought eased crop-planting resumed it would still be only in January when new crops might be reaped.

"Funds are down to about R30 000, which means if we supplied all the people who requested help, we wouldn't be able to pay."

"We have requests for about 15 000 bags of maize meal, which already adds up to R57 000."

"People are so kind that many, for instance, want to bring in things like a tin of beans. But the pure logistics of moving tins of beans just don't work out unfortunately."

"What we need is cash. There are cries for help at the moment and we are not able to meet some of them."

The fund buys the maize meal from Premier Milling in Johannesburg but it is delivered in Natal through National Food Distributors.

3/7/83 (2) (3) General S. Times

By Elizabeth Rouse
INDUSTRY and agriculture are appealing desperately for Government aid in drought-stricken areas.

Farmers, industry appeal for Govt help

"The Government has been approached to make aid available through the State Revenue Fund to help subsidise the consequences of an act of God," says Roland Freakes, executive director of the Natal Chamber of Industries.

He claims that his chamber's members have cut water use by 40% in response to the call by the Minister of Environment Affairs and Fisheries, Sarel Hayward, for a 50% reduction in Natal's industrial areas.

This saving has involved higher costs to industry, which has had to renew water-supply lines to increase efficiency of reticulation and/or to install water-recycling plants.

In addition, costs of water have risen.

The Umgeni Water Board's rates have been increased by 70%, first by 9c a kl, now by 12,5c a kl.

■■■

The 40% cut in use does not necessarily mean that the differential is 30% because of the extra costs involved in factory water reticulation, says Mr Freakes.

Industry in the Johannesburg area, although the smallest percentage individual user of water in the area, will take the brunt of the water-price increase effective from this coming Friday.

Rates have gone up 51,5% for industry. Industry pays more even though it uses only 15% of the water in the Johannesburg area.

The city council, hospitals and general city administration consume 13%, white households 36% and Soweto

36%, according to a survey by the Transvaal Chamber of Industries.

Hennie Viljoen, president of the chamber, says the water-rate increase is highly inflationary and will have to be passed on to the consumer of manufactured goods.

Industry has cut water consumption by 20% and will meet the objective of a 30% cut, but is balking at paying 51,5% more for its water.

However, representations to the city council on June 15 have elicited no reply.

Damage to the sugar industry is running into multi-millions. Normally a significant exporter, because of drought the industry will have to import this year.

Its earnings last year were R153,2-million lower than the price-control formula permits, and the price-stabilisation fund is R188-million in the red.

The industry claims it has subsidised local sugar prices with export earnings in the past and, now that there is no sugar available to export, will be looking to higher domestic prices to prevent a disaster in sugar country.

SA Agricultural Union

president Jaap Wilkens this week called on the Government to take steps to curb the exceptional agricultural price hikes.

Prices of agricultural inputs have increased by 169% since 1975 compared with a 116% rise in product prices and an increase of 132% in the general inflation rate at the same time.

Government aid to agriculture was recently increased by R50-million from the earlier R150-million.

This amount was still not sufficient and aid measures served no purpose if no serious attempts were made to improve the long-term financial viability of agriculture, said Mr Wilkens.

Farmers in the summer-grain areas of the Western and Eastern Transvaal and north-western Free State are R1 000-million in debt. Hundreds are facing bankruptcy.

■■■

Tobie Loubser, chairman of the huge Sentraalwes cooperative, warned in his financial report this week that the call for support for co-ops would be tremendous.

Sentraalwes's turnover was up at R1 202-million in the year ended February 1983, but net profit fell by R7,4-million to R15,5-million. Members' debts rose 29% last year and are expected to rise another 43% this year.

The average inflation rate covering supplies such as tractors, other farming equipment and fertiliser was 15,2% in 1981/1982.

Meanwhile, farm-machinery and farm-supplies companies have felt the impact of a dramatic fall in farming income to R1 900-million in 1982 from R2 600-million in 1982, and they face another decline of around R1 000-million to R1 200-million this year.

Drought relief for Lebowa

3 General Sowetan 5/7/83

ONE OF South Africa's biggest supermarkets, OK Bazaars, has donated R100 000 food products to be distributed by the Red Cross and Operation Hunger to the needy in drought-stricken areas.

In a statement OK Bazaars says its donation of food products has been selected by a panel of nutritionists, including Red Cross president, Dr Pieter Smit.

OK is one of South Africa's private sectors that have become increasingly involved in drought relief, with money, foods, goods and skills being donated by a wide variety of companies.

Other concerns which have donated large amounts include Checkers, the Premier Group, Pick 'n Pay, the Employment Bureau of Africa and the SA Sugar Association.

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

A measure of the drought disaster can be gauged from isolated statistics which show that in KaNgwane 11 000 peasant farmers face starvation in their plots and in Kwazulu. Operation Hunger usually funds a feeding scheme for over 30 000 children.

OK says the first truckload of 5 000 kg of food — the equivalent of 9 000 tins and jars divided equally across the six selected food products was delivered on June 22 to the Jane Furse Hospital in Lebowa.

It provided this area, one of the worst affected by the drought, with 30 000 highly nutritive meals.

Dr A Makunyane, Director of Health in Lebowa accepted the donation from OK's director Dr Alan Fabig.

The next truckload will be dispatched next month.



HELP: OK Bazaars director Mr Alan Fabig hands over food products to Dr Abner Makunyane, Director of Health for Lebowa.

MP criticises farm boundary deals

D. Dispatch
7/7/83
General

EAST LONDON — Mr Errol Moorcroft, MP for Albany, has sharply criticised what he described as farmers who had "compromised their fellow farmers" by "arranging deals" for the incorporation of their land into national states without first consulting organised agriculture.

His remarks follow recent uncertainty over whether a Kidd's Beach pineapple farm — Silverdale — would be partly or wholly incorporated into Ciskei. For a time last month it appeared that the government had adopted a new proposal to incorporate the entire farm, though this proposal was later rejected.

Attending a farmers' association meeting at Kidd's Beach on Tuesday, Mr Moorcroft was asked by a director of Silverdale Mr Mark Meyer, to explain a press report quoting Mr Moorcroft as saying that "one cannot have the situation where individuals or companies enter into cosy little deals with the department (of Co-operation and Development) ..."

Mr Moorcroft, a member of the parliamentary select committee responsible for reviewing homelands consolidation proposals, replied that "it so often happens that a boundary is decided on — organised agriculture is consulted and decides it agrees on the boundary. Then one hears afterwards that the boundary has been redrawn in order to accommodate certain farmers' wishes.

"Those farmers invariably have gone behind organised agriculture's back. They have negotiated a separate deal with the department. The first the farming community gets to hear about it is when that agreement is published.

"They have then compromised their fellow farmers by agreeing on a boundary that does not suit the community."

Mr Moorcroft then re-

ferred directly to the Silverdale case in which the government, apparently without consulting farmers organisations, had dropped an older and generally accepted proposal to cede a portion of Silverdale to Ciskei, in favour of a new proposal to cede the entire farm, along with the farms Blue Mountain and Glenfields. The new proposal was opposed by the East London Western Districts Farmers Association (ELDWFA), and the government ultimately rejected it.

"It would appear that this particular deal (the government's new proposal) had been arranged without the knowledge of organised agriculture," Mr Moorcroft said. He said he objected in principle to farmers arranging "deals" of this sort.

Mr Meyer then rose from his seat, saying: "I'd like to set the record straight here and now. Silverdale had nothing to do with it (the new proposal) whatsoever."

Mr Meyer said in an interview yesterday that he "had no idea" of what had lain behind the government's new proposal for Silverdale. He said he was not happy with the decision to cede only a portion of the farm, and said that several years ago he had recommended to the Van Der Walt Commission (on consolidation) that "all or nothing" of Silverdale be handed over to Ciskei.

The secretary of ELWDFFA, Mr E. Stylianou, told the meeting that the first news to reach Kidd's Beach of the new proposal for Silverdale came after mid-June, when Mr Pat Rogers, the MP for King William's Town, notified the chairman of ELWDFFA, Mr Neville Hewson, of the proposal.

"We were very concerned. We had been assured by the Van Der Walt Commission that no further ground would be taken without organised agriculture being con-

sulted," Mr Stylianou said.

He explained that the new proposal would have created boundaries leaving several Kidd's Beach farmers "virtually surrounded" by Ciskei. These farmers would then have been entitled to enforce an agreement with the South African Government, by which their farms would be sold and given to Ciskei if more than half of their boundary-land verged on Ciskei.

This would have set off a chain-reaction of farmers selling their land, with the result that the Ciskeian border "would have extended to East London", Mr Stylianou said.

Officials at the Eastern Cape Agricultural Union "were shocked" to hear of the proposal. "They had no knowledge of it," Mr Stylianou said.

Shortly after the receipt of Mr Rogers' report, Mr Stylianou and Mr Corder Tilney — a Kidd's Beach pineapple farmer and exporter — went to Cape Town to speak against the Silverdale proposal on behalf of ELWDFFA.

They met Mr R. le Roux, the chairman of the parliamentary select committee on co-operation and development.

"He assured us that organised agriculture had been consulted. We managed to prove to Mr

Le Roux that organised agriculture had not been consulted." Mr Stylianou said he told Mr Le Roux that ELWDFFA could not agree to the proposal because the farmers who would be affected by it had not been consulted. He told him that ELWDFFA "strongly objected to the plan".

"We asked the select committee to reverse this decision until the matter had been thoroughly studied. Fortunately, they saw things our way," he said. — DDR

3 General
~~103~~ ~~105~~

No Ciskei Transkei drought deaths

EAST LONDON — The drought has apparently not claimed any lives in Transkei and Ciskei as yet. *D. Dispatch 7/7/83*

The Secretary of the Department of Health in Transkei, Mr M. Titus, yesterday said it was difficult to determine whether starvation-related deaths had occurred as result of the drought in the territory.

"The drought is a remote cause of malnutrition, but one cannot directly attribute such deaths to drought conditions," he said.

Asked whether an increase in malnutrition admissions had been recorded at hospitals in Transkei, Mr Titus said: "Our hospitals are always full or even over capacity and this is not only a consequence of the drought."

It was widely predicted earlier this year that the drought would claim lives in both Ciskei and Transkei during winter.

Meanwhile, Ciskei's director of planning, Mr Gary Godden, was yesterday reported as saying that no starvation-related deaths had occurred in Ciskei.

He said: "We cannot allow that to happen — R750 000 has been devoted to feeding destitute families."

Mr Godden added that water distribution was becoming a problem. "Just getting clear drinking water to the people is proving difficult." —
DDR.

Rabies outbreaks in Karoo higher during the drought

(3) General

By CLAIRE PICKARD-CAMBRIDGE

OUTBREAKS of rabies among wildlife in certain Karoo and Albany areas have been higher this year, possibly due to increased contact among animals converging on scarce food and grazing in drought-stricken areas.

A spokesman from the State veterinarian department said the outbreak had been worse than in most years, with a number of confirmed cases among bat-eared foxes and meerkats in the Beaufort West and De Aar regions.

Vets also reported a number of confirmed cases around Bedford, Somerset East, Cradock and in the town of Fort Beaufort itself over the past few months.

Domestic animals were consequently inoculated in the last four areas.

There have been many reported sightings and deaths of rabid animals by farmers this year, particularly in the drought-stricken Beaufort West district.

One farmer, Mr Bernardus van Vuuren, said a rabid kudu had chased his farm labourers recently. It had not been caught and the case had been unconfirmed.

Mr Van Vuuren's neighbour on the farm Hannekuil also found a rabid bat-eared fox mauling a sheep

Five horsemen had ridden out to destroy it and the little jackal had charged towards them in a headlong attack.

The horsemen had turned and fled, but the jackal had been shot and the disease confirmed.

The farmer, who did not want to be named, said he had found more than 10 deaths resulting from rabies in the past few months, but he had not sent brain samples to Onderstepoort for confirmation.

Another farmer, Mr Harry Meyburgh, of the farm, Grantham, reported a rabid duiker had chased sheep in their lucerne lands, and a mohair farmer, Mr Christie Moeke, said he had found many little rabid animals dying around water troughs.

The district veterinarian in Beaufort West, Dr Willem Crause, said the disease, also known as hydrophobia or fear of water, had been so misnamed because it often paralysed the bottom jaw or throat of the animal preventing it from drinking.

He said the disease was endemic to the area, which meant it was always present and could break out at any time.

He said he did not regard it as having reached epidemic proportions, increased reports probably being due to increased awareness among farmers and heightened visibility of wild life under drought conditions.

"Being bitten by a rabid animal does not always mean you are infected because they don't necessarily secrete the virus in their saliva," he said.

"A victim should nevertheless scrub the wound with soap and water, allowing the blood to flow freely, removing the saliva. A district surgeon should then be seen."

Veterinarians from Graaff-Reinet and Colesberg said there had not been any reported cases in their areas.

Durban

~~10/9~~ 3 ~~General~~
may give

Mercury
again for

9/7/83
boreholes

Municipal Reporter

DURBAN looks set to give another R100 000 towards boreholes in KwaZulu.

This would be the third year the city has contributed to the water needs of the black area, bringing the total to R300 000.

A sub-committee report to the city's Management Committee said the drought had intensified in recent months. Of the 202 boreholes already sunk only seven were not functioning properly, largely because the first batch of pumps had been unsuitable.

The KwaZulu Water Development Fund had ensured that there was no overlap of drilling by other agencies, especially the KwaZulu Government.

In some areas the need for a borehole was critical and in many cases the black communities were contributing to the fund. In the Driefontein area the local people had raised R10 000 towards six boreholes. This encouraged the people to look after the vital sources of water.

Where boreholes had been provided, fewer relief measures of other kinds were needed.

The Management Committee will consider the report on Tuesday.

(3) General
Star 9/7/83

A bag of mealie meal stands between many and starvation

By Anthony Duigan

A bag of mealie meal a week is all that stands between almost 55 000 rural families and starvation — and the number dependent on this tenuous supply of basic food will increase by thousands during the coming weeks.

The channel for a network of feeding points supplying these needy people is the three-year old Operation Hunger — a tiny relief group working under the SA Institute of Race Relations in Johannesburg.

"Right now we are committed to feeding 380 000 people with more feeding schemes in Transkei and Ciskei still to be set up," Operation Hunger organiser Mrs Ina Perlman said.

In March/April about 150 000 people were getting food relief in the northern Transvaal and kwaZulu where Southern Africa's worst drought in memory has already bitten deep.

DROUGHT

As the full impact of the drought is felt, the numbers needing aid is rising dramatically. At the same time the generosity of the public and community-spirited companies filled the breach. As funds flowed in during the last two months, more lorries laden with fortified foods headed for the far-flung drought areas.

WINTER OF '83

Since the end of March about R750 000 in cash and kind has been given to Operation Hunger.

"This has been sufficient to give one 12,5kg bag of mealie meal a week to each family of seven, as well as 300 g of dehydrated soup which is enough for two high-protein meals a week," Mrs Perlman said.

A gift of R50 000 from the Johannesburg City Council will also be heading Operation Hunger's way — the result of a plea by Councillor Mrs Rae Graham during last month's municipal budget meetings.

Despite the surge of donations during the past few weeks, Mrs Perlman is still worried about the ability of Operation Hunger and other aid agencies to meet the ever-growing demand. Besides the feeding schemes still to be set up, Operation Hunger anticipates another 20 000 mouths to feed in Lebowa before the winter is out.

Aid to date allows for less than R2 a head needing assistance.

"We are going to have to feed people in some areas into next

year while they wait for early crops," Mrs Perlman said. "I believe the really critical period will be reached by the end of November.

TERRIFIED

"I've now reached the stage where I'm terrified to look at my in-basket because of the heart-rending appeals which are still coming in."

Soweto doctor, community leader and a founder of Operation Hunger after research he did on rural poverty in 1979, Dr Nthato Motlana, said he was delighted with what had already been achieved by the group.

"What pleases me more than anything is the way women's groups are being set up in many rural areas to promote self-help projects like vegetable gardens to produce fresh food. It's not just a case of handing out free food," Dr Motlana said.

Dr Motlana and Mrs Perlman appealed for more gifts in cash and kind. They emphasised that everything collected went into the kitty for feeding the hungry. Administrative costs are borne by special grants from trust funds or private enterprise and there was continual liaison with other relief agencies like the Red Cross and World Vision so there was no duplication.

Contributions can be sent to Operation Hunger, P O Box 97, Johannesburg 2000.

Grim new drought warning

Pietermaritzburg
Bureau

NATAL now has to start facing up to the fact that the drought might continue into next summer. Mr Ray Haslam, MEC, chairman of the water contingency committee, warned yesterday.

And that would mean not only much tougher water restrictions, but the wholesale shutdown of factories and massive unemployment.

Mr Haslam said, after a meeting of the committee in Durban, that the people of Natal were for the most part playing their part in saving water — but there is no room for complacency.

The possibility of a continuing drought had to be faced along with the hardships that would go with it.

A slight drop in the water savings in Durban and Pietermaritzburg — from 55 percent to 51 percent — had been noted during the past week but this could be attributed to the influx of holidaymakers.

But there was a danger that people could start slipping back into their old water-wasting ways, and it was important that they realise the situation was as serious as ever.

A Pietermaritzburg City Engineer's Department spokesman said savings in the city were fairly consistent around 56 percent.

But comparisons between savings in Durban and the capital were misleading due to the different 'mix' of industry and residential areas.

Two of Natal's hardest-hit towns, Newcastle and Dundee, yesterday reported they were holding their own.

New regulations have just been introduced in Newcastle to vary the allowable consumption for domestic users according to the number of people in each household — from 260 l a day for homes with three or fewer members to 400 l for seven or more.

Newcastle's water supply from the Chelmsford Dam — just 4.15 percent full — is being supplemented from boreholes and a recycling plant.

In Dundee even non-potable water from disused mineshafts, which is fed into the reticulation system, is rationed to about 260 l a day for each family, while drinking water from boreholes must be fetched from tankers.

● See also Page 3

~~3 General~~

Blacks urged to establish co-ops

Staff Reporter

THE National African Federated Chamber of Commerce (Nafcoc) has "exhorted" the black community to seriously consider embarking on co-operative ventures, particularly in agriculture and home industries, as a means of alleviating poverty.

A resolution passed in Cape Town yesterday during the closing session of Nafcoc's 19th annual conference recognized "the need for a concerted effort to eliminate poverty" and called on people to pool

resources in such ventures.

A second resolution called on the government "to recognize the impoverishing effect" of its policy of uprooting and resettling people, and demanded that regional development be undertaken without the "unnecessary resettlement of whole groups of the population".

Nafcoc also criticized the government's policy of demolishing squatter shacks as "barbaric", "completely heartless" and "uncivilized". The policy did not take into

consideration the "extreme suffering" caused by the measure, said the resolution.

It called on the governments of "the various States in Southern Africa" to join forces with all socio-economic agencies "in order to evolve a housing policy that will endeavour to satisfy the nation's needs for shelter".

Land Acts

The conference also passed a motion "recognizing that for as long as South Africa maintains the Land Acts, for so long will the advancement of black business be thwarted". Changes in the Acts were needed within "the shortest time possible".

The conference expressed itself "strongly against the continued exclusion of blacks from all organs of government" and reaffirmed "its conviction on the futility of any social accommodation which does not include the black people of South Africa".

Nafcoc called on the government to issue South African travel documents "to all black people of South Africa and its neighbouring States, regardless of their residential attachment to any homeland, independant State or black area whose passports are not accepted as a result of the diplomatic non-recognition of such States".

Nafcoc drought relief fund opens

Staff Reporter

THE National African Federated Chamber of Commerce (Nafcoc) has started a drought relief fund in an effort to lessen some of the suffering caused by "this national disaster".

Pledges amounting to R6 000 were made by representatives of the 12 regional chambers of commerce at the conference in Cape Town yesterday.

The amounts have been promised for August 15 when the money will be distributed as the Nafcoc council considers appropriate.

After the conference had passed a resolution calling on the Nafcoc council to investigate ways in which the chamber could act as a catalyst for the establishment of a black consumer council, a representative from Nestle Food products pledged R5 000 on behalf of the company towards this end.

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b

1476
Sugar mills may close

JON BEVERIDGE
Financial Editor

MORE sugar mills may have to be closed. Mr Chris Saunders, chairman of the Tongaat-Hulett's Group, said yesterday.

Some weeks ago the group closed some of its mills in the Zululand area because of the drought.

About 2 000 workers at the Felixton, Darnall, Amatikulu and Empanjeni mills were laid off with the promise of 70 percent of their normal wages for the next six months.

(3) closed
9/7/83
A Hulett's spokesman said the group's other two mills, at Maidstone and Mount Edgecombe, might face similar cutbacks.

The milling season usually runs from April to December with a shut-down between January and March.

Mr Saunders said he expected the twin forces of drought and world recession would have a severe impact on the group, but forecast that earnings for the year should not fall by more than 20 percent of last year's 116.6 c a share.

Doomed donkeys wanted, *S Express* dead or *10/7/83* alive! ~~TOP~~ *3) General*

By JEAN LE MAY and BREW TORCHIA

NOT all of the doomed donkeys of Bophuthatswana are destined for that great kraal in the sky — some may find homes in India, Israel or even Kyalami.

Dead or alive, Bophuthatswana's donkey population has become sought after both locally and overseas. People want to employ the animals, adopt them for humanitarian reasons or use their bones, skins and meat.

More than 60 000 donkeys will be shot in Bophuthatswana during the next few months to ease the burden on grazing lands in the drought-stricken territory.

An Indian university professor wrote to the Sunday Express asking that the unwanted donkeys be shipped to Madhya Pradesh province in central India.

The donkeys, he said, should be sent as a gift to the porter caste, which uses them for transporting earth, manure and earthen pots.

Professor S N Sharma, of Bopal, Madhya Pradesh, said the people of the province would raise enough money to ship the animals to India.

Another letter from India, signed by Mr P S Trivedi of Bandhinagar and eight others, said he was "deeply grieved" by news of the massacre and added that "we must not lose sight of the laborious service rendered to human beings by these innocent animals".

If the donkeys don't make it to India they may end up in Israel — the Bophuthatswana government has received inquiries from an Israeli firm which is considering using the animals on the country's kibbutzim.

But Mr W Labuschagne, curator of the Johannesburg zoo, poured cold water on the idea. Shipping the donkeys overseas is "a ridiculous notion", he said.

"It will cost at least R500 — more than 30 times the value of the animal — to ship each animal to Bombay and if the people of Madhya Pradesh want to import donkeys, surely they could find a cheaper, closer source?" he added.

But there may also be sanctuary closer to home for several lucky donkeys — a Kyalami family wants three of them as pets.

"They require very little food and they're wonderful with children," said Mrs Vivian Bennett, a mother of two.

"I'm sure that many other South African families who have the space will be willing to provide a home for them.

"The light, hairless donkeys can be a bit vicious, but the brown woolly ones — like the one which was pictured being shot in the Sunday Express last week — make lovable pets if you get them when they're young."

But dead donkeys are more in demand than live ones. The Bophuthatswana government has received dozens of calls from local and foreign firms interested in buying the carcasses.

The Johannesburg zoo wants donkey meat to feed its animals and restaurants from Hong Kong have inquired about the availability of certain parts of the donkeys' anatomy, which are considered delicacies in Asia.

Mr Laurie Berg, managing director of Isowall, a leading cold storage firm, told the Sunday Express that "the donkeys' plight has revealed an opportunity to develop a potentially important export trade" in which meat could be shipped to Europe.

This week Bophuthatswana's Minister of Agriculture, Mr E M Mokgoko, invited interested parties to visit Bophuthatswana and "make a deal".

"We'll put them in touch with the owners of the donkeys and perhaps we'll be able to work out something," he said.

Govt warned: Rethink farms policy or food price will soar

General Star 8/7/83

Monopolies will increase their stranglehold on South Africa's food industry and prices will continue to soar if the Government does not change its agricultural policies.

That is the opinion of Mr Danie Scholtz, who recently resigned as chief executive of the South African Federation of Livestock Auctioneers and Agents.

"It is time that private enterprise and the State became more marketing oriented," he said.

Mr Scholtz, who served the federation for 10 years, said South African agriculture could prosper only if costs were brought down.

"South Africa is far too expensive to compete on foreign markets and this is a direct result of Gov-

Mr Danie Scholtz, former chief of the South African Federation of Livestock Auctioneers and Agents, told consumer reporter COLLEEN RYAN that Government control and monopolies were making South Africa too expensive to compete on foreign markets.

ernment control and monopolies," he said.

The meat industry, now dominated by three large organisations, was an example of the monopolistic trend.

Mr Scholtz pointed to the changes he had witnessed in his organisation in the last decade.

"Even the name of the federation is a misnomer," he said.

The federation originally had a strong corps of independent auctioneers and agents but now

their representation had been reduced from hundreds to a mere 50. Scores of agents had been swallowed up by the giant companies, he said.

Mr Scholtz has broken away to form a new livestock foundation, the Africa Livestock Foundation.

"South Africa has great potential as a food exporter to its African neighbours and I believe we must build up this market," he said.

The new foundation



Mr Danie Scholtz

will be open to all traders in Africa and its aim is to promote the livestock industry on the continent.

"We hope to bring together different voices, including the producer, the distributor and the consumer," he explained.

The foundation will place great emphasis on research in an effort to improve standards.

Own Correspondent
EAST LONDON
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Hungry

By Dirk Nel,
Northern Transva
Bureau

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from the town's busi

Giant sports complexes planned for Pretoria

Pretoria Correspondent

Giant sports complexes are being planned south-east of Pretoria and in Verwoerdburg.

A site on the Tierpoort/Welbekend road has been set aside by the Pretoria City Council for a complex which will probably cater for all major sports.

The Verwoerdburg town council is soon to call for tenders for facilities for rugby, soccer, hockey, cricket, bowling and tennis in the first R5 million phase of its planned complex near the new central business district.

It will also build an indoor complex with a swimming pool, saunas, squash courts and gymnasium as well as a fun park for children, and in a second phase extend the indoor facilities to cater for sports such as tennis and boxing.

The facilities for Pretoria's fast growing south-eastern suburbs will be adjacent to the new bus depot - recently resited from Atterbury Road extension in Garsfontein to the Tierpoort Road.

The University of Pretoria's indoor sports complex costing more than R6 million is almost completed and will be inaugurated in October.

THE DAILY COLUMN

The sublime delights of a hearty steak

Being a man who always enjoys a tasty steak, I shall do my best next time I am in London to become a member of an organisation that has been in existence since 1735 - the Sublime Society of Beef Steaks.

The society held its annual out-of-Town meeting on Monday and, as usual, the 24 members

Ron Graham
Stoep
Talk



DIODI BLASTS HIGH PRICES on winter

Famous make one-bar
Electric Heaters

● For bedrooms, study, etc. ● 1,1 kW output ● Highly economical - save electricity ● Keeps the whole room warm

539



Industry urged to play part in water savings

13/7/83

874

By Michael Chester
and Sheryl Raine

Industrial and commercial consumers were urged today to pack more effort into preventing water wastages — to match the savings enforced on domestic users.

Experts are convinced that millions more litres can be saved by factories by better economies and more use of recycling.

The CSIR has added new punch to the campaign by unveiled a plan to help industries save water.

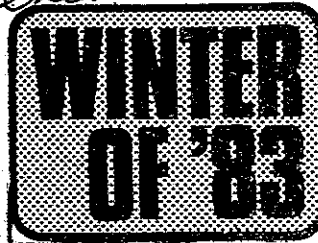
According to Mr George Malan, senior research officer of the National Building Research Institute of the CSIR, the plan has been passed on to the Chamber of Industries and municipalities.

"We have worked out a strategy to reduce the consumption of water other than that used for production," said Mr Malan.

The target is to reduce water consumption in administration buildings, ablution facilities, canteens and gardens.

Suggestions include:

- Updating plans of pipelines to show the exact position of fittings and valves so that a water audit can be conducted.
- Installing sub-meters on all lines to specific areas to accurately



tely monitor water. Management should take meter readings simultaneously from each meter every day for a month to establish where and how water is being used.

- Optimise the use of water by adjusting and modifying wasteful fittings.
- Insulation of hot water piping, checks on air conditioning and on cooling towers.
- Storage facilities for roof run-offs should be provided to irrigate gardens.

Water producers are now hoping that more industrial companies will follow the lead of Sasol and pulp and paper producer Sappi in slashing consumption.

The Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs is working on a campaign to persuade more leaders in industry and commerce to join the effort for better conservation of water and energy resources.

- See Page 6, Metro section.

nesday, July 13, 1983

Blacks do their bit

Mercury Reporter

PEOPLE in the black township of Umlazi, outside Durban, last week recorded a water saving of 35 percent — 26 percent better than their cut-back three weeks ago.

Mr Roger Phelines, chairman of the Umgeni Water Board, said

he was very pleased with the efforts being made in all the townships in the Durban and Pietermaritzburg areas.

Last week Kwa Mashu cut consumption by 38 percent and Edendale, near Pietermaritzburg, recorded a 33 percent drop in water usage.

Mr Phelines said: 'Black townships have done very well indeed considering that they started on a lower base — whites were able to cut consumption more easily by not watering gardens or washing cars.'

'Cut-backs in the black areas are real savings,' he added.

Mr Phelines said at the present rate of consumption Durban and Pietermaritzburg had enough water to last until the end of the year.

However he said: 'The one thing we must guard against is complacency because we have water for six months. We would like an overall saving of 55 percent to be maintained.'

Consumption in Durban was cut by 55 percent last week, but Amanzimtoti consumers could manage only a 36 percent drop in usage. Mr Phelines said the situation in the town was 'worrying'.

The North Coast Regional Water Corporation notched up a 70 percent saving, as did Camperdown. Cato Ridge and Westville both saved 68 percent and Pietermaritzburg cut consumption by 55 percent.

Long queues, long wait for the tankers

Mercury Reporter

PRE-DAWN queues for water are 'normal' for hundreds of Inanda residents, many of whom have to wait all day for their family ration of 80 ℓ, delivered in tankers to a number of dispersal points in the sprawling township.

Water is carted to the Inanda dispersal

points every day — starting about 8 a.m. — but people have been forced to queue from about 5 a.m. daily to be sure of collecting their quota.

Some walk many kilometres to the dispersal points.

A resident said tankers delivered water about four times a day.

However, they could never be sure when they

would arrive.

Residents are not charged for the water, which is bought by the KwaZulu Government from the Umgeni Water Board.

She said the daily wait usually began before dawn and tail-enders could expect to spend most of the day waiting for water.

Another resident said they could fill only four 20 ℓ

containers with water each day for domestic use.

Waiting in the sun for water had become a daily occupation and a 'normal way of life' for hundreds of residents, she said. 'We need the water and we must wait for it.'

Some people who could not spend time waiting for water paid others to queue for them.

SEBE 11

DROUGHT AID 'FOR YES-MEN ONLY'

10/7/87
CP Correspondent

CP Correspondent

THE Ciskei Government is using South African - sponsored drought aid to "persuade" people to move from a black spot.

Only those in favour of resettlement are getting drought aid and jobs.

This shock claim has been made by the chairman of the Mgwali Residents Association, Mr Pringle Nobode.

But the Ciskei's Director - General of Health, Dr L Z Mzimba, has denied any

knowledge of favouritism.

Mr Nobode said only card-carrying members of the Ciskei National Independence Party - President Lennox Sebe's party - were being given drought aid.

His organisation is opposed to the relocation of the Mgwali black spot near Stutterheim in the "white corridor" between Ciskei and Transkei.

10/7/87
Mr Nobode said the allocation of drought aid "discriminates against people who are fighting resettlement just because they refuse to take out CNIP membership."

"Consequently, bags of desperately-needed maize meal are rotting in the tribal authority offices."

Dr Mzimba, however, said he was sure the relief project was being implemented fairly.

Phase 3 status is not enough — farmer

EAST LONDON — Farmers have been granted Phase 3 drought-relief status from July 1, it was announced at an East London District's Farmers Union meeting yesterday.

Mr M. Luck, the chairman of the union, said the granting of Phase 3, which entitles farmers to subsidised loans for the purchase of livestock fodder, had come just in time as the financial position of many local farmers was becoming precarious.

Mr Cecil Dalbock, one of the farmers attending the meeting, said he felt that the granting of Phase 3 was not enough and that applications should be made to the Department of Agriculture for the granting of at least Phase 4.

"We are in a grassveld area — but there is just no grass. Who is responsible for us?" Mr Dalbock said.

"Does the Department



MR ROGERS



MR LUCK

of Agriculture expect us to beat the drum and blow the bugles now that they have granted us Phase 3 status?" he said. "I know of at least a 100 farmers who are applying for domestic water alone and because of this, I propose we push for Phase 4 or Phase 5."

The MP for King William's Town, Mr Pat Rogers, said he agreed with Mr Dalbock's proposal

but he wanted to emphasise that there was a four-month delay before the next phase could be granted.

He said the reason for this was that the Department of Agriculture was tightening up on drought relief expenditure. However, he said people who were eligible for Phase 2, and who had not made use of it, could still apply for the same be-

nefits even if conditions had changed.

Mr Rogers said the government had also made a subsidy available to farmers for the cartage of water.

"But the government makes a big play about these concessions and a lot of them are just impossible to procure," he said.

Mr Rogers said he believed officials should go out and look at an area, and deal with the problems themselves.

"These people are conspicuous by their absence," he said.

Mr Rogers said that local farmers would have an opportunity to make their positions known when the Minister of Environmental Affairs visited the district on July 28 as well as when the Minister of Agriculture arrived here on July 29.

"We must not waste our time sitting around and drinking tea, but we must take these men to the worst affected areas," Mr Rogers said.

— DDR

Natal outbreak of rabies worst in year

Mercury
15/7/83
3
3
General

Mercury Reporter

RECENT rabies outbreaks in parts of Natal have caused concern.

Dr Bill Posthumus, assistant regional director of Veterinary Services in Natal, said that last month the province had had its greatest number of outbreaks in a year.

'It is noticeable that some of last month's seven cases occurred on areas bordering with KwaZulu,' he said.

'We are holding an intensive inoculation campaign along the coastal belt and the turnout has been good, especially among the Indian population. I am thrilled with the outcome.'

The director of Veterinary Services in KwaZulu, Mr Dave Osbourn, said

that a current problem there was to motivate people to bring their dogs in for inoculations.

'Once there is a tragedy and someone is bitten, they become more aware,' he said. 'But this is also often the case in many white areas.'

'Any occurrence of rabies is a cause for concern but lately they have also been in areas including Mapumulo and Gindhlovu that have been quiet in the past. There have even been cases where inoculated animals have caught the disease.'

He added that sometimes there was a feeling of reluctance in having animals inoculated.

Deaths of animals were frequently blamed on inoculations.

WINTER OF '83

Drought has not troubled Pietersburg

General

Gar 14/12/83

By Dirk Nel, Northern Transvaal Bureau

PIETERSBURG — The Town Clerk of Pietersburg, Mr Jack Botes says long-term water planning is essential to cope with droughts

He was commenting on remarks made by a visiting American expert on underground water resources who said South Africa had not given proper attention to its underground supplies.

Mr Botes said: "For many years Pietersburg has been developing its water supply network from underground sources in the Sand and Sterkloop rivers and now gets about a third of its water from these boreholes."

SA faces dam crisis says US expert

By Lawrie Bedford

South Africa is running out of rivers to dam, says an American who is an adviser on groundwater resources to the United States Government.

Dr Jay Lehr, executive of the National Water Well Association, says South Africa must now seriously consider storing floodwater underground in times of plentiful rainfall.

"You've reached the end of the line," he said. "There are no more rivers to dam and, it seems, you don't have a comprehensive grasp of the quantity of available groundwater in the country to enable you to assess your resource situation."

He gave his ideas for beating the drought in South Africa at a meeting this week with Government officials.

He pointed out that the town council had bought land along the Sand River to pursue its long-term water policy and now had a reasonable reserve which made any restrictions in the near future unlikely.

Pietersburg is the only town in the Northern Transvaal which has not enforced water restrictions.

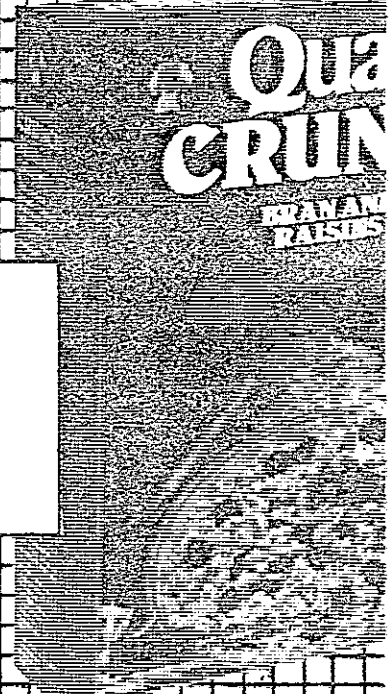
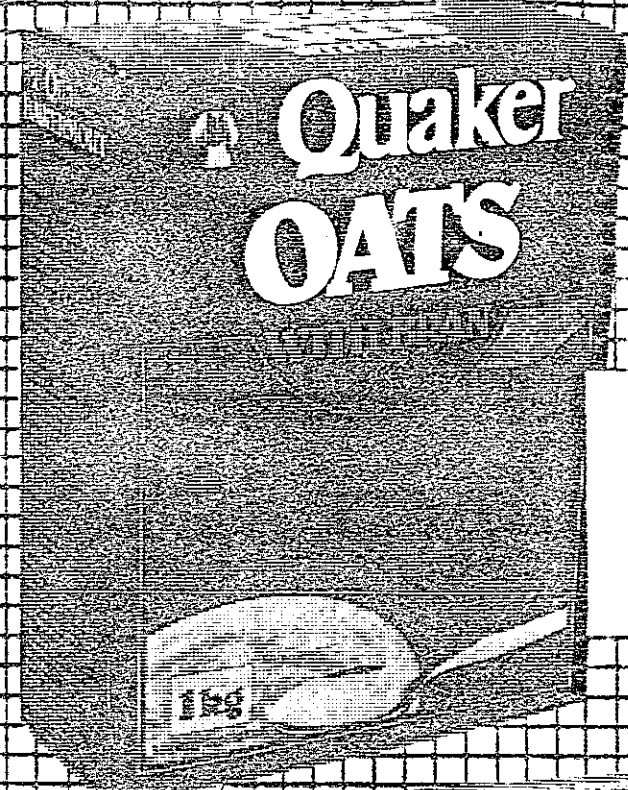
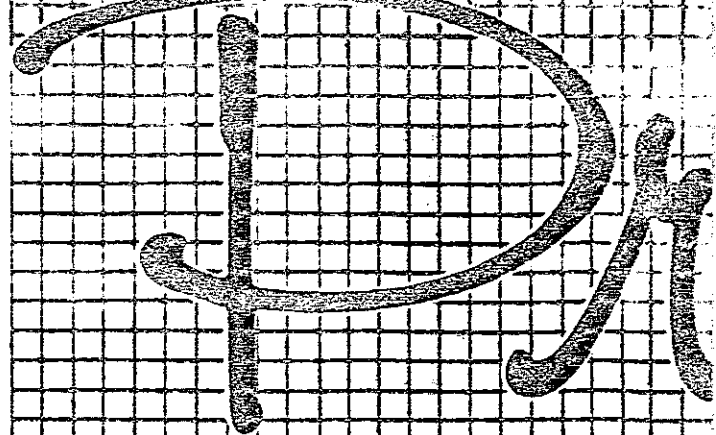
Mr Botes said both the Dap Naude and Ebenezer dams, from which the town draws its main supply, were about three-quarters full.

Limited supplies were being taken from the Ebenezer Dam, a Government scheme, because the cost was higher.

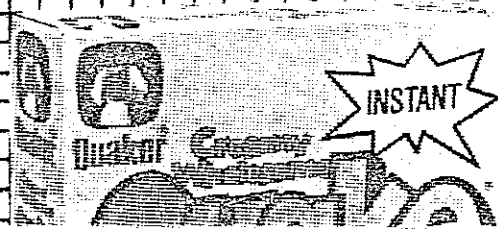
"Pietersburg residents have been asked to use water sparingly even though we have no problems at this stage," Mr Botes added.

Drought-stricken Messina has also extended its water planning. A R3 million underground scheme from the Limpopo, 12 km distant, was recently approved and should be operative within a year.

Industrialists and farmers in the highly productive area around Tzaneen will face a



Quaker Crunch
1,39
500 g



By Dirk Nel, Northern Transvaal Bureau

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Industrialists and farmers in the highly productive area around Tzaneen will face a major crisis if it does not rain soon because Fanie Botha Dam is less than 30 percent full.

Church and other welfare food schemes are continuing to provide emergency supplies to families in Lebowa and Gazankulu.

The latest drought relief aid fund has been established by the Presbyterian Church of Southern Africa, which is helping communities in Lebowa.

The convener of the committee supervising the distribution of food supplies, the Rev Mel Broughton, said R12 000 had already been made available through donations from church members throughout South Africa.

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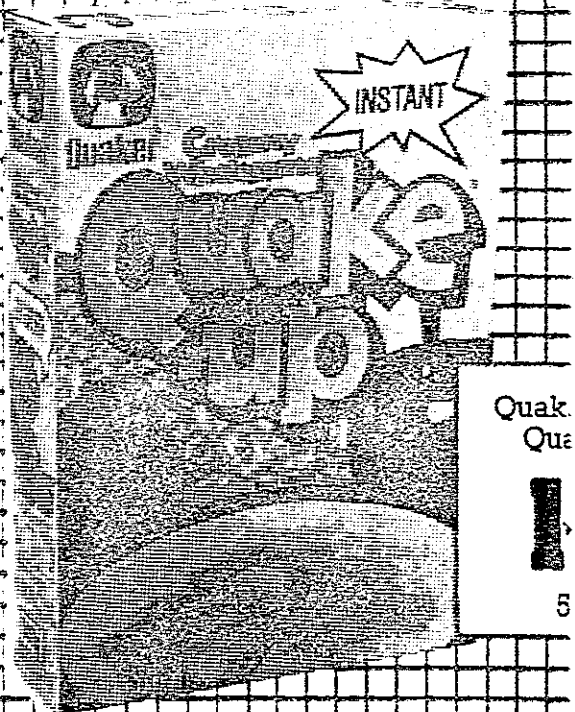
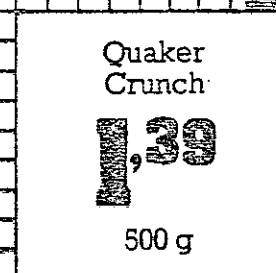
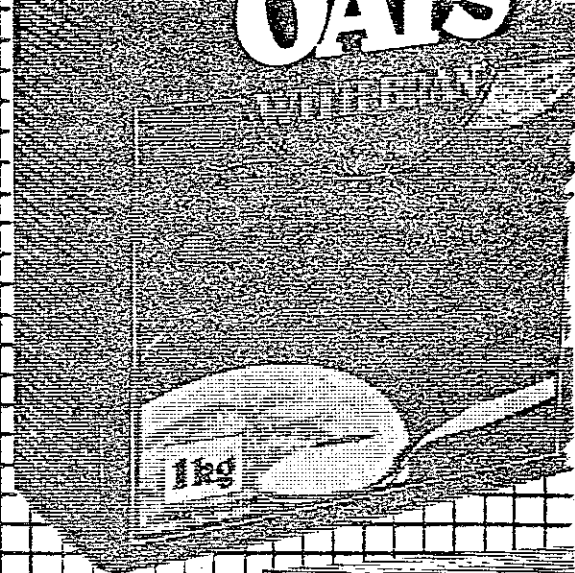
He gave his ideas for beating the drought in South Africa at a meeting this week with Government officials.

"I recognise that up to now South Africa has been unable, because of lack of funds and adequate manpower, to assess its groundwater resources, and that it has been operating on a crisis management basis."

He believes South Africa could quadruple its reliance on groundwater — and that it is within the Government's capacity to assess, educate and direct people to use this resource.

Dr Lehr is in South Africa to plan a water well convention and exposition, to be held at the new Rand Showgrounds in November 1984.

It already has a block booking from 500 US delegates.



SA must grow more food

③ General 20M 15/7/83

By SIMON WILLSON

PRODUCTIVITY in the agricultural sector would have to rise dramatically to meet the demands of the South African population for food in the next few years, said Mr Francis le Riche, deputy chairman of Sentrachem.

He said at a meeting of the South African-German Chamber of Trade and Industry in Johannesburg that drought and recession did nothing to change the requirements made of South Africa's agricultural sector.

"The demands of the future are that we have to double

milk production merely to meet ordinary standards of nutrition.

"Production of beef will have to rise from 600 000 tons to 800 000 tons a year, and production of lamb and mutton will have to double.

"Egg production will have to rise from 2 400 000 dozen to 5 700 000 dozen a year if standards are to be met."

The agricultural sector was ill-prepared to meet the challenges. Barely 20% of South Africa's farmers produced 80% of the products which were in short supply.

"We have a terrible back-

log in educational standards on our farms. Only 15% of the white agricultural population has been educated to matriic level, and among black agricultural employees standards are much worse.

"There are 1 300 000 black employees on our farms and there is no way we will reach the necessary standards of production if we do not pay more attention to our own education."

The United States needed the productive equivalent of 2½ people in its agricultural sector to feed 1 000 people. West Germany and Britain

needed about four people's production a 1 000.

"The Soviet Union needs the production of 60 of its agricultural workers a 1 000 of its population.

"There is no directly comparable figure for South Africa because of differences in our agricultural structure, but I know our figure would be even worse than the Soviet Union's bad agricultural productivity.

"There have been improvements in South African agricultural technology, but there is still terrific room for improvement."

RECEIVED

SA on guard as cattle-killer sweeps through 28 countries

NAI 5
18/7/83
3 Guard
3 Nurse

Argus Foreign Service

NAIROBI. — The news that 28 African countries have been hit by the horrific cattle disease, rinderpest, has sent a ripple of fear south through agricultural communities still haunted by the spectre of the 1896 epidemic.

Highly contagious and fatal, the "cattle plague" which was endemic in Central Africa, began its fear-some spread south in the late 1880s.

It swept into what was then Nyasaland in 1892 and reached Uganda in 1890.

Struck in Bulawayo

Gathering speed as it reached into areas more richly populated with domestic cattle, it struck Bulawayo in 1896 and was across the Orange River by March the next year.

Estimates of the number of cattle wiped out in Southern Africa range from 2.5-million to 4.5-million. Wildlife populations were so badly ravaged that they never recovered.

Though the disease can be effectively controlled through systematic vaccination the fear remains that if it starts to move south again it could take hold in countries such as Mozambique and Angola where much of the agricultural, social and economic infrastructure has been wrecked by war.

If such countries lack the resources to stop it sweeping through their herds of game and domestic cattle, the disease could easily sweep through to the South African border.

As a precaution South African veterinary scientists have already stockpiled a million doses of vaccine for use at home or in African countries "quite far to the north" which have already asked for help.

In 1896 the lack of communications on the continent was such that tribespeople, farmers and transport operators were caught completely by surprise when whole herds of their cattle began to sicken and die within hours.

Huge areas were littered with the bones of buffalo and other game which succumbed as the disease was carried on its ghastly way by vultures and other "housekeepers" of nature which were not affected by it themselves.

Financial ruin

The symptoms of fever and bloody diarrhoea in stock signalled financial ruin for thousands.

The disease was finally halted through the brilliant work of scientists Robert Koch, Arnold Theiler and others who perfected vaccines, one of them from an immunising agent in the bile of infected animals.

Author and civil servant William Scully has described how, while serving as civil commissioner in what was then Kaffraria, he inoculated 20 000 head of cattle and so prevented a rising by tribespeople who believed the disease was the work of the government.

The Veterinary Research Institute at Onderstepoort has continued these studies and is likely to be in the forefront of international steps to eradicate one of the most fearsome killers in Africa.



SOUTH AFRICA'S CATTLE, many of which are suffering the effects of the drought, may soon face another deadly hazard, rinderpest.

SA being forced to import essential foods

16/7/83

(3) General Staff

By Hannes Ferguson,
Farming Correspondent.

South Africa is fast becoming reliant on imported essential foods.

So say economists who believe that this situation is the result not only of the current drought but also of the Government's economic policies and administrative bungling.

As a direct result of the drought, they say, a maize surplus has been converted into a shortfall and, far from being the continent's granary, South Africa now has to rely on grain imported from America and Argentina.

And this situation, they continue, has been aggravated by the Government policy of keeping the rand at a higher international exchange rate than is warranted by its internal value.

A spokesman for the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) said yesterday that the point had been reached where it was often cheaper to import food than to grow it locally.

This had led, among other things, to the importation of large quantities of out-of-season fruit from Europe, much of which is flown out at great expense.

And this, the spokesman said, had caused a situation where the competitiveness of South African fruit, canned food and other agricultural exports had been severely damaged.

The policy of protecting industry supplying agriculture stood in the way of any effort to lower production costs of farm products, the SAAU said.

Two weeks ago, the Government established a "hush-hush" inter-departmental committee to look at the uncontrolled importation of foodstuffs.

The departments of Agriculture, Finance and Industries, as well as the SAAU and various control boards, are represented on the committee.

The SAAU also accused the Department of Industries, Commerce and Tourism of issuing "general food permits irrespective of existing surplus stocks", and said the relevant control boards had only been consulted where it was laid down by law.

According to market research done by the Dairy Control Board, about 8 000 tons of milk powder products annually enter the country — either through the use of fraudulent customs declarations or through loopholes created by the Department.

The countries of origin usually paid a subsidy of about 50 percent.

The customs-service does not have sufficient manpower to inspect a containerised cargo which has, according to sources, become a major channel of import duty evasion.

The SAAU recently set up a special committee to deal with the irregular importation of vegetables, potatoes and other foods.



Children queue for a thick slice of brown bread with peanut butter and soup. About 6 000 children are fed every afternoon in the bushbuckridge grove.

No one here sitting back and waiting for handouts

In spite of the drought, the people of Bushbuckridge and neighbouring villages in the north-eastern Transvaal have become one of the most self-sufficient communities in our impoverished rural areas.

They are not sitting back and waiting for handouts from wealthy people in the urban areas. Instead several projects, designed to give out a better living have been launched, and the number is fast increasing.

Early every morning, the women descend on the centres to start their daily work, which includes making candles, attractive bedspreads, baby clothes and school uniforms. These items are sold and profits shared among the women. There is also a feeding

scheme which hands out brown bread, peanut butter and warm soup daily to about 6 000 malnourished children in the area.

Thirty classrooms have been built from bricks made by the villagers, who have also provided sand and scarce water.

The Rev Daniel Sebe, in conjunction with the World Vision of Southern Africa, is firmly behind the projects. In 1980, armed with money assets but a sizeable determination, he had tried on his own to set up a feeding centre at Shabale, about three kilometres from Bushbuckridge. But he soon discovered that he could not succeed without outside help.

That was forthcoming and today he is the programme co-ordinator of Lebowa, Venda and Gazankulu, and has plans for expansion.

Villagers rally to defy the killer drought

At night the green sub-tropical setting of the north-eastern Transvaal area of Bushbuckridge is spellbinding, but a closer look in the harsher light of noon reveals another picture. It is an over-populated region where the ubiquitous animals strip off even the little remaining vegetation.

Uplike other areas where people sit back while the killer drought wreaks

havoc, villagers in Bushbuckridge and the outlying villages are doing all most everything possible to become self-sufficient.

Nearly all the women are involved in one of the many schemes calculated to ward off the effects of drought.

The stalwart, bearded the success story of Bushbuckridge is the widely travelled cleric, the Rev Daniel Sebe, who shook the people into action after he visited Guatemala and Israel and saw impressive community self-help schemes there.

"I saw the problems here in Bushbuckridge, but I also recognised the positive factors. Here were a good climate, fertile soil, people with great potential and plenty of time on their hands."

"I decided it was time the people were shaken

out of their mood of resigned acceptance and hopelessness. It was time to build a better future for themselves and their children," he said.

Initially Mr Sebe used his own limited resources, but soon realised that more financial backing was needed to get the community development schemes off the ground.

Once properly launched these would become self-supporting, generating an income for workers and allowing more growth.

He approached the World Vision of Southern Africa - a non-profit Christian humanitarian group - and soon afterwards sent his way back to the north-eastern Transvaal with financial backing.

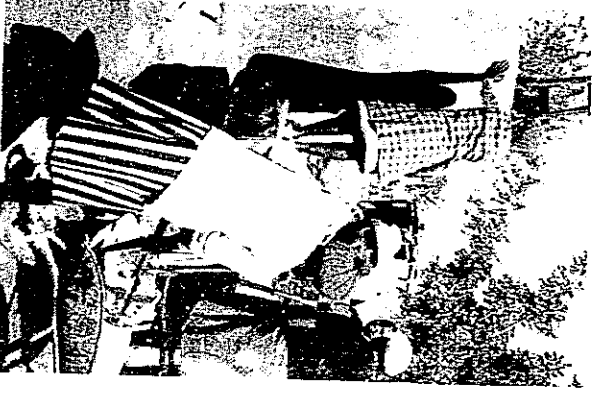
Through his budget was small he set up a feeding scheme at Shabale village which was greeted with slow suspicion from the locals. "Some were even saying that I wanted to nurture the small kids to be soldiers of the South African Government."

Gradually he reached out far and wide until the projects stretched over a radius of 60 km, even overflowing the borders



Women at Mgogogwato concentrate as they put finishing touches to the artistic clay pots they have made. They made considerable profits from selling the pots.

Report by Sol Matkagabutane



Another ferro-cement water tank nearing completion. The villagers collect water and sand from the river-bed to build the tank, while World Vision provides the rest.

with perhaps 5000 of them. Mr Sebe said water had

They deny the killer drought

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...story of Bush-
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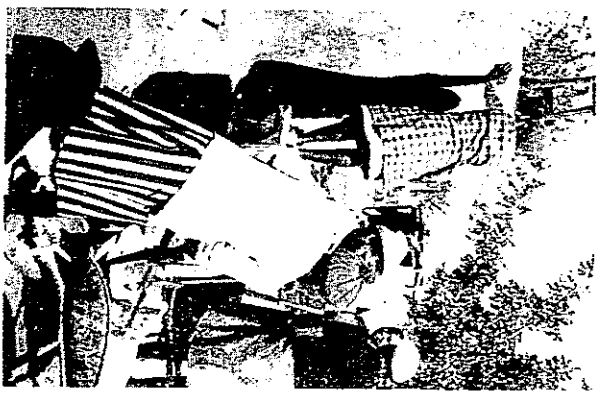
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...of Lebowa into neigh-
...bouring Gazankulu home-
...land.

...The formula he uses is
...simple: initiate and
...hard work to build for the
...future, rather than be-
...coming beggars waiting
...for handouts.

...Today there are estab-
...lished projects in the vil-
...lages of Shatale, Mad-
...jambeni, Rivoni, Zeck-
...nog, Orecco, Dwanaloan,
...Alexandria, Brooklyn,
...Arthursci, Roolbok,
...Lapite, Madgarwaza,
...Buffalshook, Maviljan,
...Segajala, Greenvalley
...and Solani.

...He said: "We wanted to
...reach everyone so they
...could not say we did not
...want to help them."
...At these centres which
...are used for feeding 6 000
...hungry children every af-
...ternoon, women are
...being taught sewing,
...weaving, crochelling,
...sponge-work and pottery.

Report by Sol Makgabutano



Another ferro-cement water tank, nearing comple-
tion. The villagers collect water and sand from the
river-bed to build the tank, while World Vision pro-
vides the rest.

...with orders. Some of the
...profits went to buy ma-
...terial and the rest was
...shared among the work-
...ers.

...The projects which
...stand head and shoulders
...above the rest are the lit-
...eracy classes which are
...held four days a week
...and the construction of
...ferro-cement water-tanks.

...The literacy classes
...are held at Shatale vil-
...lage where elderly peo-
...ple are being taught their
...mother languages, when
...range from Northern
...Sollo to Tsonga. When
...they can read and write
...they switch over to En-
...glish.

...The lessons are given
...by qualified teachers,
...Miss Stella Chikane and
...Miss Rhinah Nonyane.

...The purpose of teach-
...ing them their mother
...tongue first is to help
...them to be able to read
...letters from their hus-
...bands in the urban
...areas," Mr Sebe said.

...Mr Sebe said cricks had
...been cut because villag-
...ers collected sand in the
...riverbeds and water for
...the building of the tanks.

...World Vision provides
...the other needs such as
...cement, mesh wire, gal-
...vanised zinc sheets and
...qualified bricklayers.

...The tank is sited near
...the house, with a connec-
...tion to the roof gutters so
...water can be channelled
...to it when it rains.

...Mr Sebe said plans
...were afoot to build 1 000
...water-tanks in the Bush-
...buckridge area.

...“We want to create job
...opportunities (for the
...bricklayers who will
...build the tanks). What
...motivates everyone is
...that people want have to
...travel 6 km to the con-
...crete manual tap and wait 24
...hours to fill a 20 l drum
...again.”

...“Water will be fought
...there in their backyards.”

...World Vision was also
...planning to help to build
...500 tanks in Franklisswer
...near Burgersfort, 500 in
...Thabamogo, 500 in Sek-
...gosee near Soekmekaar
...and another 500 in Ra-
...kone district near Seke-
...go.

...Mr Sebe said the
...groups were inundated

percent of the country's water — rather than spend millions of rands channelling the liquid to the Rand.

The Minister of Environmental Affairs and Fisheries, Mr Sarel Hayward, said this yesterday after opening the dam's sluice gates to send 20 000 l of water a second hurtling toward the Vaal Dam, and Transvaal consumers.

'The level of the Vaal Dam has dropped to 20 percent, and it would have been dry by the year-end were it not for the Sterkfontein Dam,' said Mr Hayward.

'This would have left the heart of the country's populus and industry, not to mention its power generation means, starved of water.

'It would have crippled the country. Power would have been cut, trains would have stopped and industries would have ground to a halt,' said Mr Hayward.

This was not robbing Natal of it's water, he said.

40 percent

'Water from the Tugela runs straight into the sea. And our plans to eventually dam this resource as a reserve tank for Natal are well known,' he said.

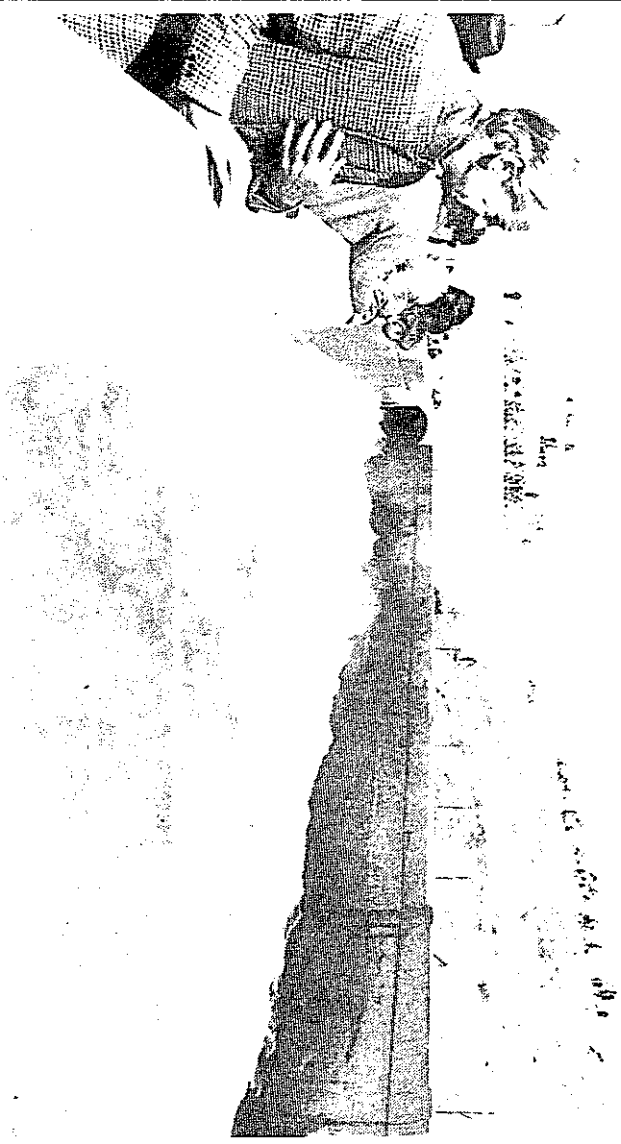
'But the crisis in Natal is only the result of a one-in-500-year drought. The province has always supplied 40 percent of the country's water, and we believe it will continue to do so when the drought lifts.

For this reason we will try to introduce legislation to ensure all new water-intensive industries are situated in Natal, which is also closer to a large labour source,' said Mr Hayward.

Water stored in the Sterkfontein Dam was pumped over the Natal escarpment from the Tugela River in Natal by a system of dams, pumps and tunnels called the Tugela-Vaal project.

● See also Page 6

Off on its way to the Transvaal . . . 20 000 l of water a second thundered into the Wilge River yesterday as the sluice gates at the new Sterkfontein Dam were opened.



Sarel Hayward drops water bombshell . . .

One dam

3 General

saved

Mercury

SA from

19/7/83

standstill

Pietermaritzburg Bureau

SOUTH AFRICA would have come to a standstill by the end of the year had it not been for the water from the new Sterkfontein Dam near Harrismit in the Free State.

And, because Natal's drought was only a 'one-in-500-year drought', all new water-intensive industries should be set up in Natal — which supplies 40

Locust plague could be worst in a decade

3 General RVH
21/7/83

By GERALD REILLY
Pretoria Bureau

SOUTH AFRICA faces the worst locust plague in a decade next year, according to the locust control division of the Department of Agriculture.

In addition, warns the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU), huge flocks of drought-starved finches are menacing the wheat crop on the Springbok Flats of the Northern Transvaal.

The head of the locust control division, Mr Izak Venter, said in Pretoria yesterday that last summer's severe drought was the base from which the locust threat could develop.

"If we have good spring rains in October-November, the locust numbers in the endemic areas of the Karoo will build up rapidly during February, March and April of next year," he said.

This would lead to the development of huge populations over thousands of square kilometres in the Karoo.

Hopper bands of locusts would begin to form about September and October, and serious swarm outbreaks would follow.

"Our main task then would be to try to contain the outbreaks to the Karoo areas, and keep the swarms from penetrating into the country's grain producing areas," Mr Venter said.

If the swarms did break out, it could lead to disastrous grain losses.

Mr Venter added that locusts were fast breeders, producing three generations in one season.

However, the division's offices in De Aar, Middelburg (Cape) and Kimberley monitored

the vulnerable areas throughout the year.

A spokesman for the SAAU said it was seriously concerned about the locust threat. The damage the swarms could cause was "breathtaking".

A swarm could devour and destroy large areas of pasture and croplands in a few hours.

"We feel farmers have had their full share of bad luck with last season's disastrous drought, and every possible step must be taken to see that the locust threat does not spread beyond the endemic areas," the spokesman added.

Mr Venter said the locust control division relied on volunteers and farm workers hired in the affected area to fight the swarms.

It had ample stocks of insecticide for use by the teams as well as by aerial crop sprayers.

Swarms were attacked at night when they roosted in a concentrated mass.

The major threat is from the brown locust, which is indigenous to the Karoo.

Others which could aggravate the problem next year include the red locust from Central Africa, the desert locust and the African migratory locust.

Mr Venter said the African migratory locust had already been found in big concentrations this year in the Western Transvaal, north-western Free State and on the Springbok Flats.

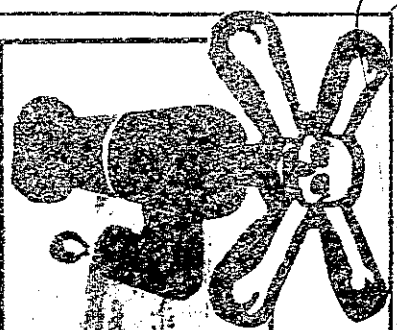
The SAAU spokesman said farmers feared that millions of finches deprived of their normal grass seed feed by the drought would attack the wheat crop on the Springbok Flats.

The SAAU has appealed to the Government to assist with control measures should the finch menace threaten to get out of control.

(3) General

DROUGHT CRISIS-

• WITH SIX months before the first harvest the Red Cross in Nakai faces a drought relief crisis. Hospitals and other sources report a marked increase in hunger victims but there is only one week's supply of relief food left. This week we look at two types of aid being provided by SUNDAY TRIBUNE readers through the Red Cross and at some of the people who are either getting or are in desperate need of assistance.



ANONYMOUS SWIFT REPORTS

SEKODI'S PACTID little girl, 6 years, in more optimistic James' hands protectively with a cloth of sun-fair children in the dust beside a soulless hat. Barely 30 years old she already acts as mother, nurse, little boy.

There are seven children and all show signs of severe malnutrition. Through it is nearly midday they have had only one weaned tin.

A child who it is seen on some of them will die.

A 70-year-old woman also in the Marigold area, has seen the 17 various causes. Of the two who survive, one is confused, like herself, will hunger. The other is in jail for robbery.

Water works, steadily to the mainour. When shown through the gaping holes in the roof and walls of her house. She keeps a blanket that it was given her in a large old cooking pot to protect it in case it rains. There is no rain here but there is also no food to cook in the pot and her family left to fend for it.

FOR NORTH IN (Ibom) by, the street eyes (Ibom) of Nkolobane Ngeze gaze placidly on life and death.

His name signifies the should but where Zains store their food but he is not eating. Last week we admitted a young woman of 21 with malnutrition, which is very unusual. Both were

DEATH WAITS as supplies run out



Lucky Khumalo, little mother among the faces of need



Nkolobane Ngeze (right) whose brother died of malnutrition last week



Dr. Knight Stephen



Dumazile Mngoma - hungry

SWOLLEN BELLIES AND STARING EYES TELL THE STORY AS STARVING CHILDREN WAIT FOR THE END

full of malnutrition cases in July '83, we are having to put malnutrition patients, who also have gastro-entertis, in the queue ward. Last week we admitted a young woman of 21 with malnutrition, which is very unusual. Both were

lamb and Mrs. Sybil Nsonji are Christian folk who have saved lives this winter, with no advertising, they work for the Mambulo Hospital, near Sanger and have supplied into their own pockets.

have just left and not come back. Many young women go to the towns. They find new men and end up supporting them instead of their own children.

They may be the first best ladies in town but if you have seen these women

children continued to live in it until a neighbour offered them a half tin of refined maize.

If lucked her in an act of kindness but this week a bulldozer came demolishing houses. When Granny Khumalo couldn't pay the contractor to bring them water from the Tughin more than 10 kilometers of appalling roads.

The local storeowner said water cost him R2 a week.

Dumazile and her son have no water and the only food in their dilapidated and should look for a husband.

While I am talking to them the teacher arrives. The cart-top (two chairs) with pleasure. She has a supermarket bag full filled with wild spin-nach, the fruit of a more-



A Ngunshini farmer beats the drought with pedal power

Pedal power pumps new life into arid regions

The villagers of Ngunshini now empowered are heralds pedalling their way to greener pastures. There are no wheels attached to their pushbikes, which are firmly anchored to the ground, but their exertions are pumping the water into the shallow gullies. They form a wash pushing back the drought with a carpet of green vegetables.

It is part of a pilot scheme designed and constructed by engineering students of

increased. They said it were very pleased to be participated in the construction of such a scheme rather than have been given other handouts. They were also lucky to have the final resource water.

When the scheme completed during the Christmas season, it will be 20 bicycle pumps. It is interesting that 200 family-owned plots. Last week, the second bicycle unit came in operation.

Gardens served by the first unit are already watered with cabbage, onions, carrots and a variety of other vegetables sharp contrast to the drought-stricken surroundings.

Professor of electrical engineering at Wits, Mr. Rood, who has overseen the development of the project, said: "When a first team arrived he

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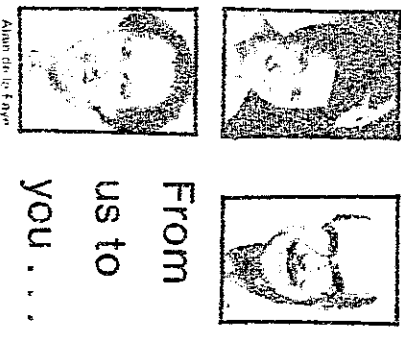
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211111

**Zulus can
buy farms**

3. 10. 1963
Journalist
African Affairs
Reporter 2, 1/7/63

THE Department of Co-operation and Development yesterday confirmed that a number of white farms in Natal and Zululand had been made available for sale to Zulu farmers.

The farms were in Babanango, Eshowe, Port Shepstone and Ixopo.

A spokesman for the department, confirming the sale of the farms to Zulu farmers, said it had been the policy of his department for a long time that the farms should be acquired by blacks.

Drought in Transkei the worst in memory

Own Correspondent

UMTATA. — Cattle deaths have spiralled and the water situation is critical in most areas of Transkei as the worst drought in memory tightens its grip.

Cattle deaths and the water situation tell the story, as the inter-government drought relief committee continues its efforts to distribute food vouchers to the 300 most needy families in the worst-hit districts.

Cattle deaths were up 145 percent for the past three months against the same period last year. A total of 46 232 head of cattle have died (including disease deaths), against 18 836 last year.

Surface-level water has dried up in most instances, underground levels are subsiding rapidly and dam levels are dropping.

The deputy director of veterinary services, Dr E Besharati, warned that if the situation did not improve by September, two-thirds of the national herd — comprising a million cattle, 1,5-million sheep and nearly a million goats — would be in a chronic state of malnutrition.

Dr Besharati said the occasional rains during the past months had not helped the deterioration of pasture and the lack of drinking water for livestock.

The grazing situation was very disappointing throughout Transkei, although the situation in mountainous and coastal areas was not as bad.

"Many livestock were saved from starvation as the farmers allowed their stock to graze in their unrecovered maize fields. Such a situation is not expected in the coming months, and with the dry winter wind and frost, a complete deterioration of remaining grass and a consequently high cattle death rate is expected if no provision for winter feeding is made," said Dr Besharati.

Some of the R6,7-million drought aid from South Africa would be used for livestock feed.

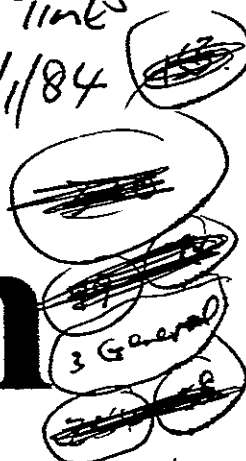
Mr A Shaker, speaking on behalf of the office of the Secretary for the Department of Agriculture, said the water level at many windmills was "below the fetch point".

However, the department was now equipped to deliver water to areas which were completely dry and had no source.

GST to rise 1pc next month

Cape Times

28/1/84



Staff Reporter

THE government would increase the general sales tax by one percent to seven percent from February 1, the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, announced last night.

Mr Horwood put the blame for the increase on the world-wide economic downswing, the inability of South Africa's trading partners to register an early and meaningful economic recovery, and the recent drought in South Africa.

He said the rapidly-declining gold price and a consequent weakening of the rand-dollar exchange rate, and the

higher-than-budgeted expenditure on essential services, also contributed to the need for the increase in GST.

"No tax increase is without sacrifice, and in view of price and cost increases evident elsewhere in the economy, the government would have preferred to avoid any increase in taxation, especially at this point in time. Unfortu-

nately this is just not possible," Mr Horwood said.

An advantage of general sales tax, however, was that it was levied on almost all final purchases.

"As a consequence, the community as a whole contributes to the financing of public expenditure, which in turn is incurred for the benefit of the whole community," he said.

The government's most important and unavoidable expenses were on drought relief, defence and the servicing of the public debt. Other expenses were on food and transport subsidies.

"On the other hand, the growth of the country's sources of income is limited by the present economic downswing and is insufficient to cover a growing deficit, due primarily to declining profits in the business sector and a decrease in net customs and excise revenue," Mr Horwood said.

Pointing out positive steps, Mr Horwood said significant progress had been made in the fight against inflation. A positive turn-about in the balance of payment had been continued and consolidated. South Africa's credit-worthiness internationally stood at a very high level.

"In addition, it seems as if the economic downswing has reached its lowest ebb, or very nearly so.

"All in all, I am optimistic that South Africa will soon benefit from the long-awaited improved international economic climate and during 1984 experience the commencement of a prolonged and healthy export-led economic upswing."

● Poor people hardest hit, page 6

FINANCIAL BRIEF

Mines give R4-m for drought relief

(3) (b) (c) (d)
THE Chamber of Mines has set aside R4-million for drought relief for black communities in the rural areas.

Sowetan 25/7/83
Already more than R774 000 of the R4-million has been allocated to eight drought relief projects in six areas. These include the urgent provision of 50 boreholes for KwaZulu at a cost of R174 000. The donation of R10 000 to a feeding scheme for children run by the Bophuthatswana Department of Health and R38 000 to provide food parcels in return for work on community projects in QwaQwa, with a further R10 000 to supplement food issues to malnourished children in the area.

The R4-million set aside for drought relief represents excess income accrued by a non-profit-making fund operated by The Employment Bureau of Africa (Teba). — Sapa.

PORT ELIZABETH — Several hundred people were evacuated from their homes last night and today as rain-swollen rivers threatened to engulf parts of Port Elizabeth's black townships.

Officials of the Red Cross, civil defence and East Cape Administration Board worked round the clock to move 300 families left homeless by flooding in the Chaty/Soweto areas.

Mr Louis Koch, director of the East Cape Administration Board, said most families moved last night, but many were still moving today. They were being cared for in church halls, community centres or were with friends.

"Well geared"

"Fortunately our civil defence is very well geared to cope with the situation and no lives are in danger at this stage," he said.

However, helicopters of Port Elizabeth's No 16 Squadron are, on standby in-case of emergencies.

Mr Koch said his staff had worked all night removing families and were still working.

"People in the area have co-operated very well," he added.

The worst-hit shacks were those close to a stream running through Soweto to the Swartkops River and the salt pans.

More than 60 families from a shack township near Redhouse were moved to the Siskonke Community centre in Swide.

The Rev Howard Hans, rector of St James Presbyterian Church, Zwide, said: "These people are in our hall and adjacent classrooms."

Roofs of shacks in the Ndlovini section of Soweto were blown away last night and some shack-dwellers were trapped in flooded homes.

Many of these people sought refuge with relatives and friends in other shacks, where they spent the rest of the night.

The Red Cross has made an urgent appeal for clothing, blankets and food.

Desperate

Mrs Annetjie Vercueil, public relations officer for the Red Cross, said the Administration Board had appealed to them for help, but the resources of the organisation would not be sufficient to cope with the need.

The society desperately needed foam mattresses, blankets and warm clothing.

Meanwhile, the bad weather has caused a major electricity fault which today left the Port Elizabeth area without power from the national grid.

The main electricity supply to the city and surrounding area was restored late this morning after a broken powerline disrupted electricity supplies for more than 2½ hours.

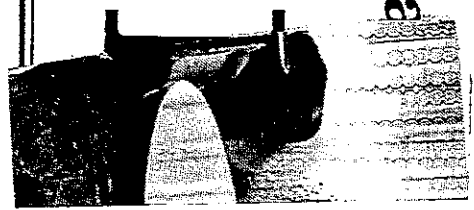
The city was hit by power cuts as the independent municipal supply was unable to meet demand.

Argus Bureau

Flood drama in

300 families flee threatened homes — roofs blown away

ARGUS 26/7/83
3 Guard



Big stock

losses

in rural

E Cape

Post Reporter

HEAVY stock losses due to rain and cold have been reported from Eastern Cape farms.

Mr Ted Birch, of the farm Greenhills near Grahamstown, has lost 1 500 Angora goats valued at R50 000.

Mr Christo Botha, of the farm Olfantshoek in the Willowmore district, has lost between 100 and 150 Angora goats valued at about R10 000, which were in a shed.

In the Aberdeen district Mr Franke Marx, of the farm Karooivier, had 126 Angora goats in a shed when a nearby farm dam, fed by the strongly flowing Kraaivier, burst its banks and flooded the shed.

He said between 50 and 70 of the goats died.

Mr Jack McNaughton, of the farm Green Trees in the Graaff-Reinet district, managed to get most of his goats under cover but expected big losses in the mountains, where he had 300 goats.

Farmers in the Jansenville, Aberdeen, Willowmore and Graaff-Reinet districts reported that farm dams had filled up and burst their banks in some cases.

The Van Rhyneveld Pass Dam, which had been dry, was filling up.

Farmers in the Morkim district reported heavy stock losses. One, Mr Ivan Bruwer, of Dompnaas, lost 109 Angora goats valued at more than R4 000.

He said the animals had been under cover at night and were released into the lands on Tuesday morning. A sudden drop in temperature caused their death.

Mr Bruwer's neighbour, Mr Abel Jordaan, of Penfields, said he had lost 115 Angora goats in last night's cold spell. He said 79mm of rain had fallen on his farm.

Mr Jordaan said he had heard of another farmer who lost 140 Angora goats. There had been reports of widespread losses in the district.

Farm dams are full and the veld is saturated after three days of continuous rain, accompanied by snow in some parts of the Cradock district.

Mr Johnny Michau, of Bergplaas, Morkim, said 137mm had fallen in his area since Sunday, and a dam on the farm had broken. He had not been able to check on his stock.

The heaviest downpour occurred at Mr Gerrie Opperman's farm, Amperbo, in the Agterneuberg area. He recorded 162mm, which is more than the rainfall at the time of the flood in 1974. In the same area, Mr Kenny Jivier had 62mm. The Fish River, which rises there, is in full spate and he is cut off.

Mr Fourie Schoeman, who farms in the Elandsdrift area, said the area had experienced the heaviest snowfall he had seen there. There had also been 100mm of rain.

Mr T Mundell, secretary of the Great Fish River Irrigation Board, said the Kommando-drift dam had risen by two metres, with water still flowing in strongly.

Lake Arthur, which was 19.74 metres deep, is now up to 1.65 metres. The town itself received 70mm of rain over the three-day period.

Mr C Landman, a researcher at the agricultural farm at Jansenville, said rainfall measuring between 125mm and 140mm had been recorded in the district.

For many in PE the rain was a curse, not a blessing

E. Post 29/7/83 3-General



Children wade knee-deep across a flooded road in the Chatty River/Veeplaas area, where about 350 homes and more than 1 200 people were evacuated yesterday.



AYANDA NTLOMBENI, 1 1/2, safe at the Sisonke Community Centre, was oblivious of the drama surrounding his evacuation from the Veldraai township near Redhouse yesterday.



Squatter families from Veldraai near Redhouse arrive by truck at the Sisonke Community Centre.



MR VELLIE NOKOLE, 70, who is deaf and dumb, and his grandchildren XOLILE, 5, (left) and SABULELA, 3, got food from Red Cross workers.

and determined the level of unemployed people in the

(3) Kereval

Now jubilant farmers need warm weather

P: 17/87 A T C H
27/7/83

EAST LONDON — It has not rained grass but Border farmers are smiling for the first time in many months and could save millions of rands if the weather turns warmer in the weeks ahead.

As temperatures plummeted inland yesterday farmers in the area were holding thumbs for warmer air to promote the growth of green feed on their lands.

A spokesman for a Burgersdorp co-operative which serves districts including Maclear, Aliwal North, Molteno and Lady Grey said the rain was the "medicine" needed for the wheat and oats planted by farmers in the area.

"All the farmers are cheering. These rains have changed the whole situation. I think farmers could save several millions of rands because they might not need to buy fodder after August," said Mr Nolla Durandt.

He said the Burgersdorp district was in the process of applying for Phase Three of the drought relief scheme but after the rain this might no longer be necessary.

The cold weather, however, was creating problems for farmers who had already shorn their sheep and as a re-

sult faced stock losses.

Several farmers approached for comment yesterday expressed disbelief at the arrival of the rain and the sight of full stock dams on their farms.

A Komga farmer's wife, Mrs Colleen Thompson, said: "We still cannot believe it, we're still thinking of the drought. It hasn't rained grass but our dams are full and we don't have to cart water anymore."

A spokesman for a co-operative at Fort Beaufort, the district which at 50 mm received the least rain in the Border area, said it was still drizzling in the area yesterday and the clouds held a promise of more rain.

"Everybody is very pleased. The amount of rain we have received has not solved the problems of farmers here, but immediate dire water needs have been relieved," said Mr Albert Retief.

Farmers in the Port Alfred district have lost stock as a result of the cold weather, but a farmer's wife said these cases were isolated.

"We are very thrilled. We've had 225 mm and even if the rain has come a little early, there should be some growth," said Mrs Elaine Lloyd, of

Hopewell, Port Alfred.

The manager of the Stutterheim co-operative, Mr Robert Pringle, said farmers would have to wait to see the effects of the rain.

"The wet weather now could mean frost in September. We will have to pray for warm weather if we want the grass to grow."

Mr Pringle said stock losses in the area were "negligible" and farmers were very relieved at the sight of full stock dams.

"They have been carting water from river to river and from one camp to another for months, so the rain really has brought great relief," he said.

The manager of a Queenstown co-operative, Mr Bob Finlay, said the rain would not result in the growth of natural grass but would certainly assist the growth of green feed planted by farmers in the area.

However, he added: "It is still bitterly cold here and in the districts to the north and I am afraid that if this weather persists stock which is in poor condition will die."

Mr Finlay said the rain had improved the stock water situation in the area which was becoming critical. — DDR

Handwritten notes and scribbles at the bottom right of the page.

1 000 left homeless as floods hit PE

CAPL TINKS

27/7/83

3 General

PORT ELIZABETH. — More than 1 000 people were left homeless, two people were believed drowned and a number of people had to be rescued as floods ravaged areas in Port Elizabeth and the Eastern Cape yesterday, cutting power supplies and disrupting traffic on national roads.

Four medical cases were airlifted by helicopter to hospitals in Port Elizabeth from Patensie yesterday afternoon, 78 people were airlifted out of Kleinskool and Veeplaas and by late last night people were being still being evacuated from houses next to the Swartkops River and other flooded areas by members of the police, surf lifesavers, the National Sea Rescue Institute and other emergency services.

In the Eastern Cape, raging rivers left part of the Langkloof inaccessible — including the town of Loerie — and a spokesman for the Dias Divisional Council said

an estimated 200mm of rain "at a guess" had fallen in the area in 15 hours.

In the Port Elizabeth area, the water in the Swartkops River had risen to four metres above its normal spring tide level at Redhouse by 10pm and was reportedly rising steadily as people struggled to evacuate their houses. The Baakens River was also reported to be rising steadily.

The regional chief traffic officer, Mr HM Strydom, said yesterday that he had all his men out on roads and problems were being experienced on the national

road between Humansdorp and Port Elizabeth, where water was lying half a metre deep in places.

Major CA Buchanan, operations co-ordinator for the Air Force base at Port Elizabeth, said four people — including a stretcher patient — had been brought to Port Elizabeth shortly after 4pm yesterday from Patensie by helicopters from 16 Squadron.

The squadron was called to the rescue again after lifesavers and police were unable to reach people cut off by the raging Chatty River. A total of 78 people were hauled to safety.

Police divers

Major Gerrie van Rooyen, police liaison officer for the Eastern Cape, said members of the police reaction unit had been busy since 3am yesterday warning people in the Veeplaas, Kleinskool and Soweto areas that they were in danger of being flooded.

Major Van Rooyen said several people had been brought to safety, and yesterday afternoon police divers and lifesavers had rescued two men from an island in the Swartkops River.

He said these men had claimed that a woman with them had been swept away and drowned, but no body had been found by late last night.

Major Van Rooyen said an unknown man was thought to have drowned in Soweto yesterday afternoon, but his body had also not been located by last night.

Floods subside drowning

CAPE TOWN
29/7/83

3 General

Own Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH. — A man was swept away and drowned in floodwaters raging through a Port Elizabeth suburb off Cape Road, a main arterial road in the city, yesterday morning.

Members of the East Cape Surf Lifesaving Emergency Squad recovered the body of an unidentified man about seven hours later in a suburb three kilometres from where he had been washed away.

An eyewitness reported seeing the man trying to cross a flooded causeway where water about a metre deep was flowing strongly.

A man who was apparently swept away and drowned in the Swartkops River at the height of the floods this week, had still not been identified yesterday. The body was recovered from near the river mouth early on Wednesday evening.

After seven days of rain and four days of flooding in most parts of the Eastern Cape, mop-up operations were well under way yesterday. But stock and crop losses were difficult to determine, as many of the worst hit areas were still not accessible.

According to the weather office here, it had stopped raining in most areas by yesterday morning, though isolated showers were forecast for some areas in the Eastern Cape today.

No official reports of stock losses have been received by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in Port Elizabeth yet.

The wife of one farmer who was not cut off by the flooding, Mrs J A du Plessis of Assegai-bos, said last night that about 190 of their sheep and lambs had been washed away when the Kromme River came down in flood.

Nat tension, drought behind Horwood talk?

w/c AGGAS 30/7/83

3 General

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Mr Owen Horwood

Political Staff

THE GROWING tension in the National Party over the new constitution and the political effects of the drought are understood to be behind speculation that Mr Owen Horwood is about to stand down as Minister of Finance.

And reports on the imminent retirement of Mr Horwood are being put down to a deliberate leak from a senior Government source as result of a head-on collision at Cabinet level over drought relief for agricultural areas.

Politically the National Party is being hardest hit in its fight against the Conservative Party in the rural areas of the Transvaal, which are also feeling the worst effects of the drought.

Political footballs

The drought and drought relief have become political footballs and the Government has ploughed millions of rands into drought relief.

It is understood that Cabinet Ministers Mr Hendrik Schoeman and Mr Pietie du Plessis are demanding that more money be spent not only to aid the farmers but also to stem the flow of support to the Conservative Party.

Mr Horwood, who has always had the reputation at Cabinet level of being tight-fisted with the public's money, has apparently warned of severe economic consequences if the rate of assistance is stepped up.

Nedbank takeover?

Since the reports that he intended retiring and taking over control of Nedbank from Dr Frans Cronje, Mr Horwood has avoided speaking to the Press, issuing only an ambiguous statement in which he neither denied nor confirmed the reports.

According to sources close to Mr Horwood, there is little chance of him stepping down in the near future.

One of his confidants said: "He will not go while the economy is at a low ebb. He is not that sort of man. He will want to go out when things are running well."

Generally accepted as one of the better Ministers of Finance for many years, Prime Minister Mr P W Botha will find him difficult to replace.

The only serious contender for the post would be the Minister of Constitutional Development, Mr Chris Heunis, who is known to have wanted the job in the past, but because he is now at the helm of the changes to the constitution it would be impossible for him to change horses.

Other Cabinet Ministers whose names have been mentioned are Dr Dawie de Villiers, Dr Gerrit Viljoen and even General Magnus Malan. None of the three is, however, particularly qualified for the job.

● In Pretoria today Mr Horwood said he knew of no decision or disagreement of any kind at Cabinet level on the issue.

"As far as I, as Minister of Finance, am concerned, I have done and am currently doing everything in my power to afford maximum financial relief to the drought-stricken areas. I am, in fact, working in the closest and most harmonious association with my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, and other important interests to meet this serious challenge."

'Think tank' has crisis plan to beat the drought

By Hannes Ferguson,
Farming Correspondent

Radical steps to deal with South Africa's deepening farm crisis — now extending far beyond the effects of the drought — are expected to be announced early next month.

The devaluation of the rand against the dollar by at least 20 percent in a bid to make South African exports more attractive, is just one of the solutions said to have been discussed.

Other ideas being considered by the Government "think tank" on agriculture include the lowering of import tariff barriers and transferring the cost burden of protection to the economy as a whole.

The "think tank", the 16-man Jacobs Committee under Dr A S Jacobs, vice-president of the Reserve Bank, is also thought to have been looking at limiting maize production to the needs of the home market.

SWITCH TO SUNFLOWERS

A scheme to encourage maize-farmers to switch to growing sunflower for tractor fuel is another possibility.

The committee, set-up in response to charges that the Government had no agricultural policy, is examining the whole spectrum of agricultural problems and is expected to formulate a coherent maize policy before August 15.

The Government's new policy is expected to be announced by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, at a special meeting with maize producers on September 5.

On that date he is to address a special congress of the National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo) in Johannesburg.

However, there are major doubts as to whether Mr Wentzel will be able to see the proposals through.

FINANCIAL POLICY

Treasury sources say he is unlikely to take the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, along in proposals involving state expenditure or financial policy.

Mr Wentzel might in the end, therefore, only be able to announce a very much watered-down version of any policy line the Jacobs Committee report.

At last week's congress of the National Food Growers' Association held in Pretoria, Mr Wentzel hinted at serious funding problems for the relief programme.

The revolving fund out of which relief loans to farmers were financed, had not yet been affected but it had almost been depleted, said a senior official of the Department of Agriculture yesterday.

The Treasury had been asked to supplement the fund to which R22 million had already been allocated in March.

DROUGHT RELIEF

A Treasury source revealed that only a token amount for drought relief had been provided for in the March budget, and that requests to spend money were met by the Treasury on an ad-hoc basis.

But this routine has now run into serious problems because the Department of Agriculture, the Directorate of Water Affairs and the Defence Force have all come up with claims far in excess of available funds.

Farmers also feel that another of the stumbling blocks in running the aid scheme has been the presence of IMF officials' monitoring operations of the Treasury, following loans from the IMF to South Africa.

Cabinet split on relief for farmers

By Bruce Cameron of our political staff and John von Ahlefeldt and Trevor Walker of our financial staff

South Africa's tough steps to get the economy back on track have seriously split the Cabinet and now threaten the future of Finance Minister Mr Owen Horwood and his policies.

Recession, drought and, finally, basic political differences have combined to make official policies unacceptable to farmers and therefore to their Cabinet representatives.

The growing tension in the National Party over the new constitution and the political affects of the drought are understood to have been behind speculation that Mr Horwood was about to stand down as Minister of Finance.

And reports on Mr Horwood's imminent retirement are being put down to a deliberate leak from a senior government source as result of a head-on collision at Cabinet level over drought relief for agricultural areas.

Reunity of the Afrikaner under the National Party banner is also seen as exerting pressure on current economic policies. Mr Horwood's problem in this respect is that, as the only English-speaking member of the Cabinet, he is seen to represent policies contributing to the difficulties of the largely Afrikaans-speaking farming community.

Politically the National Party is being hardest hit in its fight against the Conservative Party in the rural areas of the Transvaal, which are also feeling the worst affects of the drought.

The drought and drought relief have become a political football and the Government has ploughed millions of rands into relief.

It is understood that Cabinet Ministers Mr Hendrik Schoeman and Mr Pietie du Plessis are demanding that more money be spent, not only to assist the farmers, but also to stem the flow of support to the Conservative Party.

Mr Horwood, who has always had the reputation at Cabinet level of being extremely tight-fisted with the public's money, has apparently warned of severe economic consequences if the rate of assistance is stepped up.

Supported by the Reserve Bank under the leadership of Dr Gerhard de Kock, he has firmly committed the country to a policy of allowing market forces to shape the economy's recovery.

Call to ease

These policies have succeeded in Britain and the US at the cost of high unemployment, but in South Africa they have coincided with the worst drought in hundreds of years.

This, together with high interest rates, has led the farming community to call for an easing of the strict monetary discipline. The policymakers believe that to relax the discipline now would only defer and aggravate problems that would ultimately have to be faced by the farmers as well as the entire economy.

There seems little likelihood that Mr Horwood would willingly relinquish his portfolio in the depths of a recession and at a time when it appeared his policies were beginning to take effect.

Furthermore, were he to leave, his successor would almost certainly not support current policies, a fact that would seriously weaken the position of the present Governor of the Reserve Bank.

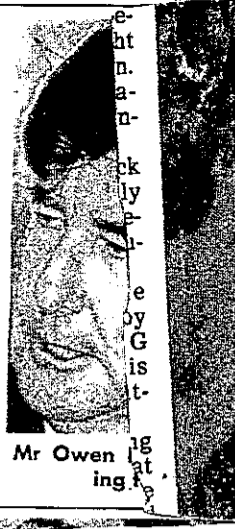
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One of his confidantes said yesterday: "He will not go while the economy is at a low ebb. He is not that sort of man. He will want to go out when things are running well."

Generally accepted as one the better Minister's of Finance for many years, the Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, will find him difficult to replace.

The only serious contender for the post would be the Minister of Constitutional Development.



Mr Owen Horwood

Gen 30/7/83

Mr Chris Heunis, who is known to have wanted the job, but, because he is now at the helm of the changes to the constitution, it would be impossible for him to change horses in mid-stream.

Other Ministers whose names that have been mentioned are Dr Dawie de Villiers, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, and even General Magnus Malan. None of these three are, however, particularly qualified for the job.

Mr Botha's alternative would be to go outside Parliament, but this would be unpopular with his caucus members who are looking for promotion and have already seen three outsiders brought into the Cabinet.

Mr Horwood can thus expect greater support from the Prime Minister and other Minister's in his fight to restrain government spending.

Minister rejects farmers' call to drop protection

w/c ARG45

30/7/83

3 General

THE Minister of Industries, Commerce and Tourism, Dr Dawie de Villiers, refused to bow this week to strong pressure from Cape farmers to abolish protection of local industries.

He told them the best way to push up South Africa's exports was to reduce the country's high rate of inflation.

Dr de Villiers was speaking at the annual congress of the Western Cape Agricultural Union at a Sea Point hotel.

He replied firmly to at times bitter criticism of

By PHILIP VAN DER MERWE

Government policy by angry delegates who said the protection of local industry was costing farmers dear, especially in regard to exports.

Some delegates claimed local industry protection was pushing up their production costs by as much as 12 percent and that certain items could be imported up to 45 percent more cheaply than they were made locally.

Dr de Villiers said if South Africa's inflation rate remained more than twice that of Europe and the United States then the country's exporters would continue to struggle

to compete in those markets.

Government concessions to exporters to cover cost increases as a result of local industry protection were sufficient for them to make their export prices competitive.

The protection of local industries which created jobs was essential if South Africa was to avoid the dangers posed by widespread unemployment.

It was inconsistent for farmers to complain about protection of local industries when at the same time they were asking for protection against cheaper grain imports.

Dilemma

But their position served to illustrate the dilemma in which the Government found itself.

Farmers should realise they were being protected by the Government against imports of cheaper foodstuffs.

Although consumers

could argue that they could import certain produce cheaper than they could buy them locally, it would not be in the country's long-term interests to allow them to do so at the cost of local producers.

Depression

By protecting local industries by means of selective tariffs on imported goods the Government was nevertheless allowing overseas goods to enter South Africa's market and compete subject to such tariffs.

When comparing prices people should remember that the West was going through a depression in which there was overproduction and a temporary dumping of goods cheaply on export markets.

Dr de Villiers also heard delegates blame decentralisation subsidies to industries, the cost of capital, unrealistic land prices and the slow decision-making of a centralised public service for harming the growth and profitability of agriculture.

Rains fail to break killer drought

S. Times 31/1/83 3 General

By DAVID FORRET and PETER MALHERBE

THIS week's widespread rains in South Africa had little impact on the country's devastating drought, apart from in the Eastern Province.

But while heavy rains have brought some relief to Eastern Cape farmers, those in other parts of the country are still in the grip of the worst drought this century.

Unseasonal showers in the Transvaal were generally not heavy enough to make any difference to the crisis.

Much of the rain fell in the coastal regions and missed vital catchment areas such as the Vaal Dam and other rivers that feed Natal.

"The only worthwhile rains in the Transvaal fell in the western part of the province and generally this week's rains won't have any positive effect on the drought," said Mr Filip du Plooy, secretary of the Transvaal Agricultural Union.

No change

Mr Bert Boonzaaier, public relations officer for the Department of Water Affairs, said no marked change in dam levels outside the Eastern Province had been recorded so far.

"In the Transvaal the earth is so dry it just absorbs every drop, whereas in Natal there was sufficient rain but not in the catchment area."

However, the position in the Eastern Cape had improved dramatically, with several dams overflowing in the Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage areas.

In the East London area, Maden Dam is now 73 percent full and levels of other catchment areas had risen substantially, such as Laing Dam (from 84 percent to 91 percent) and Nahoon Dam (from 17 percent to 48 percent).

Disaster area

The most dramatic rise in water level was at Lake Mentz, also in the Eastern Cape, which swelled from 20 percent to 85 percent.

Four black people were reported to have drowned in the this week's floods.

Farmers along the flood-stricken Gamtoos River near Port Elizabeth have called on the Government to declare their valley a disaster area.

The farmers claim that the flooding this week was worse than in 1981.

Damage to crops, stock, dams and soil in the Gamtoos and Kruis River areas is estimated at R2-million.

The farmers made their plea for disaster status to the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr Gert Kotze, at Port Elizabeth's H F Verwoerd Airport during his helicopter tour of drought-stricken areas on Friday.

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 City Press
 21/7/82

HEAVY RAINS fell in the Nqutu district this week. But it was too late.

Recorded malnutrition and kwashiorkor cases in the local hospital are already up 85 percent in this area of KwaZulu-North Natal.

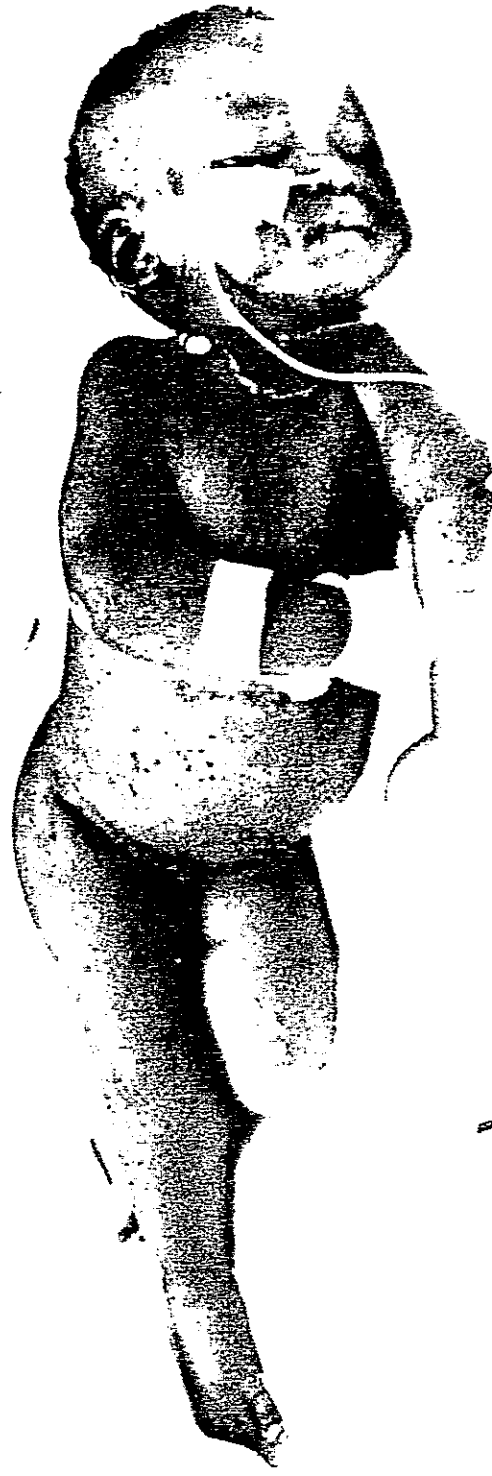
Families have been ordered not to water their gardens and smallholdings. All available water must be used for drinking. The rain of the past week has not affected that order.

Women walk hundreds of kilometres in search of water.

Death, disease and misery have resulted in this drought-ravaged area, scene of some of the most con-



Trying well.



● A young Nqutu child J stricken with malnutrition fights for his life in the district's hospital.

troubling res:st:ment under apartheid.

Land hunger and migratory labour are also mentioned by some local medical people as factors in the tragedy unfolding in the area.

The superintendent of the local Charles Johnson Memorial Hospital, Dr Arthur Coetzee, says there has been a high number of deaths related to the drought, but he cannot supply figures. Statistics are hard to come by.

But the hospital's records show that reported cases of serious malnutrition and kwashiorkor have jum-

ped from 35 between March and July last year to 65 over the same period this year.

Key tribal, community and health authorities have now launched a R40 000 relief water development scheme.

"There's nothing we can do. We have stopped watering our plants and left everything to die," a pained Mr S Nkwanyane, senior agricultural officer of the KwaZulu homeland, told City Press.

"I've never seen anything like this since I was born. What is happening here breaks my heart," said Bernard Molefe.

His words ring across the once-green and fertile large gardens of the local nutrition village, set up eight months ago by a group of concerned medical doctors when drought became a chilling reality.

The women who daily visit the village to learn a bit about agricultural methods in order to survive the drought are deeply concerned. Their hopes of survival in these troubled times are vested in the project.

Only a few fortunate women have the money to purchase the high-protein food available from the village's shop. For the others, what they are taught

by Molefe, the village's advisor, will be of no use in the present drought.

Nqutu's plight is so grim that it has touched people as far away as Australia. An Australian family this week donated about R1 000 to drought relief in the area.

Weak, heartbreaking cries from malnutrition-ravaged babies fill the hospitals' paediatric ward. A mother wearing a blank look holds her frail baby who is suffering from kwashiorkor.

You learn that problems in drought relief abound. The 500 mealie meal bags from the Red Cross are a case in point.

Dr Coetzee points out: "Two years ago there was a similar relief scheme. And there was chaos. Mealie meal ended up in the wrong hands. The whole thing is incredibly difficult. And the drought has made the situation really bad."

Ms Stella Tyers, a voluntary dietician at the hospital, adds that there is a very high incidence of tuberculosis in the area.

The women you talk to struggling to fill plastic buckets and containers with precious water at a drying borehole write a disturbing end to this chapter of suffering. As the rains fall, it is too late.

BONE-DRY autumn winds sweep down from the Drakensberg mountains, whipping the dust across the sun-parched lands of Lebowa, covering the thin stunted crops that would have fed the cattle, that would have fed the people.

The river winding through the hills around Lasthoop stands dry, with only the high walls to attest to what the waters can do. The South African rainy season has passed and there is no water.

Late winter has come to the southern hemisphere, and it is a winter of impending death. In Lebowa, as in most of Southern Africa, any few rains that do come will be too little, too late. Cold winds will only bring death to countless numbers, people and animals.

This is the third season of Africa's drought. In Lebowa, in Gazankulu to the east, Venda to the north and other "independent homelands" to the south, the cattle are already dying and the children are slowly starving to death.

"I used to have maybe five or 10 deaths a year," said Sister Francesca Sehone at the Subiaco clinic. "Now I have one a week."

At Blouberg, 192km north-west beneath the Drakensberg mountains, Nurse Gloria Sefefein, who works in a hospital run by the Lebowa Government, gives similar figures.

"Three children died from kwashiorkor (a disease of malnutrition) last week," she said. "It's three times as bad as last year, and it's going to get worse."

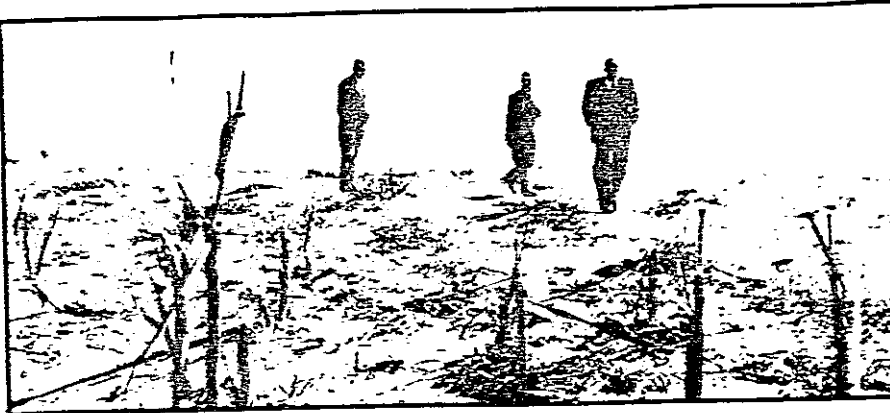
You hear that phrase — "it's going to get worse" — again and again, from doctors, nurses, church and government officials, health workers. At each clinic and hospital the scene is the same.

Mothers sit on gray concrete floors holding or watching their babies cry and get sick, waiting for the nurse — or doctor when there is one — to say that their child will live or their child will die.

There is no accurate count

The winter of impending death

General 3/8/83
ROM



From LEIGHTON MARK in Laastehoop

of the children who have already died from kwashiorkor and marasmus, the diseases of the impoverished, the signs of malnutrition and starvation.

Numbers represent only those children seen by health workers, not children whose parents live too far from doctors or who cannot afford treatment or a visit to village witchdoctors for a cure.

But Mr T Vergani, a malnutrition expert at the University of Stellenbosch, says 2 900 000 children are affected in South Africa alone. Of those, 1 500 000 are said to be suffering from second-degree malnutrition.

"Approximately every third black child under the age of 15 in South Africa is malnourished," Mr Vergani said in a 42-page study. He defines malnutrition as an insufficient intake of protein and/or calories.

The two most common forms, kwashiorkor and marasmus, are caused by a protein-deficient diet.

All over the country children with matchstick legs sit or lie staring blankly into space, their joints and sometimes their stomachs swollen, their growth slowed. Their muscles have begun to waste away and in some cases they suffer from brain damage.

If they survive the lack of protein they face the traditional childhood diseases. Even a cough can be fatal to a malnourished child.

"Children do die of whooping cough, from pneumonia and gastroenteritis," said Dr Machupye Mphahlele, Lebowa Secretary of Health. "Because of poor nutrition we expect diseases like measles to be more widespread, and the complications that are associated with it to be more widespread."

Father B Verteuten's office at the Fatima Catholic mission south-west of Bochum overlooks mission grounds which are a desert. Only a few scrub trees break the desolation that spreads across the veld.

Yet here there is water, in a single well 300m deep. It gives the mission enough for drinking and for bathing the 210 children in its care. There is food for the children.

"But, honestly, it's not enough," the Belgian priest said. "Some bread and peanut butter or jam, some soft porridge in the morning and some milk."

The children come from villages like Matata, where three-quarters of the people live on government old-age pensions. There is no work because white-owned farms in the area no longer have need for labour, since nothing will grow.

"There is starvation," Father Verteuten said. "The workers can't get work and so they have only some porridge and a small cup of water, or some tea and sugar and a slice of bread maybe twice a week."

"If a bit of rain came, then they could plant vegetables. That would help. But it only rained three times last year.

And now — nothing, nothing, nothing."

The governments of Lebowa and South Africa and relief agencies are trying to provide drought relief. South Africa has given Lebowa R6 700 000 for drought aid, with 90% to be used for finding water and feeding cattle, the rest for food.

The Lebowa Ministry of Health has increased immunisation programmes for childhood diseases. Three welfare organisations — the Red Cross, Operation Hunger and World Vision — have combined forces to better coordinate their efforts.

But for 16-month-old Gilbert Malera, the aid may be too late. Gilbert lies in the Jane Furse hospital in southern Lebowa, showing all the signs of kwashiorkor. A witchdoctor's sign is painted across his head.

About 70 other children share the malnutrition wards. The gray, dimly-lit room is full of mothers and empty of hope.

The hospital is admitting patients at twice the 1982 rate. The number of kwashiorkor patients jumped 50% in a month. Doctors say one-third may never return home. Deaths are up by half.

As throughout the region, doctors say they only see a percentage of the total number of actual cases.

The area around Jane Furse has signs of water, there is still some ground vegetation. But here the misery of drought is the lack of work, meaning no money to buy food.

As in other South African homelands, many of the workers depend on farm work. Now there is little need for workers on the farms. And at home, as Father Verteuten said, "planting is in vain."

"This is a very rich land," Dr H Mphahlele said. "But the source of life is water, and we do need the water."

So the Martian-red dust blows across the parched veld for the third year. South African experts predict Lebowa will receive less than 3mm to 5mm of rain this winter. The people will die. → JPL

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PM 'confident' in Horwood

JOHANNESBURG. — Reports of division in the cabinet over alleged attempts to curb drought assistance to farmers have been denied as "nonsense" by the Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha.

In a statement to the Johannesburg newspa-

per Rapport at the weekend, Mr Botha said the reports, mainly involving the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, either amounted to "thumbsucking" or were "irresponsible and malicious".

The Prime Minister said Mr Horwood had

recently been unanimously elected president of the council of governors of the newly-established Southern African Development Bank.

"This is proof of the confidence displayed in him," Mr Botha added.

Mr Horwood yesterday denied a report that he had expressed interest in succeeding Mr Marais Steyn as South Africa's Ambassador in London.

At the same time, the minister strongly denied mounting speculation in the media that he was planning to retire soon.

In a statement issued in Pretoria, Mr Horwood also denied reports that there was dissension among cabinet ministers over drought relief.

He said several newspapers had published reports to the effect that "my supposed retirement from the cabinet is the result of a 'head-on collision' at cabinet level over drought relief for agricultural areas, and that I am apparently trying to curb the rate of assistance to drought-stricken areas.

"These allegations are utterly devoid of all truth.

"I know of no dissension or disagreement of any kind at cabinet level on this issue," the minister said.

'Harmonious'

"And so far as I, as Minister of Finance, am concerned, I have done and am currently doing everything in my power to afford maximum financial relief to the drought-stricken areas.

"I am in fact working in the closest and most harmonious association with my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, and other important interests to meet this serious challenge," Mr Horwood said.

Mr Horwood also denied reports that his health was failing, saying that — as disappointing as it must be to the newspaper that claimed this — he was in fact in "fine health".

"The speculation in the press affecting my position in the cabinet has reached such a crescendo of lies that I am impelled to issue this statement in the interests of the truth," he added. — Sapa

D. Dispatch 2/1/73

Farmers face heavy losses

(B) General

EAST LONDON — Pineapple farmers are anticipating heavy losses and meat prices are likely to rocket to record levels.

Although the drought has been broken in the Eastern Cape and Border coastal region, 25 to 30 per cent of the annual R15 million pineapple crop is expected to be lost.

These dismal forecasts were made yesterday by leading agricultural authorities who also said that the Border area's annual R45 million wool clip could be seriously hit by the drought and subsequent rains.

The secretary of the South African Pineapple Growers Association, Mr Allen Pike, said the shortfall in the pineapple harvest will be due to the decrease in size and weight of fruit.

"Besides the drop in size and weight, there are many farmers who have reported severe sunburn and also those who were forced to chop up plants for fodder for their stock during the drought", he said.

Mr Pike said that farmers in the Eastern Cape and Border, who

produce about 80 per cent of South Africa's annual pineapple crop, will probably take two to three years to recover from the drought.

The rise in meat prices was forecast by Mr Bertie Moorcroft of the Eastern Province Livestock Agency.

"I don't think there'll be any shortage of beef," he said, "but I am convinced that lamb and mutton will shoot up into the ultra-luxury bracket."

Mr Moorcroft said the floor-price of lamb and mutton at most abattoirs in the Eastern Cape and Border was way above record level.

Mr Theunis Botha of the Eastern Cape regional offices of the National Wool Growers Association said that although it was a little early to make any concrete predictions he felt that the prolonged drought conditions would have an effect on next season's wool clip.

"There are about five million sheep in the Eastern Cape coastal belt and Border inland area which produce nearly R50 million worth of wool every year — nearly 20 per cent of the

country's R275 million clip," he said.

"Farmers only start shearing towards the end of August, but many have already indicated that they expect to be down on previous clip-pings."

Mr Botha said that it would also be interesting to see what effect the drought would have on lambing which is due to start late next month.

Officials of the Department of Agriculture in Pretoria said that 76 magisterial districts in the Cape Province were still officially declared "drought stricken".

According to lists supplied by the Department of Agriculture, nearly 65 per cent of the areas that are officially declared drought stricken are in the Eastern Cape-Border region.

Official figures show that South African farmers have already borrowed more than R2 500 million from the government to keep going against the drought, while total debts by them are believed to be well over R5 000 million.

— DDR.

Drought: year of reckoning in 1984, say experts

Prepare for worst

By Stephen McQuillan

Tighter water restrictions, electricity rationing, a crippled industry and a dented national confidence could be the price of a continued drought in 1984 — the year of reckoning for South Africa.

Industrialists, electrical engineers and water experts are planning for the worst.

With the impact of the drought reaching catastrophic proportions, as signalled by The Star throughout this year, the prediction for 1984 is ominous.

The drought last season was predicted five years ago by Professor P D Tyson and Dr T G J Dyer, two weather experts at the University of the Witwatersrand.

In 1978 they predicted a severe dry spell between 1980 and 1990 — the worst year being 1985. They suggested droughts occurred in a 20-year cycle.

Vaaldam is still the key to the nation's well-being, serving a fifth of the population and half of industry and presently providing the essential link in water supplies to Eastern Transvaal power stations.

The Directorate of Water Affairs has tried to predict the effect of continued drought on Vaaldam.

ern Transvaal power stations — will be empty by between September and November 1984. The RWB savings have averaged about 13,5 percent since the March curbs. Vaaldam inflow during the past six years:

- 1977/78, slightly above average;
- 1978/79, one third of average;
- 1979/80, two thirds of average;
- 1980/81, half of average;
- 1981/82, one fifth of average;
- 1982/83, one twelfth of average.

Emergency schemes to ease the crisis will this year cost the country at least R70 million. Their construction should delay the crunch in 1984.

Mr Bert Boonzaaier, the directorate's liaison officer, said if the worst expectations were realised the RWB would have to ask consumers for a 50 to 60 percent cutback.

The Electricity Supply Commission (Escom) says electricity rationing may have to be introduced before the end of 1984 if there is no significant improvement in dam levels. A decision on rationing may be taken at the end of this year.

Its estimates, assuming inflow for the 1983/84 rainy season is the same as the 1982/83 season, are:

- Vaaldam will be empty by September 1984 without Rand Water Board (RWB) savings.
- The dam will be 7,3 percent full by December 1984 with 20 percent RWB savings.
- It will be 14,6 percent full by November 1984 with 30 percent RWB savings.

The directorate's figures for an inflow to Vaal Dam two or a half times higher than last rainy season are:

- Vaal Dam would be 4,5 percent full by November 1984 with no RWB savings;
- The dam would be 16,5 percent full by November 1984 with 20 percent RWB savings and
- It would be 24 percent full by November 1984 with 30 percent RWB savings.

In all cases, Sterkfontein mountain dam — now supplying water to Vaaldam to feed East-

Rain is welcome but not enough for dams

By Staff Reporters

Star 8/8/83
Showers over Johannesburg and Pretoria this morning were welcome evidence of the unseasonable rains sweeping the eastern parts of the country.

A spokesman for the Weather Bureau in Pretoria said the Eastern Cape, eastern Free State, Natal and most of the Transvaal should have rain today.

Clouds were expected to clear overnight, he said.

Even good showers in some parts are unlikely to make much difference to dam levels.

Rain fell over most of the Reef last night with 4,8 mm in Sandton, 7 mm in the southern suburbs of Johannesburg and 5 mm in Melville. The highest rainfall was recorded at Vereeniging with 14 mm.

In Ermelo soft rain fell throughout the night but a spokesman for the town council said the downpour would not make much difference to Vaaldam.

Light rain fell over a wide area of the Northern Transvaal last night but few places recorded double figures.

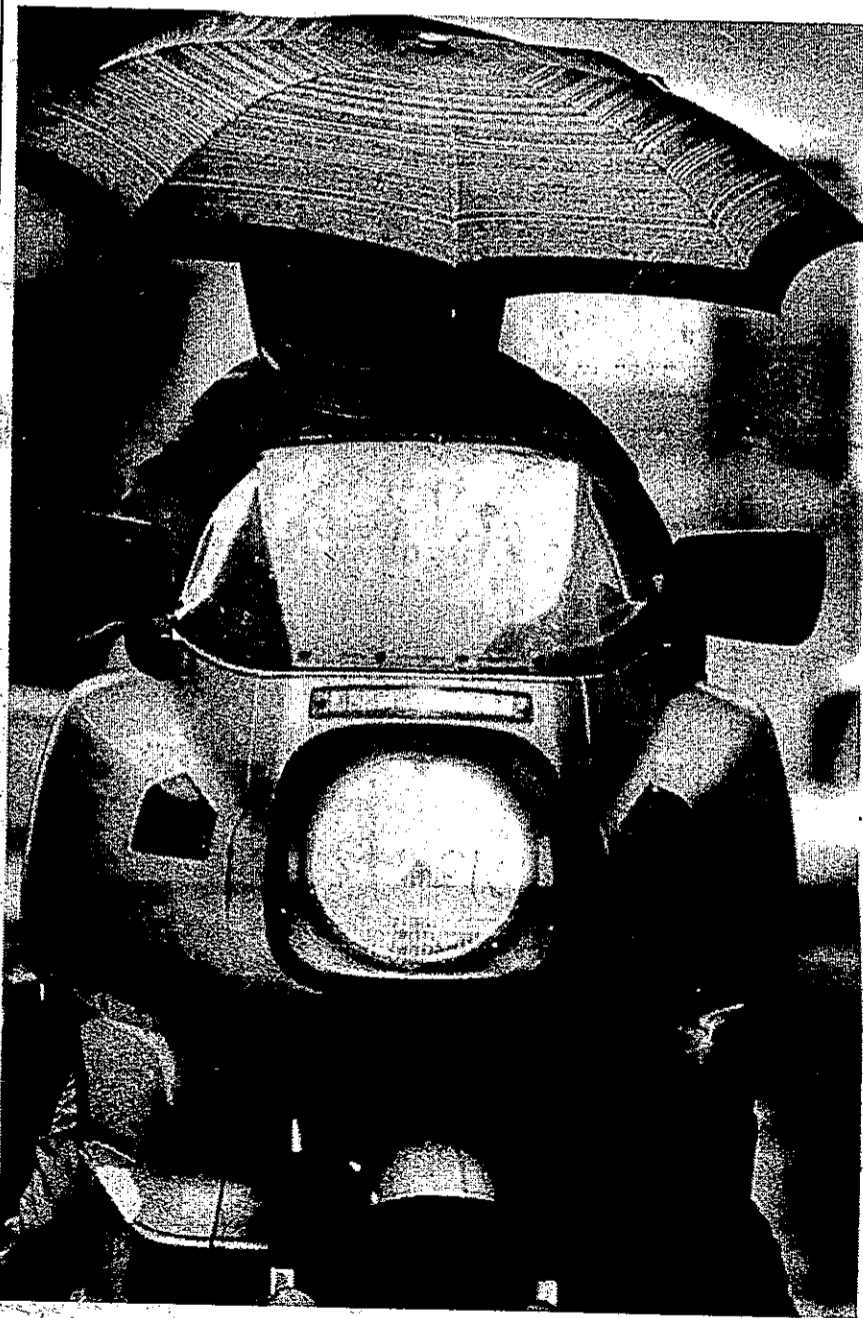
Nelspruit, Skukuza and Pietersburg in the dry eastern and northern areas of the province reported no rainfall last night.

The only rain recorded in the Free State was at Warden which had 15 mm.

Our Durban correspondent reports that widespread soaking rains have fallen all over Natal, bringing much-needed relief to the drought-stricken province. For the first time this year water levels in the main supply dams in the Umgeni area are remaining constant.

Durban recorded 41 mm of rain and Port Shepstone 38 mm. The parched towns of Eshowe and Melmoth recorded 25 mm and 32 mm respectively.

Temperatures on the Witwatersrand tomorrow are expected to be between 13 and 15 deg C.



Looking as if he came from outer space, with an umbrella to keep him out of the unseasonable rain which fell in Johannesburg today, a well-protected motorcyclist waits at a traffic light for blast-off. And, if he forgets to furl his umbrella before opening the throttle, possibly lift-off as well.

● Picture by David Sandison.

Down on the farm

③ General



Johan Willemse is chief economist of the SA Agricultural Union.

The recession and drought have only highlighted the fact that farming in SA is becoming less viable as a business proposition. Between 1975 and 1982 net agricultural income as a proportion of gross agricultural income dropped from 47% to 28%.

Over the same period, input expenditure increased from 32% to 46% of gross agricultural income. In addition to this, interest rates to farmers have almost tripled. This clearly shows that agriculture has become a more risky business while returns have decreased.

In 1970-71 the farmer had to spend 78c on goods and services from outside sources to get R1 of net income. In 1980-81 he had to spend R1,18 to realise the same amount. This has resulted in farmers turning more to external credit to continue production.

The cost of farming inputs has risen faster than costs of other goods, whether imported or locally made. Furthermore, agricultural export prices have risen less than other SA goods' export prices, and much less than agricultural products' local prices.

While agricultural export prices rose by 234,7% from 1970 to 1981, prices of farming requirements rose by 317%.

Studies done at the University of Pretoria have further shown that local farmers' input prices have on average risen much faster than those overseas. In only two out of 11 countries with developed market economies — and three in a total of 17 countries — have prices risen more than in SA.

SA agricultural exporters have also found it hard to remain competitive overseas mainly because of higher pro-

duction costs, less demand for our products from recession-hit countries, steadily increasing transport costs, and EEC subsidies on European products.

The result is that in 1982 net agricultural income was down by 25% on 1981 to R2 000m. From 1981 to 1982 interest payments increased by R478m to R936m, and spending on intermediate goods and services increased by 20% to R3 billion. While the drought has obviously made these figures worse, it does not conceal the worsening plight of agriculture since 1975.

economic cycles and policies. Funding, for example, is not isolated. The Land Bank organises as much as 50% of agriculture's financial requirements. And about 75% of these funds — as much as R3 billion in 1981 — must be found at competitive interest rates.

About 28% of SA's manufacturing sector depends on agriculture for raw materials. And 39% of the retail trade depends on agriculture for its livelihood.

There is a high degree of economic concentration in the SA economy. In the production sector, 2,7% of all enterprises control 50% of the total turnover; 6,3% employ 64% of the workforce; and 6% have 85% of all fixed assets.

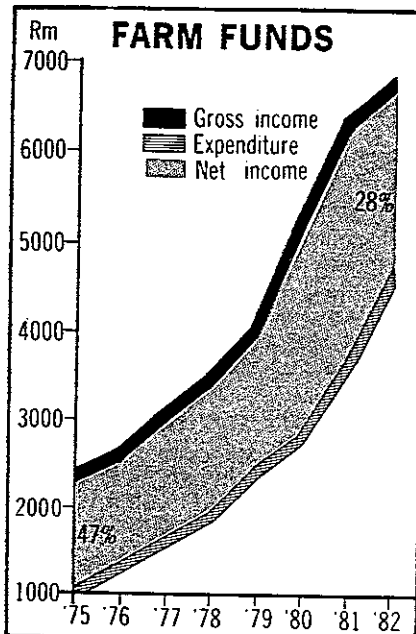
Because the SA economy does not approximate a truly free market situation, those who do not join forces to protect their interests will have little chance of prosperity.

This is particularly so in the light of government's policy of doing away with controls and bringing about a so-called free economy. In this process nothing is being done about the power groups which are now becoming even stronger. The old principle of a free market, where there is a large number of small buyers and sellers who cannot influence the price individually, does not apply any more.

The Department of Agriculture must fulfil its role as an educator and researcher, if we are to have optimal farming production. Therefore the reduction of its budget in proportion to the national budget is a source of concern. Food subsidies are larger than the department's budget and are still rising.

National priorities on agriculture are not entirely clear and farmers should be given answers to the following questions:

- What goods should they produce — those of strategic importance or those which cannot be imported more cheaply?
- Do the authorities strive for stable agricultural prices or for a reasonable income for the farmer?



The proportion of net to gross agricultural income has decreased from 47% in 1975 to 28% in 1982

Sufficient food production is the basis for a stable community, and statistics show a sharp increase in projected demand. Total expenditure on food in 1980 was R10 billion, and should reach about R25 billion in 2 000, not taking inflation into account.

Agriculture is an integral part of the total economy, and is not exempt from

36
Cape Times 8/8/83

Fertilizer war heads for court

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Two competitor companies in the disaster-hit fertilizer industry are set for war in the courts over allegations of industrial espionage.

Triomf Fertilizer is to issue defamation writs this week against unnamed people, and key competitor Hanhill Industries is poised to reply within days with lawsuits of its own.

In a sensation-charged weekend in the struggling, drought-stricken industry:

● A press report appeared detailing alleged "dirty tricks" by companies fighting for a share of the nation's fast-diminishing fertilizer sales.

● After seeing the report, published in the Sunday newspaper Rapport, Triomf chairman Mr Louis Luyt announced that he had ordered his legal advisers to sue certain people for defamation.

● Hanhill managing director Mr Oliver Hill said Mr Luyt's response to the press report had

defamed him (Mr Hill and was itself actionable).

After reading the Sunday newspaper's press report, Mr Luyt yesterday called top Triomf aides to his Saxonwold, Johannesburg, home about mid-day for a crisis meeting to plan the company's response.

Mr Luyt's decision to resort to legal action was announced in a statement last night at the end of the marathon, eight-hour session of talks with his advisers.

However, having heard the text of the statement, Mr Hill hinted at legal action of his own against Triomf.

He added that evidence of fraud and theft had been discovered in a Hanhill subsidiary company, Swaziland Chemical Industries, in February this year.

The evidence had been handed over to the police, who were still investigating.

Colonel Nollie Hulme, head of the Commercial Branch at John Vorster Square, last night confirmed that the branch was investigating allegations of the irregular acquisition of money belonging to the company, and other irregularities connected with the sale of fertilizer.

HS
AS

Indians give ~~500~~ 11/8/83 (3) General KwaZulu money Mercury for six boreholes

Mercury Reporter

THREE cheques totalling R21 100 for six boreholes for drought-hit rural KwaZulu were given by three Durban Indian groups to Mr Ian Smeaton, chairman of the South African Sugar Association, yesterday. He is also the head of the KwaZulu Water Development Fund.

Mr Essop Randeree, chairman of the Muslim Charitable Foundation, presented a cheque for R15 400, Mrs Nafeesa Jeewa, president of the Women's Cultural Group, gave a cheque for R3 850 and Mr A M Loonat also presented a cheque for R3 850 on behalf of the A M Loonat Family Trust.

At a ceremony at the Sugar Association's

Durban offices, Mr Smeaton said the money would be used to buy six boreholes and fitted handpumps for the rural people of KwaZulu in the Water Development Fund's buy-a-borehole campaign.

To date the fund had raised donations totalling R1 042 181, he said.

It was estimated in 1981 that KwaZulu required about 2 000 boreholes and the KwaZulu Government had either drilled or contracted to drill about 700 of these.

'The fund has completed 288, and a shortfall of 1 000 still exists,' Mr Smeaton said.

Mrs Jeewa said the group planned to give another R3 850 for a borehole in Inchanga.

SA needs 'ingrained water conservation'

By Sheryl Raine,
Pretoria Bureau

By the time today's matriculants reach the age of 60, all of South Africa's water resources will be fully utilised.

Facts and figures gathered by the Department of Environmental Affairs in Pretoria, show that the country has a mean annual precipitation of 483 mm, compared to a world average of 860 mm.

In addition, the distribution of the rainfall is uneven, varying from 50 mm a year on the west coast, to 1 250 mm a year on the Drakensberg to 3 650 mm a year on the mountains of the Western Cape.

If all the run-off was dammed we would have 32 000 million cubic metres a year available for use.

With the addition of groundwater this quantity can be increased to 34 000 million cubic metres a year.

Present usage amounts to about 12 000 million cubic metres a year and projections based on present trends indicate that supply and demand will meet in about the year 2025.

The figures are sobering and indicate that South Africa will have to condition itself to a way of living where water conservation is ingrained in every activity — including industrial activity, said Mr P E Odendaal, chief adviser to the Water Research Commission.

"A factory is in the business of producing goods at the lowest possible costs," he said.

"It can be expected that water conservation will only be resorted to under pressure or if there are some economic incentives to do so.

"With the present drought, we are rapidly approaching a situation where water rationing for industry will become inevitable in certain areas."

The question is how do local authorities impose restrictions fairly?

The City Engineer of Germiston has raised the issue of guidelines to help local authorities.

In the absence of such guide-



lines, a blanket rationing on a percentage basis is probably the only approach, Mr Odendaal pointed out.

"At the same time this can, in certain instances, lead to gross injustice."

It can have the effect that exactly those factories which have already implemented water-conservation measures will be hardest hit.

Such factories will have little leeway for further water conservation and may be forced to reduce production.

On the other hand, factories which have been wasteful could have sufficient scope for water saving without affecting production.

Mr Odendaal believes that the establishment of national norms for water usage for specific groups in industry has considerable merit.

"Such norms should be based on specific water usage — water used per unit of product which can be reasonably achieved, taking into account factors such as differences in manufacturing equipment and machinery.

"These norms will not only provide water-supply authorities with guidelines when they are confronted with rationing, but will also be invaluable for planning purposes."

In this way the amount of water needed in developing new industrial areas and for the siting of factories can be computed.

South Africa lags about one-third behind world average annual water precipitation, and the country's rainfall distribution is most uneven.

Projections show that water supply and demand will meet at about the year 2025. The cost of water will show a big increase in the years ahead.

To date, the directorate of Water Affairs has preferred a voluntary co-operation system to legal compulsion in restricting water use.

Some impressive results have been achieved: "Escom reduced its water consumption in terms of litres/kwh by 45 percent from 1961 to 1981.

"Isacor, by using various methods and internal recycling achieved a recycling factor (water recycle: fresh-water intake) of 38 at its Vanderbijlpark works.

"In the private sector, one potato-chip factory cut daily consumption by 61 percent without effect on product quality by reusing its effluent.

One major problem in trying to get industry to save water is that the cost of water usually constitutes less than two percent of the capital and running costs of most factories, said Mr Odendaal.

"It is understandable that savings on water will generally not rate a high priority," he said.

The price of water would inevitably rise sharply in years to come, he warned.

Mr Odendaal believes that while nothing can compensate for the hardship and economic disaster caused by the present drought, it may have a positive effect in stimulating new thinking and water consciousness in future planning.

3 General

New deals in pipeline for ailing farmers, says Minister

By Kevin Davie

IN a face to face meeting with Natal farmers this week, Minister of Agriculture Greyling Wentzel revealed that the Government has far-reaching plans in the pipeline for a new agricultural policy for South Africa.

In discussions ranging from the problem of South Africa's huge monopolies which farmers claim are throttling them to the growing dairy surplus, Mr Wentzel disclosed that:

□ A new butter/margarine mix which tastes "like real farm butter" is about to be launched.

□ The Government intends launching a scheme to sell dairy products in the homeland areas at sub-economic prices.

□ A new agricultural strategy for South Africa embodied in a White Paper is due to be tabled in Parliament next year.

□ He is concerned about the huge monopolies controlling the agricultural industry, knowing that the Government can rectify this situation.

□ Latest figures show the Land Bank has received requests for loans from 4 000 farmers hit by the drought, amounting to more than R800 million.

□ Interest rates charged by the Land Bank will be raised by 1,5 percent in the near future.

Mr Wentzel said the drought had caused the dairy surplus. Where maize crops had failed, farmers had fed their dairy cattle on these crops, producing a huge surplus.

The Dairy Board is in a very, very difficult financial situation because of this surplus."

Minister Wentzel said the solution was to bring out a new product of sunflower and milk fats.

"I've tasted it, it tastes just like real farm butter," he said.

The new butmarge or margebut, if you prefer, will be priced somewhere between margarine and butter.

Mr Wentzel said he approached Prime Minister Mr P W Botha, to table a White Paper next year which set out the broad outline of a new agricultural policy for South Africa.

"We are busy working on this at the moment," he said, adding that this was being done with the co-operation of organised agriculture.

A key aim of this strategy will be to keep as many people as possible on the platteland.

"Farmers can't make a living out of dedication — it must be an economic proposition," Mr Wentzel said.

A number of farmers said the biggest problem they faced was the huge monopolies which control the prices of farmers' input costs such as fertiliser, diesel, bricks, and cement.

A sugar cane farmer said not only were his input costs controlled, but the company which controlled the price he was paid for his sugar cane, also owned his bakkie, his stove, his television set, his fridge — even the bottles in which his milk was delivered.

In reply, the minister said "certain concentrations" affecting basic food production and food marketing in South Africa were making him uneasy.

"We have the machinery to look into this situation," he said.

Mr Wentzel had bad news for farmers clamouring for loans to see them through the ravages of the drought. Interest rates charged by the Land Bank will be pushed up by 1,5 percent.

He stressed, however, that farmers were not being subsidised by other sectors.

"I want the economy to know that farmers don't live on hand-outs," he said.

Face to face with the farmers: Minister of Agriculture Greyling Wentzel

Picture: JOHN WOODROOPE



Agricultural boom in Bophuthatswana

Bophuthatswana is opening up new agricultural schemes to hundreds of learner farmers in a drive to make the homeland fully self-sufficient in food production.

It will also be setting aside further tens of thousands of hectares for purchase by established Tswana farmers.

This has emerged in interviews with officials of Bophuthatswana's Agricultural Development Corporation (Agricor), which has announced the investment of about R40 million in several new schemes to establish the homeland as a major producer of maize and groundnuts.

Although heavily hit by drought during the past two seasons — only 30 to 40 percent of the grain crop survived for harvesting — Bophuthatswana's farming sector has shown remarkable growth over the last five years.

Before the drought struck it showed a 10-fold increase in maize production since 1977, and was poised to become self-sufficient in meat, vegetables and wheat.

The bumper crop of nearly 140 000 tons of maize in 1981 had ensured — even with projected shortfalls this year — that Bophuthatswana will have enough for domestic demand, said one official.

NEW SCHEMES

Among the new schemes Agricor will develop during the next three years are 10 700 ha of maize and groundnuts in two areas north and north-west of Mmabatho and at Setlagole in central Bophuthatswana.

Another maize-groundnut scheme already in operation at Moretele, north of Pretoria, is

Bophuthatswana has made remarkable strides in a short time in building up its farming sector to a point where it is virtually self-sufficient in basic food requirements. ANTHONY DUIGAN reports.

ther 10 000 ha over the next five years.

The three schemes will put more than 250 additional farmers on the land and create hundreds of jobs, Agricor officials said. Further schemes in the pipeline include more maize and groundnut farms and intensive vegetable production in two areas.

NEGOTIATION

The overall aim is to establish farmers on land that is capable of giving them an income of between R5 000 and R7 000 a year. The farmer-land ratio is something that is worked out in negotiations with the people and village authorities, Agricor officials said.

This year Agricor was aiming not only for increased agricultural production, but towards agro-industries, an official said. The first venture would be a new milling company developed jointly by Agricor and Noordied of South Africa.

The first step would be the building of a large maize mill — construction begins this year — to serve Bophuthatswana's capital and surrounding areas, he said.

But in spite of the emphasis on viable farming projects, Agricor has always viewed its priority as being the people on each project, said managing director Mr Dawid Beuster.

"A mistake made in South Africa and Third

development schemes have been initiated as commercial projects rather than community development projects," he said.

"We started from the point of view that we wanted to work with the small farmer and develop him as part of a happy, viable community. We have tried to keep our feet on the ground by developing creches, proper water schemes, giving health classes, and so on," he said.

Bophuthatswana's agricultural policy is based on a concept known in Tswana as "Terisano", which has been defined as a comprehensive planning effort aimed at establishing sound rural communities which have economically viable farming projects as a base.

The extra 400 000 ha expected to be added to Bophuthatswana as part of its final consolidation will have a major impact on farming. The government will keep only 10 percent of this.

SMALL FARMERS

Established Tswana farmers will be able to buy 20 percent, and the other 70 percent will be developed for the small farmer, Mr Beuster said.

As with present developments, the aim will be to introduce new farmers to the land on the basis of an initial seven-year lease and probation on a piece of land that can bring in a minimum in-

Farmers' hopes 'lie with co-ops'

ARGUS
16/8/83
3 Agri

Staff Reporter

WORCESTER. — The only hope of ensuring better prices for South Africa's farmers lay in agricultural co-operatives working together to market produce as advantageously as possible.

This was said today by Mr Jaap Wilkens, president of the South African Agricultural Union, when he opened the 1983 Co-operative congress.

"We know that the non-co-operative sector is organised in massive power blocks and has controlling interests in the major distributive organisations," he told delegates to the day-long congress, organised by the Western Cape Agricultural Union.

Challenge

But it should be realised that these power blocks would not simply leave this profitable field, and this posed a great challenge to the co-operative movement.

Mr Wilkens said the annual turnover of the co-operative had now reached R10 000-million.

This was "big business in anybody's language" and highlighted the need for effective management by co-operative directors and officials.

Mr Wilkens also appealed to the co-operatives to put an end to the "overlapping" which happened when farmers felt bound to join more than one co-operative.

A farmer could not afford to finance different co-operatives to provide the same services, he said.

Overlapping was happening because co-operative officials and directors were sometimes insufficiently trained in commercial and financial management and because of a lack of co-operation between the co-operatives.

"If a co-operative refuses to supply full services at competitive prices to its members, it forces them to go to another co-operative," Mr Wilkens said.

"Chaos"

If it were not possible for each co-operative to service a defined area fully, the only alternative would be open competition between the co-operatives, leading to the survival of the strongest.

But such "chaos" would cost the farmers dearly, Mr Wilkens warned.

● The congress requested the National Industrial Council for the iron, steel, engineering and metalurgical industries to exempt co-operatives in the Western and Southern Cape from paying the minimum wage established last month to employees hired to repair agricultural equipment for the farming community.

● The congress unanimously accepted a resolution proposed by Mr Bertie van der Merwe, chairman of the Canning Fruit Board, calling on co-operatives and control boards in the deciduous fruit industry and the KWV to liaise more closely to facilitate more effective long term planning.

statutory powers vested in it, redress can be sought in the Supreme Court.

Films on Sundays

*31. Mr. R. R. HULLEY asked the Minister of Justice:

- (1) Whether he or his Department has received an application from a certain cinema firm, the name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, for a permit to show religious films to the public on Sunday afternoons and evenings; if so,
- (2) whether it is his intention to grant the application; if not, why not;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The matter is being considered.
- (3) No.

3 Howard
Water supplies
17/8/83
*32. Mr. R. R. HULLEY asked the Minister of Environment Affairs and Fisheries:

Whether he will make a statement on the present state of water supplies available to the major urban centres of the Republic?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (for the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Fisheries) (Reply laid upon the Table with leave of House):

I have provided information on the drought situation in South Africa on various occasions this year during debates and in reply to questions. On 31 March 1983 I also made a statement in this House there-
ment. The position has in the meantime

not changed substantially, but I nevertheless gladly furnish the most recent available figures, as at 8 August 1983.

In the Western Cape the dams are 71% full on average, in the Eastern Cape 59% and along the Orange River 57%. In the Western Transvaal the dams are 39% full and the dams of the Eastern Transvaal are 29% full. The dams in the Vaal River, which includes the greater part of the Orange Free State, are 28% full, while Natal is the worst off with only 10% water in storage. The drought has also resulted in the position on irrigation schemes in the majority of the last-mentioned areas becoming critical.

The four most critical areas which have been identified, are the following:

Natal

Ngagane River (Chelmsford Dam)

Storage in the Chelmsford Dam on 8 August 1983 was 7.0 million cubic metres or about 4% of the total storage capacity. Water restrictions of 66% of the 1982 consumption are in force there and excellent co-operation is being obtained. On request, the Ngagane power station was closed down by Eskom, while Iscor is using Newcastle's municipal effluent. The Municipality of Newcastle has drilled boreholes to augment the water supplies of the town. If the present trend in water savings is maintained, the existing water supply should be sufficient until the end of December 1983, assuming no inflow during the coming summer months, which is unlikely.

An emergency scheme to divert water from the Buffalo River to Newcastle, at an estimated cost of R15 million, will be commenced with shortly and water from this scheme should become available at the beginning of November 1983, provided surplus water is available in the Buffalo River at that time.

Mgeni River (Albert Falls, Midmar and Nagle Dams)

The combined capacity of these three

dams on 8 August 1983 was about 65.0 million cubic metres or 13.2% of the total capacity. Water restrictions are 50% of the 1982 consumption already in force in the area, while Eskom in the meantime closed down a power station there.

The Umgeni Water Board is engaged in the diversion of water from the Mzimvusi River and also at the Clermont weir in the Mgeni River. The Water Board is also negotiating with the City Council of Durban to import water from the Hazelmere Dam into the distribution system.

The Department of Environment Affairs will shortly commence with the construction of an emergency scheme that will entail the pumping of 5 million cubic metres of water per month from the Mooi River to the catchment area of the Midmar Dam. The present water supplies plus the expected minimum inflow during the coming summer season should be sufficient to meet the demand from the Mgeni River system with the present 50% restrictions until the position improves. The recent rain had no significant effect on the state of the dams in the area.

Eastern Cape

No problems with regard to water shortages are being experienced in the Port Elizabeth-Uitenhage area. After the recent good rains in that area almost all the dams are full. The water position in the East London-King William's town area has also improved somewhat in the meantime and no water supply problems are envisaged at present.

Transvaal

Vaal River (Sterkfontein and Vaal Dams)

On 8 August 1983 the storage in the Vaal Dam was 476 million cubic metres or 21.7% of the total storage capacity, while the Sterkfontein Dam had about 770 million cubic metres in storage or 64.3% of the total storage capacity.

Since 18 July 1983 water is being released from the Sterkfontein Dam to the Vaal Dam. The storage level in the Vaal Dam will be maintained at 20% of the storage capacity until conditions improve.

Restrictions of 50% on irrigation and 20% on urban and industrial consumption are in force. The OFS goldfields Water Board and the Western Transvaal Water Company are achieving a saving of more than 20%, while the saving in the supply area of the Rand Water Board is not as desired. To compensate for this, the Rand Water Board has been requested to take steps to make up the backlog before the end of September 1983. In order to achieve this goal, a saving of almost 30% will be required.

If the drought continues at its present severity during the coming summer season, the Sterkfontein and Vaal Dams should jointly be able to supply sufficient water until the end of 1984. If this does occur, the water position will be extremely serious and restrictions of the same magnitude as in Natal would have to be imposed.

Vaal River (Grootdraai Dam)

On 8 August 1983 about 71.0 million cubic metres of water was in storage in the Grootdraai Dam, which represents 19.8% of the total storage capacity. At the estimated abstraction by Sasol II and III and the Matla and Kriel power stations, the reserve capacity of 40 million cubic metres, which is the lowest level at which the Grootdraai pump station can be operated without problems, will be reached at the beginning of October 1983.

The Grootdraai Dam Emergency Augmentation Scheme which is at present still under construction is on schedule and will start delivering water into Grootdraai Dam at the beginning of September 1983.

Eastern Transvaal

As the power stations of the Eastern

yet possible to indicate when the land will be handed over to Lebowa.

- (4) No. The land quota in respect of the Province of Transvaal has technically already been exceeded.

†Dr. W. J. SNYMAN: Mr. Speaker, arising out of the reply of the hon. the Deputy Minister and with reference to the first part of the question, may I ask whether he is aware that approximately 6 000 cattle from drought-stricken areas in the Transvaal are at present on those leased farms?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr. Speaker, we are aware of it. The fact of the matter is, however, that even the land that is being transferred to the Economic Development Corporation can still be leased from the corporation by farmers. We do not intend to handle the matter in such a way that those people will be placed in an impossible situation.

Block 24: moving of residents

*16. Dr. W. J. SNYMAN asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:†

Whether the Government has taken a decision on the moving of the residents of Block 24; if so, what is the decision?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AND OF LAND AFFAIRS:

According to the consolidation proposals the residents of Block 24 must be resettled. This decision has not been reversed and the future of the area and its residents will therefore be judged together with the total consolidation packet of Lebowa.

Lebowa: consolidation

*17. Dr. W. J. SNYMAN asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:†

When is the consolidation of Lebowa expected to be completed?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AND OF LAND AFFAIRS:

Handed over 2.61. 1917
Chuniespoort/Zebediela mountain range:

(3) Government farms ~~10/11~~ 19/8/83

*15. Dr. W. J. SNYMAN asked the Minister of Co-operation and Development:†

- (1) Whether the farms north of the Chuniespoort/Zebediela mountain range which are at present being leased by the South African Development Trust are required by his Department for leasing to parties other than White farmers; if so, (a) who are the parties concerned and (b) at what percentage of the purchase price is the land to be leased to these parties;
- (2) whether the same leasing conditions will apply as those that applied in respect of White farmers; if not, (a) why not and (b) in what respects will the leasing conditions differ;
- (3) whether he intends transferring this land to Lebowa; if so, when;
- (4) whether the total area of Lebowa will then still be within the 1936 quota?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT AND OF LAND AFFAIRS:

- (1) (a) and (b). No. It has been decided that farms in the area concerned be handed over to the Corporation for Economic Development for development purposes.
- (2) (a) and (b). Irrespective of the properties to be made available to the Corporation for Economic Development, available farms will still be leased by the South African Development Trust to White farmers subject to conditions presently applicable.
- (3) The land concerned has been acquired for no other reason but to be added to Lebowa ultimately. It is not

The Commission for Co-operation and Development has already submitted its report in connection with the consolidation of Lebowa to the Government. Certain of the recommendations of the Commission are, however, still being considered by the Cabinet Committee concerned and an announcement in connection with the consolidation of Lebowa will be made as soon as final decisions have been taken and the Transvaal Agricultural Union as well as the Government of Lebowa have been consulted.

Due to the circumstances it is unfortunately not possible to indicate when a final decision will be taken in respect of the report regarding Lebowa but it is anticipated that it will be in the near future. X

(B) General Fm 19/3/83

operasie (NLK) sent a letter to all its suppliers asking them to sign an amazingly one-sided contract. Those who do will undertake to put all their business with NLK members through the co-op and simultaneously agree not to sell anything to any other person or business operating in the same area as the co-op at a lower price or on more favourable terms. Signatories must also agree to supply the co-op on demand with whatever quantities of their products it asks for, deliver them where it tells them to, guarantee the quality unconditionally and subsequently take them back again (at the same price) if any are unsold.

Since many farm requisites have a limited shelf life (vaccines, chemicals, seeds) or soon become obsolete (machinery, spares, chemicals) those conditions are preposterous. Yet failure to sign means that the co-op will refuse to carry any of the supplier's

goods at all. And that, in turn, means that the supplier won't be able to sell to any farmer in the area who wants (or needs) to avail himself of Land Bank credit.

The penalty for signing and then breaking any clause of the NLK agreement is even more horrific. Upon breach of contract, the co-op reserves the right to send unsold goods back to the supplier and simultaneously lands it with the job of collecting all the unpaid accounts (plus its own profit margin) for those products it has already sold. Since the co-op will retain the lien on the grower's crop, this is tantamount to handing back a portfolio of doubtful debts without the security of the collateral against which they were lent. Worse still, the contract stipulates that the supplier must pay all legal costs in the event of a dispute, while the co-op retains the privilege of incurring unlimited legal

fees for the supplier to settle.

The fact that some very large companies have already agreed to enter into contracts of this nature with the co-op should be a warning to the farmers and the rest of the capitalist community. The giants are prepared to sign because they know that, contract or no contract, neither the co-op nor the farmers can afford to do without them. They see the whole issue as another nail in the coffin of the independent small supplier who is their only real competitor.

Thus the poor farmer in whose name the co-op is ostensibly acting looks like being a double loser. Which all goes to prove that you should never compromise with those inclined towards collectivism if you value your own independence. The complexities of modern production and distribution methods enable their pernicious influence to be too easily cloaked.

③ General

FARM SUPPLIES

Co-op python squeezes

From the beginning, our farm co-operative movement has been ideologically riven. The promoters were collectivist, the members capitalist. They still are.

The ordinary farmer who joins a co-op does so in the belief that it will help him retain his precious independence. The directors welcome him into the fold because they want him to become a member of a closely knit and "organised" team in which they will do the organising.

Starry-eyed co-operative managers still pride themselves that they are not part of the profit-making sector, working for money-grubbing capitalists. The more level-headed members who employ them are unashamed capitalists. They would never have invested in the co-op had they not been money-grubbing realists and determined to remain part of the profit-making sector.

These differences are customarily ignored while there is something juicy (like monopoly prices or land bank credit) for both sides to feed upon. As long as neither side actually suffers, the pragmatists can afford to suppress their principles and hitch rides on each others' bandwagons. But the underlying differences never go away. As soon as the going gets tough, one side or other must assert its ideas to gain its objectives at the expense of the other. Then the sparks fly.

Bust-ups occur regularly whenever individual members discover that they can obtain better services and cheaper inputs elsewhere. They expect to be told by their embarrassed directors how and why the unsubsidised private sector (which they have never been asked to finance, protect or support) can still make a profit while underselling an organisation which supposedly exists for their benefit and which they supposedly control.

Fatter middleman

Having been lured into the system on the pretext that it would "cut out the middleman," they are irked to realise that they have helped establish a new middleman even fatter, less efficient, less responsive and more pervasive than any of the ogres he promised to displace.

With an array of government crutches to lean upon, the best managed co-ops should and can match the terms offered by most of the competition. That is one reason why the co-operative movement now handles well over 80% of all farm produce and perhaps two-thirds of all farm requisites. But not all the co-ops are efficient. Some have rested on their crutches for so long that they have almost forgotten how to walk. For them there is no way to compete on straight commercial terms.

The co-operative objective of the social-

The rising cost of farm inputs is a major cause of inflation. The power of the co-operative movement, which has little patience with private enterprise or farming efficiency, is substantially to blame.

ist organisers therefore comes into direct conflict with the aims of the ordinary, capitalist farmer. If the member simply buys where he can get the best deal, he is labelled a "dissident" by his less perceptive peers and accused openly of disloyalty by the paid managers of the very co-op which has failed him. To demonstrate the strength of their own loyalty to him, the managers sometimes couple their accusations with references to their ability to determine the magnitude and terms of this or next year's production loans.

Since the individual farmer can not lay his hands on seasonal finance from the Land Bank except through his co-op, this hint is usually enough to bring the victim to heel. Subsidised Land Bank money is typically 3%-4% cheaper than commercial money. And commercial banks dislike topping-up behind co-ops because the latter have by law an automatic lien on the ensuing crop.

The majority of our growers who need to

borrow between R300 and R450/ha to plant maize simply cannot afford to fall out with their co-op managers. This is particularly true this year as credit is scarce anyway and most maize growers are unusually over-stretched after last year's drought. Neither is it any use appealing to the manager of a different co-op for succour.

In keeping with their collectivist philosophy, the co-ops have agreed not to compete with each other. Competition is called "overlapping" and deemed wasteful. To add insult to injury, the dissatisfied member cannot even resign his membership of the offending organisation or sell his shares without first disposing of his farm. True to form, the co-ops have made sure that admission to their Utopia is by one-way ticket only.

Despite these handicaps, a substantial number of farmers still find it pays to do their own shopping and generate their own finance. This is particularly true of the bigger farmers who place individual orders large enough to qualify for bulk discounts on their own and of the more conservative farmers who are ready and able to pay cash. The co-op pricing structure often fails to cater for the cash buyer. Sometimes the co-op builds its entire profit margin into the list price when selling on credit. It does this to mask the fact that it is not exploiting its privileged status as a retailer of Land Bank credit (which, of course, it usually is.)

To those leaders of the co-operative movement whose declared aim is a total monopoly, these independent farmers are a perpetual thorn in the flesh. Apart from taking their business elsewhere, they serve as a living reminder to the captive clientele that the co-operative movement is not all it is cracked up to be.

A couple of years ago, the giant Boeremakelaars Ko-operatief Beperk (BKB) decided to hamstring its competition in the distribution of dips and veterinary materials in large parts of the Cape Province by refusing to carry the products of any supplier who failed to give it sole marketing rights for the area. Since a large percentage of their business there was already being done by (or invoiced through) BKB, the majority of suppliers reluctantly agreed to toe the line. They simply could not afford to stand out while the Vetsak-Datons group, controlled by the co-op, was waiting to pick up all the business. A lot of farmers were furious about the deal. But you don't argue lightly with BKB if you are a wool or mohair grower. Thanks to two control boards, it has a monopoly of their brokerage business.

Now it looks as though the grain co-ops are about to play the same game. Or perhaps an even tougher one.

During June, the Natalse Landbou Ko-



Ploughing up the independent farmer

Drought Crisis

OUTRAGE!

NATALIANS TO LOSING THEIR WATER TO THE TRANSVAAL

Downright unfair, terrible, even wicked.

These were just some of outraged responses from Natal residents who were asked in a street survey what they thought about the province's water being pumped to the Transvaal.

The 20 people interviewed by The Sunday Tribune were unanimous that Natal water should remain in Natal. If that meant harsh restrictions being imposed on Transvaalians, then it was about time.

These were some of their comments:



Peter Schutte
It's going to be tough for us. It's not right our water should go to the Transvaal.



Wendy Gray
How can they do it when we need it? The restrictions there are far too lenient.



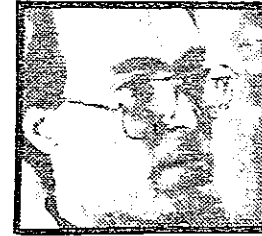
Lodhra Moodley
Transvaal has its own dams; they should use their own water. We'll use ours.



Anita Msomi
It's wrong. People are dying here and Transvaal is using too much water.



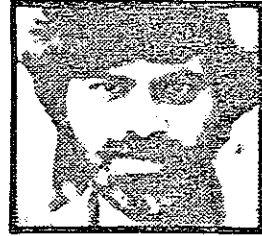
Cary Dunwoody
Definitely not fair. The authorities blundered by not rationing in Natal long ago.



Chris Moon
If we have to supply it, they should also be restricted; perhaps 50 litres a day.



Naziema Abbass
It's wicked. Transvaalians have got their own water; let them use it.



Reg Hansraj
Why should Natal water go to the Transvaal? It's wrong. We're battling.

Festival borehole opened



Film-festival director Ros Sarkin was at Umbumbulu this week for the commissioning of this borehole. It was paid for by guests at the festival, held in the Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre, Durban, in April. A borehole costs R3 800

Making rain a novel dream

By MARION WHITEHEAD

The rains will come as soon as we drop our drought consciousness and start thinking positively about rain.

This is the startlingly simple and novel idea of two "rain queens of the north" who say they have brought showers by visualising rain and playing a recording of a tropical rainstorm.

"Our thoughts are creative," say Johannesburg mothers Sylvia Kaplan and Jana Greenberg. "Positive thoughts produce positive results, and negative thoughts produce negative results."

To make it easier for South Africa to think rain, they are prepared to lend their recording of

rain out to DJs so they can bombard their listeners with the sweet music of rainfall.

Sylvia Kaplan got the idea when she visited a game farm in the Eastern Transvaal and saw how dry the bush was. "I cried the whole weekend," she confessed.

She snapped out of her depression after a visit to the Cape.

"I was determined to bring some of the rain back with me, and as we landed at the airport, it was drizzling."

The Pretoria Weather Bureau confirmed that Johannesburg had received 11.9mm of rain on

Drought Crisis

UTRAGE!

NATALIANS REACT TO LOSING THEIR WATER TO THE TRANSVAAL



□ Peter Schutte

It's going to be tough for us. It's not right for our water should go to the Transvaal



□ Wendy Gray

How can they do it when we need it? The restrictions there are far too lenient



□ Lodhra Moodley

Transvaal has its own dams: they should use their own water. We'll use ours



□ Anita Msomi

It's wrong. People are dying here and Transvaal is using too much water



□ Tommy Heard

It's downright unfair. We need it ourselves, especially if we are restricted to 50 litres



□ Cary Dunwoody

Definitely not fair. The authorities blundered by not rationing in Natal long ago



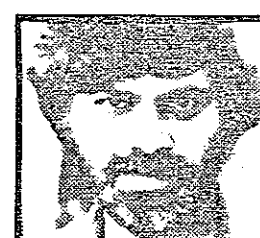
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□ Reg Hansraj

Why should Natal water go to the Transvaal? It's wrong. We're battling



□ Vincent Vilakazi

It's terrible that our water is going to the Transvaal when we need it

A borehole opened



Director Ros guests at the festival, held in bumbulu this the Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre, missioning of Durban, in April. A borehole as paid for by costs R3 800

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The Pretoria Weather Bureau confirmed that Johannesburg had received 11.9mm of rain on

that day, July 25.

That proved to Sylvia the power of positively visualising rain falling, and when she and Jana went to a party two weeks later, they took the recording of the tropical rain storm with them to help some 250 friends get into the spirit of things. The next day, 7.7mm fell and the day afterwards the Weather Bureau measured 4.4mm.

Sylvia knows a lot of people think her idea of rainmaking is a bit whacky or downright crazy.

"You can't argue with them. It's their belief system," she said.

Jana pointed out that rainmaking is traditional in many African tribes.

Drought Crisis

CRYING NATAL



Michelle Behari (bending) collects her ration of water at the communal borehole

Rain, but situation still grim in Northern Natal

By JUGGIE NARAN

THE highlight of widow Nettie Vermeulen's visit to her daughter's house every three days is a hot bath.

Mrs Vermeulen is one of thousands of Northern Natal people who have had to change their daily routine because of the crippling drought.

The widow's daughter has a borehole on her farm and is not subjected to the 25 litres a day restriction.

Last week's rains merely settled the dust and the situation, particularly in the north, remains grim.

Residents of this Northern Natal town are

issued coupons allowing them to receive only 25 litres of drinking water a day.

Their lives depend on these 32 coupons.

In Colenso only those who have sunk boreholes have an adequate supply of water and this has generated goodwill, neighbourliness and generosity in the community.

Residents of all race groups have become victims of the shortage and there is no hesitation by borehole owners to donate water when a less

privileged neighbour arrives with a bucket and a sad face.

But these private boreholes do not solve the problems of most of the town's residents who do not have access to their own supply of drinking water.

Although there is a ready supply of tap water it cannot be used for cooking and drinking because it comes from disused mines and contains chemicals.

Most residents are even afraid to use this

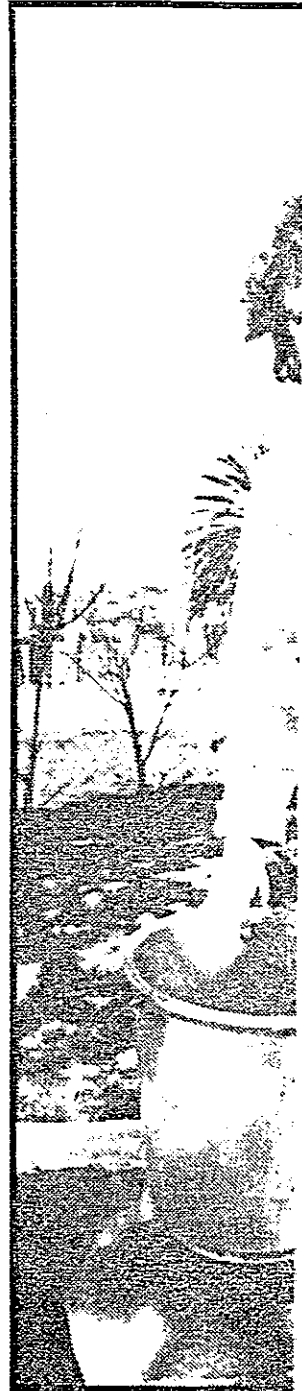
water to wash clothes.

Therefore they are issued with the coupons for 25 litres of water daily at any of the 10 tankers positioned around the town.

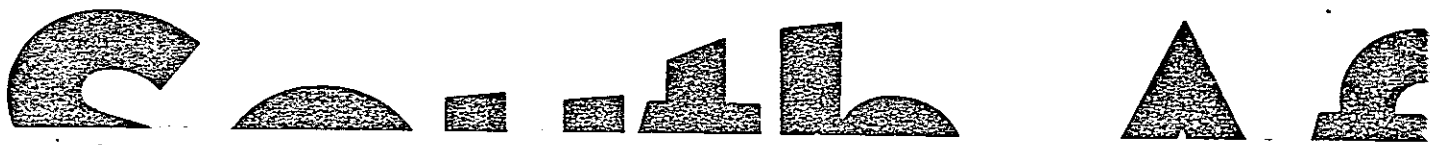
"The 25 litres is just about adequate for drinking and cooking purposes," Mrs Vermeulen said. "Whatever little water I save from each day's quota is carried over to the following day.

"But there is no way I can manage to a bath each day with my daily allocation.

"I am forced to travel more than 20km to my daughter's house once every three days to take a bath."



The water Nettie travel 20km to her



3 General

GENERAL NATAL...

**Thanks
for
your
help**



at the communal

Still Natal

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The water Nettie Vermeulen cannot use. She has to travel 20km to her daughter's house to have a bath

Balance b/f
..... R345 850,13

THIS week the Sunday Tribune SA Red Cross Drought Relief Fund acknowledges contributions from:

DJ Stevens	R1 000
Ladies of Durban (Mos' Club)	R1 000
Long Distance Snipers Snezhoe	R400
Proceeds from Darius Brubeck's jazz concert at the University of Zululand	R300
Disc Squash Centre	R231 40
COZAM	R200
KOL Investments (Pty) Ltd	R150
Pietermaritzburg Bowling Club Ladies Section	R141
Kwazuluwazi Trading Store	R130
John's Congregational Church	R100
Onton Preparatory School	R100
Friday Prayer Meeting Fellowship	R50
Mrs M. Batters	R50
Anonymous	R50
Moses's Wholesalers (Gretown)	R50
Ujaboo	R50
Mrs J. Durban	R50
B. Kaptan	R40
LE Bekker	R30
Palmer Strachan	R25
Parents of Robson Primary School	R23 40
African Evangelical Church Sunday School	R20
Sturges & Benon	R20
Mrs FM Olive	R20
Veruust, Gaborie, Messon	R20
JF. Marinkson	R15
Special thanks to Fir and Deane staff Entabeni Hospital, Balmere	R15
Anonymous	R0

Total: R4 292.83

If you would like to make a contribution to the fund, cheques should be made payable to Sunday Tribune SA Red Cross Drought Relief Fund and sent to the Promotions Department, Sunday Tribune, PO Box 1491, Durban, 4000 or to the SA Red Cross Society, PO Box 1680, Durban, 4000 or to the KwaZulu Water Development Fund, PO Box 507, Durban, 4000.

Donations sent to the Sunday Tribune intended specifically for water development should be marked "Water".

Cost of producing food has soared in 10 years

Post Reporter

COSTS borne by farmers have soared over the past 10 years with a 742% increase in the price of diesel fuel, 307% increase in the cost of farm feed and a 302% increase in the price of trucks.

This was said today by Mr T Pearson, of the Addo Farmers' Association, who was quoting from Agriculture Statistics, 1983, at the annual East Cape Agricultural Union Congress in Port Elizabeth.

He said prices over the past 10 years had also increased by 297% for maintenance and repair work, 283% for implements, 268% for irrigation equipment, 200% for packaging material and 168% for dips and sprays.

These represented annual increases ranging between 10,4% and 16,1%.

Mr Pearson used these statistics to motivate a strongly worded proposal that congress request that the Land Bank long-term interest rate be reduced to 7% a year.

He said the farmer needed to be able to borrow money at a cheaper rate than normal.

This was because the farmer was involved in a high-risk business and his profit was limited by a controlled price.

Mr Tobie Meyer, of Witelsbos, was elected the new chairman of the East Cape Agricultural Union today. He takes over from Mr Fred Pettit, of Queens-town.

The new vice-chairman of the East Cape Agricultural Union is Mr Casper Nel, of Jamestown.

More direct incentives needed: call by farmers

By CLAIRE PICKARD-CAMBRIDGE THE East Cape Agricultural Union yesterday called on the Government for more direct incentives to help the agricultural sector.

At the union's congress being held in Port Elizabeth. Mr W A Philips, representing the Koonap Farmers Association, said generous incentives to manufacturing industries in the form of subsidies, rebates, housing, railage, rent and training and concessions for labour, placed farmers in the region at a "distinct disadvantage".

"This is particularly disadvantageous for our recruitment of labour and maintenance of a stable labour force," he said.

Mr Louis Koch, chief director of the East Cape Administration Board said, that as chairman of the Regional Development Advisory Committee (RDAC), he favoured the resolution and thought it of great importance.

The committee was busy with a master plan to support regional development in the Eastern Cape and Mr Koch said he believed agriculture would play a most important role in the planned development of the region.

"The RDAC has already got the support of the Transkei and Ciskei Governments for this development," he said.

A symposium would be held shortly in Johannesburg where the RDAC would discuss development and consider, with agriculture, the implementation of nature conservation on farms in the region to boost tourism.

A resolution was also passed at the congress asking the Department of Agriculture to investigate the red tape and shortcomings of the present drought assistance scheme.

Congress also resolved to request the Government for funds for an adequate water supply and for storage facilities for fodder.

The importance of building dams was emphasised for areas where farmers had requested this



Among the key figures at the annual congress in Port Elizabeth are (from the left) Mr HAF the medical aid society for farmers, Mr L officer, and Mr JAAP WILKINS, president c delegates are a

Mother and six newborn babies fine

BLANKENBERGE, Belgium — Sextuplets born to a Belgian nurse on Wednesday night are all in perfect health. Mr Andre Dezutter, director of the Queen Fabiola Maternity Hospital, said last night.

He said the babies, five boys and one girl, were about six weeks premature and each weighed between 1.3 and 1.5 kilograms.

Mr Dezutter said he believed the babies were the first sextuplets born in Belgium. — Sapa-Reuter

Death of ex-mayor 'natural'

CAPE TOWN — A former Mayor of George, 64-year-old Dr Francois Heunis whose body was found in a ditch on the grounds of Stikland Hospital this week, died of natural causes.

A spokesman for the hospital said although the results of a pathological examination had not yet been released, the police did not suspect a crime.

Dr Heunis was last seen at the hospital on Tuesday. — Sapa

Angola rejects SA bombing denials

LISBON — The Angolan Embassy in Lisbon yesterday issued a rare statement on fighting in its southern provinces, denouncing alleged South African air raids and calling for international pressure on the Pretoria Government.

In a Press release distributed to the media here, the embassy brushed aside South African denials that its planes destroyed the town of Cangamba in Moxico Province on Sunday.

"Pretoria's denials in this case are worthless," the embassy note said. "The proof (of the bombing) is there to see."

On Monday South Africa formally denied Angolan charges concerning the alleged bombing.

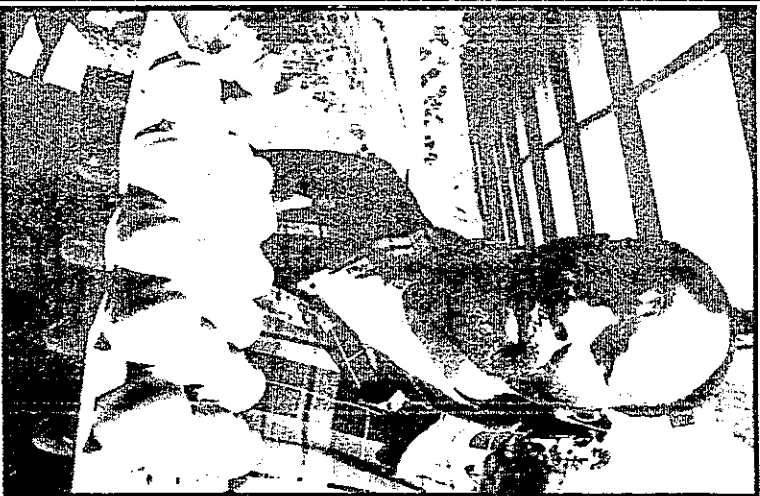
Echoing charges carried by the Angolan national news agency, Angop, earlier in the week, the statement said a massing of South African troops in southern Angola represented a "growing danger" and issued an international plea that pressure be brought to bear on South Africa.

Reports from Luanda, the Angolan capital, quoted unidentified officials as saying a 10 000-strong force of South African soldiers, foreign mercenaries and Angolan rebels were grouping in Cunene and Kuando-Kubango province for a push north towards Luanda. — Sapa-AP

COMFAY

3 General

The Institute of Natural Resources starts self-help project in drought-ravaged KwaZulu and there's a new determination among the people as they see the scheme bear fruit



Walter Myandu with a tray of fresh eggs from his new egg unit



Prince Gideon Zulu discusses vegetables from the community garden with institute field officer Gavin Pote. Chief P Biyela looks on

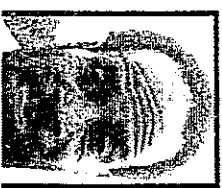


BY PETER DAVIS

THE sun burns mercilessly on the dry, winter-scorched earth of KwaZulu, etching the barren humps of ploughed earth and the occasional maize stalk long dead.

It is a time of drought, of people with hunger in their bellies whose faces bear the scars of privation, of goats sniffing for a forgotten root in the arid dust, of goats eating the growing and reeking, lifeless sorghum.

It is a bad time. Even the rivers, once boldly adolescent not so long ago, trickle



A Better Life!

Trial people projects to provide an integrated plan for rural development

As the drought and recession bite deeply into the economy, people are forced out of the rural areas to the towns. This creates urban problems and reactions from the authorities which have been well documented, but what shines through is the urgent need for co-ordinated

sees to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry next month for consideration. Director of the Institute, Prof John Hanks, believes one of the major barriers to sustained rural development programmes in the past has been the failure to communicate and

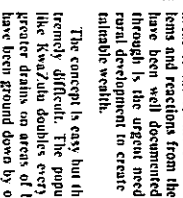




Prince Gideon Zulu, chief liaison officer — consulting people



Gidye Mthembu, head gardener — The garden is a woman's project



Induna Ngema — his pasture is an oasis of green

owns and manages this small egg production unit set up by the Institute of Natural Resources as a trial to show sources who scratch an existence from the earth that things could be better and the authorities that there is a need for an integrated approach to rural development and which give Mr Mnyanda an average of 33 dozen eggs a day.

Because he's had a bit of experience in keeping chickens, Mr Mnyanda was chosen by a committee of the community to run this project. He sells the eggs far more cheaply than the people can buy in the rural stores. R120 a dozen for large eggs. Besides Zulu do not eat fertilised eggs and with no rooster in sight, the people know his eggs are good.

Sells surplus

He sells the eggs directly to the community who knock on his door and the surplus he sells to trading stations in the area. His profit is about 40 percent of his taking after he has paid for food and the capital outlay of his chickens. He has two years to pay off his capital costs.

Mr Mnyanda took over his business in June and he says firmly, "As I get more my chickens, my children help me and they want to know more every day. All the children

around here want to see my chickens. "Before I farmed, but it was a poor farm, now my future is much better and I want to grow..."

A 20-hectare drive along the tracks of the Byele district, stands a simple shed at the home of Chief Gideon Zulu, and here brothers are raised and sold for between R3 and R4. The chief was not at home but he is busy raising his second batch of pullets. The first batch of 400 birds made him a profit of about R400 on the same capital outlay as the egg unit.

Both units gather water from their roofs and this is stored in a plastic pool which gives enough water for both birds and domestic use. The Institute is investigating the possibility of installing solar systems for the chicken units to provide lighting through batteries. This would improve production by about 10 percent and provide domestic lighting as well, according to field officer Gavin Pote.

the economy, people are forced out of the rural areas to the towns. This creates urban problems and reactions from the authorities which have been well documented, but what shines through is the urgent need for co-ordinated rural development to create both jobs and sustainable wealth.

The concept is easy but the solutions are extremely difficult. The population of an area like KwaZulu doubles every 24 years causing greater strains on areas of high potential that have been ground down by overgrazing, loss of topsoil and soil erosion.

It is this question that the Institute of Natural Resources has applied its considerable expertise. The Institute is attached to the University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg and academically provides a master's course in resource planning but in close consultation with the KwaZulu Government, Inkhata, the KwaZulu Development Corporation and the local people, it is undertaking trial projects at about R40 000 in various parts of KwaZulu to gain information and provide an integrated plan for rural development. Its draft plan will be presented next month for consideration.

Director of the Institute, Prof John Hanks, holds one of the major barriers to sustained rural development programmes in the past has been the failure to communicate and involve local people. "You cannot plan upon people. If you try it will fail because of the lack of commitment. The trials we have planned in KwaZulu have taken us a long time because we set out to gain the trust of the local people and involve them deeply.

"We got them to define their needs and then we gave them the options. They made the decisions. "We believe we now have their trust and the trials are beginning to work well. We are showing the rural people what can be done and they have reacted positively.

"Now we hope to see a phased implementation of our plan but this is going to take a massive commitment by the state to provide infrastructure — the rural roads are often impassable — finance, credit facilities and careful marketing. Prof Hanks said his institute was a small organisation that saw itself providing information and concepts to hand over to the development arms of government such as the new development bank and the KwaZulu Development Corporation.

"We believe we now have their trust and the trials are beginning to work well. We are showing the rural people what can be done and they have reacted positively.

"Trust is a different thing. Our people have been robbed for more than a century by the whites, often under the cloak of religion. There are still those in KwaZulu who believe they rule us and have not understood that the people will have the final say."

"If we get this commitment, the end result will be the transition from a subsistence way of life to 20th century agriculture, which means jobs, security and the slowing of environmental degradation that is destroying the rural areas of Africa.

"If we do little or nothing, it will mean deforestation, increasing desert, poverty, malnutrition and exploding urbanisation."

Prof Hanks said about 1 500 workers were coming onto the market every day and the Isibheke type development, while vital, could not provide the necessary jobs, especially as the cost was about R20 000 a job.

"We must balance urban and rural development. After all, conservation is the ability to sustain a sustainable way of life and we believe what we are doing in KwaZulu is a good start.

"However, we have been criticised since we have gone into KwaZulu and accused of raising people's expectations. We are very aware of this. We have put in the trial projects that will benefit those few people and our final plans will go to the KwaZulu Government.

"We have not promised anything but because it was essential, even on the trials, we had to get the people involved. Once we have submitted our plans it is up to the Government to decide its own priorities," Prof Hanks said.

"The garden is a woman's project and since the irrigation, we have been able to progress. Soon, when we can fence it, that piece of land will also be made into a garden and that will make it nearly double the size."

"The garden is a woman's project and since the irrigation, we have been able to progress. Soon, when we can fence it, that piece of land will also be made into a garden and that will make it nearly double the size."

Director of the Institute of Natural Resources, Prof John Hanks

IF YOU WANT TO HEAR - WE WANT TO HELP

Our sympathetic and dedicated staff understand and really care about people with hearing problems. We take a personal interest in these problems and are determined to do all we can to help.

Much interest

Mrs Mthembu is also secretary of the local committee which sorts out problems and decides on how the garden income is spent.

"People all over see what we are doing. They see all this food we grow and they want to join the committee. We are growing all the time and we want to grow more. When we started there were 25 people on the committee but 10 more have joined and there are others who are still deciding on. That is why, we need a bigger garden."

Why does Mrs Mthembu show such interest in the garden?

"I have no son, the soil is very rich and I have a large carrot and fresh plucked from the rich, damp earth."

NATAL HEARING AIDS

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Success of the plan lies with the people

The basis of success of any rural development plan lies with the local people. This firm belief by the Institute of Natural Resources was echoed by those interested in the trials.

Chief P. Mthembu: "The people must be consulted. We cannot plan without asking the people about their needs and attitudes. Any development must be put into operation by the people themselves.

"Even in those trials, committees were formed and they decided who should take charge of each operation and they will de-

Drought Crisis

Angry farmers accuse cloud rustlers of stealing their rain

Tribune Foreign Service

WASHINGTON: In drought-stricken western Maryland the farmers are angry over the cloud-rustlers they accuse of stealing their rain.

They believe the rustlers are flying into the clouds as they form over the state and seeding them in a way that stops them from dropping rain or makes the rain fall elsewhere.

So serious are the farmers that they have persuaded the authorities in one county to draft an ordinance providing for fines of up to 25 000 dollars for cloud seeding without a licence.

They are not quite sure why anyone would want to steal their clouds but they have some theories.

Jack Wetzel, vice-president of the Citizens Against Weather Modification, a group of about 200 farmers, suspects the seeding is being commissioned by engineering contractors or the sponsors of outdoor entertainment events to whom rain is a costly nuisance.

"It seemed like during the weekends

we would always get these apparent thunderstorms coming up," said Wetzel. "then we would see planes going into the clouds and the sun coming out."

Charles Clinton, of the National Weather Service in Washington, confirmed that seeding of clouds could be used to prevent rain as well as cause it and could even make rain fall in some place other than where the seeding was done.

"I don't try to figure out why someone would do this," he said. "But it can be done and, as far as I know, it has been done."

The Washington county ordinance would not only provide for fines for illegal cloud seeding but pay rewards for information leading to the arrest of the seeders.

"With the teeth we've put in this ordinance and the enticement of the reward we might find out if there really is anyone to blame for this dry spell," said Ron Bowers, president of the Washington County Commission.

OH, STOP

By RON GOLDEN

IF Dale Hobbs, chairman of the Rand Water Board, were not a polite man he would probably tell his critics in Natal to belt up and mind their own business.

Instead, he merely laughed when asked what message he had for angry Natalians who resented the amount of water splashed around on the Reef.

"It is difficult for me to understand why they resent it because essentially we are not at the same crisis level and there is absolutely no point in curtailing beyond what is necessary," he told the Sunday Tribune.

Tougher restrictions have recently been introduced on the Reef but the average Natalian still feels badly done by when he compares his lot to water users in the massive Johannesburg-Pretoria complex, where gardens are still watered and cars washed.

And what about the amount of water pumped from the province to the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area where, many Natalians believe, it is splashed around while they are restricted to 400 litres daily?

I asked Mr Hobbs if he thought the criticisms were unjustified.

"Quite right," he replied. "You know, Natalians are being rationed because their water is so limited."

"We haven't reached that stage. We have more water available to us and our target of a 20 percent saving has been assessed on the basis we will get through (with this kind of



DALE HOBBS ... Natal people are too sensitive. We don't have to save

saving)," said Mr Hobbs.

He announced earlier in the week the savings target for the Rand had topped the 19 percent mark and he found this encouraging. Users in the Durban metropolitan region are saving 50 percent more than at the same time last year — and the figure is higher in several other areas of Natal.

Mr Hobbs said the 20 percent target could easily change if the drought intensified.

Asked if he felt Natal people were too sensitive about the issue, he said: "That is right. We don't have to save."

The drought was a national issue, I said, and even although the degree of severity might not be so high on the Rand, should not savings there be equal to Natal?

"What for," asked Mr

That's the word from Transvaal water chief Dale Hobbs

Hobbs. "There are two answers to that. The first is that it is very easy for Natal to save 50 percent in a slack position."

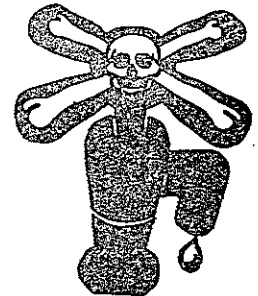
"And, second, this is the fourth time this area has been rationed in the past 25 years and each time this happens people become more efficient in the use of their water."

Asked what he meant by Natal's "slack position" Mr Hobbs said he believed Natal had based its 50 percent saving over the amount of water used during the same time last year — "when the consumption was very high".

"What are you saving on? Your 1982 consumption per capita was probably much higher than the Reef."

On the belief among some Natal people that they were being deprived of water from the Tugela because it was pumped to the Witwatersrand, he agreed with experts who have often stated the water would have flown into the sea anyway had it not been pumped to the Transvaal.

He referred to the Spionkop Dam near Colenso in Natal, one of the



key dams in the link between the Tugela and the Vaal River basin.

"If it wasn't for the Spionkop Dam, the Tugela would be dry," he said. "The water (for the Tugela) is being released from the dam."

"At the moment we are not pumping water from the Tugela because above the dam it is dry."

He said the Rand public had, in general, been receptive to water restrictions.

"But there are always those whose flowers die, and their trees die and they don't think the restrictions are justified."

"Obviously we are not in the same position as Durban but should this happen I have no doubt we would get the same public reaction here as has happened there."

CARE Times 23/8/83

3 general ~~2009/100~~ ~~252~~

Drought knocks Kanhym — profits slashed 85,3%

By STEVE ELLIS

JOHANNESBURG. — Earnings of drought-bedecked Kanhym Investments crashed 85,3 per cent in the June half-year and the group has only a R1 389 000 deferred tax credit to thank for keeping it in the black.

Earnings a share slumped to 10c from 68,2c in the comparative 1982 half.

Vulnerability

Bottom-line profits totalled a paltry R1 223 000 (1982 half: R8 272 000) during a period in which Kanhym's vulnerability to the rural sector was ruthlessly exposed by the drought.

Interim dividend has been passed and there is every indication that the final distribution will suffer the same fate. Last year, a 20c interim was paid which — together with a 40c final — made 60c for the year.

The result heralds the end to the hopes of the chairman, Mr Ted Pavitt, who earlier this year projected 1983 to be "a year of recovery" — a forecast voiced in the group's 1982 annual report.

Kanhym's profit plunge just goes to show that even when it doesn't rain, it pours — not only were its agricultural operations stricken by the drought but its coal interests were hampered by weak export markets.

Group turnover fell a marginal 1,3 per cent to R526m (R532m) but deteriorating trading margins accelerated the decline at the pre-tax profit stage to 91,5 per cent — down to R1 017 000 from R11 846 000.

Tax credit

As mentioned, a R1 389 000 (R923 000 debit) deferred tax credit — before deducting a R656 000 (R1 610 000) current tax payment — enabled the group to stay in profit.

The directors say: "Substantial mining and farming capital expenditure, together with reduced profits... substantially decreased the company's deferred tax liability."

Minorities took R527 000 (R1 041 000).

The disappointing performance is attributed to the drought, the economic downturn, and high interest rates.

Although volume sales of livestock and processed meat rose — the

group, in some cases, expanding market share — prices were lower and revenue thereby decreased.

The directors say the feedlot division suffered from lower cattle prices and higher processing costs but they add that the feedlot is now fully utilized with "reasonably-priced" cattle and profitability has started to improve.

Prospects

However, the fears Mr Pavitt expressed about the group's piggery operation in his 1982 annual review appear to have materialized and the short-term prospects of the division are not rosy.

"Kanhym has been placed in a position where it may not be able to realize a satisfactory return on its capital investment in pigs due to marketing controls introduced by the Meat Board."

Meat Board controls were imposed after the group committed itself to the industry.

"Although the group has the capacity to absorb all the pigs produced by its piggery in its own factories, the marketing controls of the Meat Board have severely limited our ability to market our full production of pigs."

The directors say the Meat Board restrictions are likely to lead to shortages in Kanhym's processing division while its farm has a surplus of pigs.

"Until this matter is re-

solved, it is unlikely the piggery will contribute significantly to group profitability."

The piggery incurred an unquantified loss in the past six months.

On the crop farming side: "Crop yields were small due to the very serious drought conditions. The total maize and potato crops have been harvested and all the losses arising from the drought have been brought to account in this period."

The directors say that satisfactory yields were returned from Kanhym's investment in the Eikeboom Colliery but, because the export market is contracting, second-half profits will be lower.

The capex programme at the Middelburg mine — in which the group has a 6,5 per cent interest — is nearly finished and export sales began in June.

"Export coal prices are low and, until these improve, the profit contribution from this division will be small."

In conclusion, the directors say the group is well-placed to take advantage of any improvement in the economy but trading conditions in the second half of the year are expected to remain difficult.

"Under present conditions — with the continuing drought, rising interest rates and prevailing livestock prices — it is not possible to make a forecast for the balance of the year."



Mrs Margaret Essberger has been appointed a director of National Consultancy Services (Pty) Ltd.

Gold at \$424,62

LONDON. — Gold closed at \$424,25-\$425,00 compared with its close on Friday of \$417,50-\$418,25 and yesterday's opening \$421,75-\$422,25.

Dealers said the price was strengthened by the downtrend in the dollar and speculation over United States rates may have peaked, linked with Friday's \$500m drop in United States (M1) money supply. The conflict in Chad also remained a bullish factor for gold.

Closing prices

(In \$ an ounce)

LONDON:

424,25-425,00

Fixing am: 421,25

Fixing pm: 421,75

ZURICH:

421,00-424,00

(421,20-424,00)

— Reuter

Sasol in takeover bid

By JOHN MULCAHY

JOHANNESBURG. — The government is likely to allow Sasol to phase repayments of the loans from the State Oil Fund, which will reduce the immediate funding requirement for the Sasol II takeover to about R500m.

Sasol dipped to 470c on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange yesterday in the wake of confirmation that takeover of Sasol II was imminent.

The market last week speculated on a R500m rights issue, which pushed the Sasol price to 482c on Friday from a peak of 500c on Thursday. It was not possible yes-

terday to establish a date be raised from the public, at the current price of 470c a one-for-two issue would raise about R600m

for details of the Sasol II takeover, but sources close to the company said a rights issue to raise about R500m would accompany the acquisition details. Of the total capital of R2 500m required for the development of Sasol II, about R490m was funded through export credits, another R100m came from equity contributions by the State and Sasol Ltd, and the balance of about R1 900m was borrowed from the State Oil Fund.

The State has a 30 per cent interest in Sasol Ltd, with the general public, mainly through a spread of institutions, holds the remaining 70 per cent. Assuming R500m is to

terday to establish a date be raised from the public, at the current price of 470c a one-for-two issue would raise about R600m

Reserve Bank to launch R50 note

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The Reserve Bank is soon to issue a R50 note — possibly to be followed at some stage by a whole new series of banknotes.

Kruger rands

JSE Closing

Buyers Sellers Sales

1 oz	544	—	542
1/2 oz	270	275	270
1/4 oz	14400	14500	14500
1/10 oz	6000	—	6000

Cape Gold Coin Exchange

Buyers Sellers

1 oz	542 (542)	545 (543)
1/2 oz	248 (248)	278 (278)
1/4 oz	127 (127)	148 (148)
1/10 oz	51 (51)	61 (61)

Gold & Hard Asset Exchange

Buyers Sellers

1 oz	541	541
1/2 oz	264	274
1/4 oz	238	147

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Plight of farmers disastrous for SA

(3) General E-Post 23/2/83

By LOUIS BECKERLING
Business Editor

LATEST evidence suggests the country's farmers will produce 15% less food this year — following a 7,5% reduction in output last year.

As some 25% of industry looks to the agricultural sector for inputs, and before the drought and the recession farmers spent some R3 000 million a year on intermediate goods, this downturn has disastrous implications for the entire economy.

This month's Economic Survey, from Sanlam, highlights a set of gloomy statistics from the agricultural sector, currently labouring under the twin impact of recession and drought.

Most recent summer crop estimates from the Department of Agriculture predict:

- Output of dried beans down 60% (-15% in '81/'82 compared with the previous year), on the 1981/82 season.

- A maize harvest down 53% on last year's yield (43%).

- Ground-nuts down 30% (-63%).

- Grain sorghum down 29% (-50%).

- Sunflower seed down by 19% (-50%).

As a consequence, says Sanlam, the already shrinking share of the agricultural sector in the country's total economic mix (see table), is set to decline further to "approximately 7%".

The implications for the broader economy of this downturn go beyond reduced demand on essential investments and a reduced (and therefore more expensive) contribution of intermediate goods.

"Another factor," observes Sanlam, "is the farmer's weak financial position.

"On account of sharp increases in costs the net income of farmers constituted only 28% of the gross value of agricultural production in 1982, compared with an average of just under 40% in the preceding 10 years.

"According to figures provided at the recent congress of the Western Cape Agricultural Society, the costs of producing a net income of R1, for example, increased from 68c in 1975,

to R1,67 in 1982."

The significance of reduced investment demand from hard-pressed farmers is underlined by the fact that after increases of 29% in 1980 and 18,5% in 1981, real fixed investments in the agricultural sector "decreased by more than 21% in 1982".

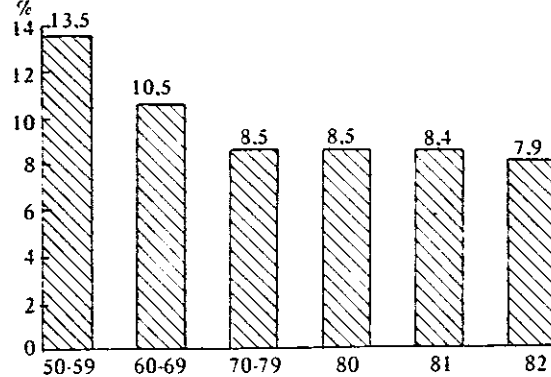
Furthermore, notes Sanlam, "preliminary information suggests that a further substantial decline may be expected this year.

Notwithstanding these

sharp cutbacks in expenditure, debt has increased substantially among farmers, with the result that "farmers have been obliged since 1975 to borrow approximately 16% per annum more to generate the same income".

The net result of all this gloomy news, concludes Sanlam, is that the drought "is largely responsible for the fact that the SA economy will show a negative growth rate for the second consecutive year in 1983".

PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURE* TO THE REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT



*Inclusive of forestry and fisheries: agriculture represents more than 90% of the total.

Source: Quarterly Bulletin of the S.A. Reserve Bank

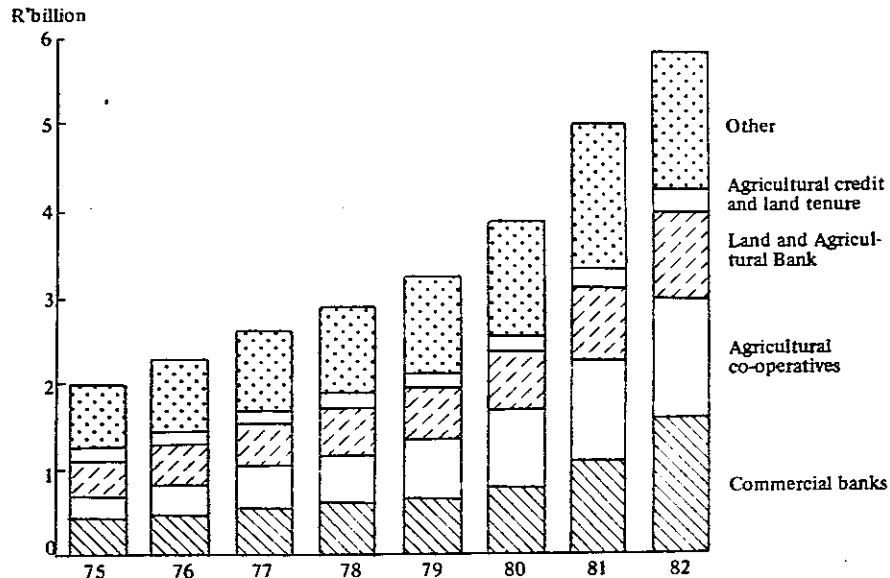
Bad debt claims soaring

JOHANNESBURG — A record R4,37 million in claims — 223% up on last year — has been paid out by the domestic credit division of the Credit Guarantee Insurance Corporation of Africa Ltd.

Furthermore, claims initiated or anticipated but not yet paid out had risen by 120% and a "difficult period" lay ahead.

The volume of domestic business covered by CGIC increased during the year by a record 45% to more than R2,1 billion.

FARMING DEBT



Source: Department of Agriculture: Economic Services

3 General

Drought — hungry children faint

Staff Reporter

HUNGER was so rife in some drought-stricken areas of the country that schoolchildren were fainting in assembly and feeling bilious in class, Miss Hilary Morris, co-ordinator of Operation Hunger, told a meeting of the Institute of Citizenship in Cape Town yesterday.

"When we go into the Karoo and central Cape in September, we expect to find far worse conditions. Even if we get October rains, food does

not grow instantly, and people will continue to go hungry until at least March next year."

Miss Morris, who has just returned from a field trip to the country's worst-hit areas, said Operation Hunger planned to set up as many school feeding projects as possible, with the support of schools, service organizations and churches.

In Kwazulu, the situation was so bad that Operation Hunger had to transport water from other areas to make

several feeding projects had been set up, school attendance had improved, as well as the pupils' general physical fitness and concentration levels.

"Children should be given the opportunity to be educated, and who can learn anything on an empty tummy?" Miss Morris asked.

She said that in the greater Olifants River area, children were fainting in assembly from hunger. A headmaster

had told her that wine was introduced into children's diets from the age of seven. Of 95 primary schoolchildren, only five had never tasted liquor.

"Bushmanland, where no rain has fallen for eight years, is so barren and harsh that there is no movement on the ground — not even a lizard moves there.

"On one farm, an old man and his dog were just sitting and waiting to die. All that had kept them alive were food

parcels supplied by a Methodist minister."

She said that in O'Kiep, a local minister had received reports of farmers slaughtering donkeys — their only means of transport — for food.

She said a feeding scheme had been set up in Lebowa where a mission station, which usually dealt with 400 cases of malnutrition a month and 10 deaths a year, had 700 cases of malnutrition and one death a week for this year alone.

Captain denies duty to blame

Chief Reporter

THE commanding officer of SAS President Kruger (PK), Captain Wim de Lange, said yesterday that he had not considered it his duty to tell a naval board of inquiry last year into the collision between the PK and SAS Tafelberg that one of his officers had disobeyed his order to turn the ship outward when manoeuvring.

At the inquest on Chief Petty Officer Donald Webb, the captain had been referred to his evidence this week that Lieutenant Peter Smith, planner of the PK's last manoeuvre, had disobeyed a "turn him

was caused by an officer who disobeyed an order. This was surely a most serious matter and as I see it, this should have been reported to the Navy at the earliest opportunity.

"If you had done so, the board of inquiry might have acted in an entirely different manner. Here is not a question of human error, but of a specific order by the captain having been disobeyed by one of his officers."

Captain De Lange replied that he could not day appreciate the import and implications as put to him by Admiral Green, "but at the time I did not feel it unnatural

Rule 19 containing the injunction: "Always make sure the side towards which you are about to alter course is clear before putting the wheel over. Inform me immediately in such circumstances."

In addition, an instruction in his night orders that he was to be called in case of doubt had not been acted on and Lieutenant Smith had disobeyed his "turn outward" order.

The Deputy Attorney-General, Mr Frank Kahn, SC, told Captain De Lange that at the end of the inquest he would argue that the captain had been negligent in not insisting on

Captain Times 26/8/83



Televie

The cancellation of 21 hours at Munich provoked much comment last night.

Miss M Norpel of Oranjezicht thought that people who looked forward to a Saturday evening film based on the atrocious murders at the Munich Olympics must have sick minds.

"It's a very perverted idea of entertainment," Mrs D Lazarus of Sea Point asked: "Could we have more musical programmes? We have talent in South Africa. Can't we produce more?"

Gerry Bosman's orchestra was an unreal tonic. With regard to 21 Hours at Munich, we need lots of love and music on TV, not death and destruction."

Mr P Roberts of Rondebosch East called SATV "childish and immature" for cancelling the scheduled movie for Saturday night. "After all this is a true historical incident," he said.

Kelly Symmonds of Tamboerskloof said SATV should put more children's programmes on "and not so much violence. I think it is good that they're taking off 21 Hours at Munich."

Joseph Martins of Mowbray, on the other hand, was disappointed by the change. "SATV needs more violent movies. People are tired of seeing stuffy movies. They went to see violence," he said.

Rob Crow of Newlands

good, sent these on TV. Mrs bosch erme kind gandin dishin days anybo think of sen Miel Bay's cont last n lute d lish h Mik vatory Two for yo Paul: suitab "A since said Town pene Merw about about about surely scree: Mr Ne mont eract shoul for f night some pener

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Farmers slam protection of local industry

BLOEMFONTEIN. — The protection of local industries and superseding of imports was one of the main reasons for the weakened competitive position of agriculture.

This had emerged from the report of a working group of the South African Agricultural Union, according to the annual report of the Free State Agricultural Union, tabled at its annual congress in Bloemfontein today.

An in-depth study was necessary to establish exactly what effect import protection had on increased production costs of agricultural products.

Such a study had been undertaken by the University of Pretoria and the Council for Trade and Industry.

The Minister of Trade, Industry, and Tourism, Dr Dawie de Villiers, had undertaken to speed up the investigation, while the SAAU would press for finality — before the next planting season.

A subsidy for farmers in the Kaffer River Irrigation Scheme, similar to that which had been granted for the Riet River scheme, was requested.

While the authorities were sympathetic, they could not comply with the request, however. The Kaffer River scheme is an Irrigation Board scheme, whereas the Riet River scheme is one of 23 State water schemes to

which the Government must give preference when financial aid is needed.

According to the Department of Environmental Affairs, the State apparently did not plan any new projects at present for the supply of irrigation water to the Free State.

Meanwhile, however, the Free State Agricultural Union was working with an organisation to provide additional water for Bloemfontein and its surrounding areas, including the Kaffer River scheme.

In response to a request for the OFSAU to comment on the services of the Weather Bureau, the executive had replied that the bureau should try to be more accurate in its weather forecasts.

From consultations with the relevant Cabinet Minister and his department, it had emerged that weather modification activities in the eastern Free State were being undertaken by the Weather Bureau on a limited scale.

If positive results were obtained, further research on a bigger scale would be done before weather modification was applied.

A district farmers' union in the area had contended that the bureau's activities had had a detrimental effect on the rainfall pattern in the region.

The establishment of an agricultural museum in Bloemfontein was also being investigated. — Sapa.

Diviners' skills bring some relief

By VAL CARTER-JOHNSON

THE drought has become big business for a special breed of South Africans — water diviners.

Major companies who usually rely on machines are now putting their trust in water diviners to find precious water beneath their properties.

Mr George Arkell of Maritzburg is "well over 70 years old", but spends a lot of his time travelling to places where people desperately need his skill.

Mr Arkell's method of finding water is deceptively simple and its success was confirmed in a demonstration for the Sunday Times.

He holds a wishbone-shaped stick of wood above his head and he starts walking.

When the stick suddenly forces itself downwards and points towards the ground, he's found water.

"I use any stick or wood from apple or peach trees, which I keep moist in a jug of water at home when I'm not using them," Mr Arkell said.

"I discovered my gift over 50 years ago when I tried to find water on my father-in-law's farm in Ladysmith.

"It didn't surprise me when



I found water because I suspected I had the gift and I have used it ever since."

Mr Arkell recently took on an apprentice, Mr Doug Clapham, also a Maritzburg pensioner.

"I only discovered I had the gift of finding water a few months ago when I watched Mr Arkell at work," said Mr Clapham.

"I asked him if I could try it and it worked for me too, though my method is different.

"When I come to water my stick shakes and vibrates above the ground, whereas his stick points downwards."

This reporter tried to prevent Mr Clapham's hands from shaking while holding his stick above water and also to keep Mr Arkell's hands in the air.

In all tests the sticks either nosedived to the ground or shook uncontrollably.

Over a particularly strong stream Mr Arkell's sticks "talked" by making cracking noises.

Requests

Confirming the pair's divining skills, a director of a Maritzburg packaging company said it had struck a well which provided between 50 000 to 60 000 l of water a day from the exact spot indicated out by the diviners.

Another successful water diviner is Mr Oscar Danielson, an air force veteran who retired from his job as a quality assurance engineer earlier this year.

He has been kept busy by people requesting his services ever since he placed an advertisement in a newspaper recently.

"I firmly believe it is a gift from above," said Mr Danielson, who has just found a well producing 14 000 l of water a day for a multi-million rand corporation.

Mr Danielson discovered his gift in 1947 when he visited a farm and saw a water diviner in action. He decided to try it out and found his "gift" very powerful.

Mr Danielson said that most of his customers were big businesses and wealthy householders who needed the boreholes for their gardens.

Rains did not help Natal

By EVELYN HOLTZHAUSEN

WIDESPREAD rain in Natal, one of South Africa's worst-hit drought areas, has done more harm than good.

Instead of helping to fill the critically low dams, it has made people ease their rigid self-discipline and use more water.

Since the rains, water engineers in Durban and Maritzburg say there has been an increase in consumption in spite of the fact that the chairman of the water contingency committee, Mr Ray Haslam, has appealed to consumers to cut down to 50 litres of water a day each.

The increase in consumption say the experts is due to the "psychological" factor.

"It's hard to use less water when it's raining," said one engineer. "But what people don't realise is that there has not been enough rain for run-off into the dams."

Farmers, however, have said that the rain helped reduce the veld fire hazard and partially replenished underground water tables.

The rain was too early for spring cultivation, but good for grazing and artificial pastures.

Mr Fred Munro, engineer for the directorate of Water Affairs, said: "We need at least 5mm of rain an hour for a number of days before there will be any real benefit for the dams."

(3) Generally 28/8/83 S. Times



God-given powers ... Mr George Arkell shows his powers

Grateful for trickle

By VAL CARTER-JOHNSON

WATER trickles through the taps twice a day and the residents of Port St Johns are infinitely grateful — it is better than no water at all.

Although the drought in the Transkeian coastal town is still described as "critical" recent showers have slightly improved the plight of the townfolk.

"We get water twice a day, for two hours in the morning and two hours in the even-

ing," Mrs Nance Cromhout, a local resident said.

"We don't dream of watering gardens or washing cars — we are just so grateful to have enough for basic household needs," she said.

A spokesman for a local hotel said he believed the situation had "improved enormously".

"At one stage we did not know where the next drop of water was coming from," he said.

General
3078183

Johannesburg's R50 000 aid to homelands

Mail Reporter

JOHANNESBURG is going to provide R50 000 in drought aid to Gazankulu and Lebowa during the next few months.

This announcement was made yesterday by the chairman of the city council's management committee, Mr Francois Oberholzer.

In a Press statement, Mr Oberholzer said the council was fully aware of the difficult situation in the homelands as a result of the drought.

"Most of the council's black workers from the Transvaal area come from Gazankulu and Lebowa, and this has played an important role in the decision to provide aid," Mr Oberholzer said.

The R50 000 will be spent on providing enriched maize meal, which will be divided equally between the two areas. Each area will receive approximately 75 tons of maize meal in packs of 12.5kg.

The various delivery points will be determined in co-operation with the respective governments of the two homelands.

The first consignment of maize is expected to be delivered by the first week of October.

The statement added that similar assistance had been given to Gazankulu and Lebowa on a previous occasion, but then it was in the form of cattle.

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South Africa faces huge drought bill

3 General RDS 20/8/83

By HAROLD FRIDJHON

SOUTH AFRICA will have to find at least R3 100-million this year to finance the agricultural sector's survival through the worst drought in a century.

But this will be only part of the cost which the country will have to bear:

- The price of electricity might rise.
- Gold mining production could be curtailed if the drought is not broken.
- The balance of payments could be severely dented.
- The prices of foods could escalate.
- The fertiliser industry could suffer from an attenuated demand.
- The economy as a whole will be hit as real gross domestic product will drop by 6,5% and the economic upturn will be delayed.

These grim warnings emerge from in-depth research into the effects of the drought by Pat Kenney and Gil Catton for stockbrokers Davis Bor-kum Hare.

A well-documented, 50-page publication is supported by an article by Professor D C Midgley, and interviews with leading authorities in specialist fields.

The main conclusion is that while it is possible that rainfall this year may be above average, no-one can forecast the outcome with any certainty.

Water supplies should see us through this year with the present restrictions. Electricity rationing will not be necessary but power cuts might have to be made at peak periods. Increased tariffs can be expected.

Almost every sector of the South

African economy will be affected. Manufacturers and distributors of fertilisers, farm machinery, implements, spares and fuel have already suffered to a marked degree and so have companies with interests in sugar and meat.

About one-third of total retail and wholesale trade will be affected and with high unemployment and a low level of savings, consumption expenditure in the urban areas will not compensate for the lack of rural demand.

The loss of agricultural exports and the need to import food will cause a net foreign exchange loss of R1 000-million this year but this might be compensated for by a sharp increase in the gold price.

This year's small harvests will drag down the gdp and even if there are good rains this season, the effects will be felt until the middle of next year.

Electricity is essential to mining and industry and the position of Escom is not comfortable. Based on the same water inflow as last summer and normal electricity and water demand, there will be a shortfall of 153-million cubic metres of water in the Transvaal by October 1984.

Escom's newer, more efficient and larger power stations are based in the Eastern Transvaal, where water supplies are dwindling, and it will have to rely on old, less efficient power stations based near the Vaal River.

From the point of view of Escom's economics alone, the power utility does not want to resort to rationing. Kenny and Catton say it is conservatively estimated that the loss in gdp for every kilowatt-hour (kWh) which is required by the country but cannot be supplied by Escom, is 25c. Rationing would be an expensive exercise.

To avoid rationing, Escom has undertaken a scheme to pump water to the Grootdraai dam at a cost of R111-million. Relying on the less efficient power stations will cost an additional R80-million in fuel. And at present Escom is running at a loss. At the beginning of 1983, it had an accumulated deficit of R153-million.

This indicates that an increase in electricity tariffs cannot be avoided. A cut in power could affect the gold mining industry and therefore the balance of payments and Government revenue.

A 10% power cut for three months would cost the jobs of 11 000 miners, a loss of foreign exchange of R171-million and about R70-million in tax. If there were a power cut of 30% for nine months, the labour force would be cut by 91 326, R2 153-million would be lost in foreign exchange and the state would lose R753-million in taxes.

The coal mining industry has already taken direct knocks.

The position of the farmers is appalling. Net farming income in 1982 dropped 26% to R2 000-million. In the

winter rainfall areas, income for the first quarter of this year was down 60% on last year. The value of these harvests dropped from R2 046-million in 1981/82 to R854-million in 1982/83. Interest costs, the cost of harvesting, have risen from R276-million in 1980 to R936-million last year.

Interest payments last year were 47% of net farming income and this year they will be higher.

Farmers' debt, excluding that with the commercial banks, amounts to R5 567-million. Of this, R3 233-million is owed to the co-ops. A similar amount is probably owed to the commercial banks.

The farmers' structural problem has been exacerbated by the drought. Their costs have been escalating over the years. In 1970/72, a farmer had to spend 78c to earn R1 of net income. In 1980/82, he spent R1,18 for R1 on net income.

To help finance farmers this year, the Land Bank will need at least R1 100-million before new production credits are taken into account. This money will be raised through bills and debentures from the commercial banks. As these instruments are classed as liquid assets, they will contribute to an increase in the money supply, which is inflationary.

One aspect of the drought which is particularly worrying the authorities is that higher input costs are going to have a ripple effect throughout the economy. As a result, getting the consumer price index below the 10% mark is going to be difficult.

Did you eat today? Thousands didn't

By Anthony Duigan

General

"Operation Hunger", the relief organisation on which more than half a million people in drought-hit areas rely for the necessities of life, is in danger.

"Well," says Mrs Ina Perlman, the organisation's national manager. "if we are to go bust we may as well do it in style."

Not that Mrs Perlman intends sitting back and going bust. But the demands on Operation Hunger have grown so dramatically that it is now estimated that R150 000 will be needed each month from December to keep up the food relief chain which is all that stands between hundreds of thousands of people and starvation.

That sort of money is hard to come by. At present Operation Hunger is receiving less than a twentieth of that amount — between R5 000 and R7 000 a month — and the load of responsibility for so many people sits uneasily on Mrs Perlman.

"Thanks to the generous response we have had so far — and, in particular, for the large donations in kind from people like Premier Milling and Checkers — we will be able to maintain our present level of feeding until the end of November."

Then the crunch will come. Even if it rains early in the season the drought-stricken areas will not be able to reap anything for several months.

"Operation Hunger's role will remain crucial for many months as rural areas struggle to overcome the crushing effects of the prolonged drought," Mrs Perlman said.

"At the moment we are getting more appeals for aid — an average of four to five a day — than during the winter months and, at this point, how can we refuse? But something always happens to bail us out."

As it did before the real ex-

tent of the drought became known and Mrs Perlman visited several struggling villages in Bophuthatswana. Women in three of the villages, desperate to keep the family fires burning but with no resources except their willingness to do what they could to help themselves, asked Operation Hunger for help.

With nothing in the kitty and without the permission of her committee, Mrs Perlman committed Operation Hunger to helping the three villages.

"It must have been one of my worst moments," she recalled.

But when she returned to her office she found a cheque from the United States for more than R50 000.

"Basically, the feeding is a crisis solution only. Our philosophy is to develop the community as a community and we give only short-term food relief. In the long term we try to motivate people to search for water so that the land can become self-sufficient in food."

The aim of the food relief is to give families who have no resources between 30 and 40 percent of the protein they need — this works out to two protein meals a week plus a daily mealie meal supply.

In the many school feeding schemes being supported about

60 percent of each child's protein needs are met — and undernourished children thrive even on this.

Some children in these schemes pay 10c or 20c a month towards the costs of school feeding and families sometimes contribute what they can, up to a few rands a month, says Mrs Perlman.

The appeal of Operation Hunger is basic. It costs 5c a child a day to keep pellagra and kwashiorkor at bay. For a family it costs about 70c a person a week to supply the basics for survival.

In the medium term Mrs Perlman is trying to get as many companies, service clubs and other organisations who are interested in doing something practical for the drought-stricken to twin with rural communities.

But it is the human problem that disturbs the sleep of Mrs Perlman and sometimes causes her hope to waver as she wonders what will happen when December comes and those half million men, women and children are relying on her for their next meal.

Mrs Perlman may be reached at 724-4441 or 724-2916. Donations may be sent to Operation Hunger, P O Box 97, Johannesburg, 2000.

WINTER OF '83

Star 6/9/83

duced auxiliary measures to combat the plague; if not, why not; if so, what measures;

(4) whether these measures were successful, if so,

(5) whether his Department has toxic substances at its disposal for combating this plague; if so, (a) what toxic substances and (b) to what extent do they control termites under field conditions;

(6) whether he intends declaring the termite plague as a national plague; if not, why not?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(1) Yes.

(a) The area in which harvester termites normally occur covers the whole of the Republic and South West Africa, with the exception of the more humid areas of the Eastern Transvaal, Natal, Eastern Free State and Eastern and Western Cape.

(b) Termites are indigenous in the area mentioned in (1)(a) above. When drought conditions occur, as is the case at present, and when competition for the available grazing intensifies, the visibility of the problem is accentuated.

(2) Yes. Intensive research by the Department and universities over the past 20 years proved beyond doubt that the termite problem is primarily an ecological problem which during years of drought may sometimes assume pest proportions, but which may, however, show a drastic downward cycle after rains have fallen. This aspect renders chemical control very difficult and the solution to the problem would rather be found in an equilibrium between the insect and its environment. The occurrence of

natural enemies of the insect and a veld reclamation scheme together with sound farming practices are indispensable for success.

(3) Yes. Information services have been undertaken by way of:

(i) distribution of pamphlets on a large scale;

(ii) a number of radio talks;

(iii) general information and advice.

A working group has also been appointed to advise the Department on:

(i) the monitoring of population, damage, influence of drought, natural enemies, etc.;

(ii) the influence of veld management practices;

(iii) combating techniques and substances; and

(iv) extension services.

(4) It is not possible to give an indication at this stage.

(5) No. Several effective chemical substances are, however, available commercially. The trade names of these substances are obtainable from the Department.

(6) No. The harvester termite is an indigenous insect which feeds on indigenous plants. This pest should therefore be regarded as a normal farming risk. Direct financial assistance for combating termites may justifiably cause farmers to insist on similar assistance in respect of other insect pests which attack field and horticultural crops, such as the wheat aphid, fruit fly or Karoo caterpillar. On the other hand, the migratory locust is the only insect pest which is combated by the State and the reasons therefor are obvious.

*4. Mr. A. FOURIE.—Defence.—Reply standing over.

*5. Mr. P. A. MYBURGH.—Defence. [Transferred—see *1 under Prime Minister.]

3. Dr. A. I. VAN NIEKERK asked the Minister of Agriculture:

(1) Whether a termite plague is being experienced in certain farming areas of the Republic; if so, (a) in which farming areas and (b) what is the extent thereof;

(2) whether his Department has conducted an investigation in this regard; if so, what were the findings;

(3) whether his Department has intro-

General Termite plague
R. Col. 1987
31/8/83

X *General* 7/9/83 X
Drought-stricken areas
③ *Hansard Q. Col. 2050*
*6. Mr. W. L. VAN DER MERWE asked
the Minister of Agriculture:†

How many declared drought-stricken
areas were there as at (a) 30 April 1983
and (b) 31 August 1983?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRI-
CULTURE:

(a) 123.

(b) 163.

General News 8/9/83

Drought turns the fight for sight into a full-scale battle

Staff Reporter

Eye diseases and blindness were reaching crisis levels in rural areas due to the drought, says a South African National Council for the Blind field officer

Mr Johan van Zyl said the situation in areas such as Venda and Lebowa was fast reaching a crisis, making it difficult for the council to establish proper eye-care facilities.

"In Lebowa three out of 100 people are affected. We planned mobile eye clinics in 1982 but after initial impressive progress our position is now static and inadequate. We won't meet our goals for adequate facilities by 1990," Mr van Zyl said.

He said the council needed R1 million a year for the next three years to put it back on the track so a Fight for Sight fund has been launched.

The council's three mobile units, each with four vehicles, were operating in an area twice the size of Germany and France.

"The drought has compounded problems of inadequate facilities and there has been a sharp increase arising from malnutrition, dust and dryness. The effects on eyes are quick and often irreversible," Mr van Zyl said.

● If you can help in the Fight for Sight contact Mr van Zyl at Pretoria (012) 3233658

Racism is growing in France

The Star's Foreign News Service

PARIS — The spate of racist feeling sweeping parts of France has been highlighted by the increase in votes for the extreme right in the



Sister Charlotte Raleteta and Sister Boksie Mokoko measure eye pressure in a South African National Council for the Blind

field unit in Bophuthatswana. The drought is compounding an already serious eye disease problem in rural areas.

ete system

General Hansard
Drought-stricken areas
Q. Col. 2077 8/9/83

1131. Mr. R. F. VAN HEERDEN asked
the Minister of Agriculture:†

How many magisterial districts or wards
of such districts in each province were de-
clared drought-stricken areas as at 31 Au-
gust 1983?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

Cape Province
56 entire magisterial districts
102 wards plus a few individual areas in 21
magisterial districts

Orange Free State
43 entire magisterial districts
3 portions of magisterial districts

→

Transvaal
29 entire magisterial districts
4 portions of magisterial districts

Natal
4 entire magisterial districts
3 portions of magisterial districts

Drought swelling influx into towns

3 General
By Anthony Duigan

Thousands of black people from the rural areas are coming to towns in search of a living as the drought and continued retrenchments take their bitter toll.

This is adding to the strain on the already severe housing shortages which have been increasing in many black urban areas for the past decade.

Homeland and community leaders, academics and Government officials generally confirm this influx but also point to a reverse stream — workers retrenched from jobs in towns heading to their rural homes — and to the increasing numbers of black people existing in homelands on poor relief and other grants.

In the PWV area Pretoria appears to be particularly affected by an influx of blacks who come into the city each day looking for work. As many as 500 have been seen in the queues around the labour offices where they wait for somebody to offer them a piece-job.

Many of them are illegal in terms of influx control and police are continually sweeping the city and its environs to pick up those who are not registered to be in the area.

Community leaders on the East Rand confirmed that people from both kwaZulu and Lebowa were coming in large numbers to the townships in search of any work that will earn them some money.

Researchers at Transkei University's Institute for Management and Development Studies have reported that their studies indicate at least one in four — close to 100 000 — of the migrants from Transkei working in South Africa are illegal in terms of influx

Star 13/9/83
control. Drought and lack of work in Transkei have pushed them, mostly women, into urban areas in search of a livelihood.

Mrs Ina Perlman, national manager of Operation Hunger (directing food aid to about 500 000 people country-wide), said appeals from the Orange Free State and northern Cape indicated that hundreds of workers retrenched from mines and farms had moved to small towns like Brandfort and Vanwyksvlei because work and food were in short supply in rural areas. They were in need of immediate aid because they had no resources, Mrs Perlman said.

Mr W J Ras, director of labour for the Central Transvaal Administration Board, confirmed an increased flow of blacks from rural areas to Pretoria. Mr Seth Mathibe, a spokesman for the Committee of 18 of Winterveld (a large squatter area outside Pretoria and just inside Bophuthatswana), said he believed there had been a large influx of people into the area which was used as a base by those trying to find work and accommodation in Pretoria. On the other hand there does not appear to be a much increased flow of people to Johannesburg. Mr John Knoetze, chairman of the West Rand Administration Board, said a sample population poll done recently in Soweto indicated there were actually fewer people in the area than has been widely thought — about one million with an average density of eight people to a township house.

The PWV housing shortage has been climbing steadily for more than a decade as a result of far fewer houses being built each year than the natural population increase.

● See Page 11, World Section.

(3) General
~~FOA~~
**'Drought
drives
workers
to union'**

12/14
14/9/83
Labour Correspondent

THE crippling effects of the drought on black rural areas is prompting a sharp growth in union membership, according to the southern Natal branch of the Metal and Allied Workers Union.

According to the union's Natal branch secretary, Mr Geoff Schreiner, MAWU membership in southern Natal has doubled in two months — it now stands at 5 470 in 38 factories, he says — and he attributes this to the drought.

In the latest edition of Fosatu's journal, "Fosatu Worker News", Mr Schreiner says workers were now being forced to send more money back to the rural areas to support dependants "because the drought has killed off the crops".

He said the "poor wages" workers received were now "not only having to support the worker himself, but also his family in the rural areas".

Prospects for the future did not look bright and "wage increases for workers have now become a matter of life and death".

The urgent need to win increases, Mr Schreiner said, had prompted many workers to turn to the union in the past few months.

He claimed MAWU's rejection of increases negotiated at the metal industrial council and its decision to declare disputes with a number of companies in an attempt to win higher increases had prompted workers to turn to the union.

MAWU spokesman have said several times in the past that drought in rural areas prompts increased pressure for wage increases among metal workers because many have dependants in the rural areas who rely on workers' wages if crops fail.

Mr Schreiner also said MAWU was forging closer co-operation between black and Indian workers and was uniting them across racial lines.

"No longer are the Indian and African workers divided within factories — within MAWU they fight together for better conditions," he said.

Drought hits at tractor sales

197
③ General Star 14/9/83
Hannes Ferguson,
Farming Correspondent

The maize farmers' decision at their congress last week to limit production has plunged the tractor industry into a crisis.

Ford tractor manager Mr Keith Berning said using maize fields for other crops would cut tractor sales by 20 per cent.

Next season maize farmers may feel they are over-mechanised and may stay out of the tractor market for some years to come, he said.

The annual tractor market is expected to stabilise at about 12 000, after peaking at about 25 000 in 1981.

Mr Berning said tractor sales may be down about 8 000 this year, re-

flecting the drought.

Ford and Massey Ferguson have reacted by concentrating on expensive super-large tractor models — trying to make up in turnover for what it is losing on tractor numbers.

Atlantis Diesel Engineers (ADE), who build diesel engines, expects a bleak year as well.

It missed out on the 1981 boom and will build about 5 400 tractors in 1984 — 3 600 will be standard four-cylinder models with natural air-supply.

Managing director of Atlantis, Mr H H Beckurts, said he expected business to pick up slowly now that stocks of tractors with foreign-built engines had almost sold out.

Umkomaas factory cuts production by 20 pc over water

Mercury Reporter

SAICCOR has cut production by as much as 20 percent because of the water shortage and low level of the Umkomaas River.

The cut-back came into operation at the beginning of the week and would continue until the water situation improved, according to Mr Sinclair Stone, technical manager at the factory.

None of the 1400 employees had been laid off, and Mr Stone said: 'We have not yet even considered retrenchments.'

He said rayon fibre was exported to a number of

countries including Britain, Canada, the United States and France for the manufacture of many fabrics.

Meanwhile, an Umkomaas municipal spokesman said water for the coastal town was obtained from Saiccor, but he had not been notified about any possible change to the present restrictions in operation there.

Residents may water gardens for an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon each day.

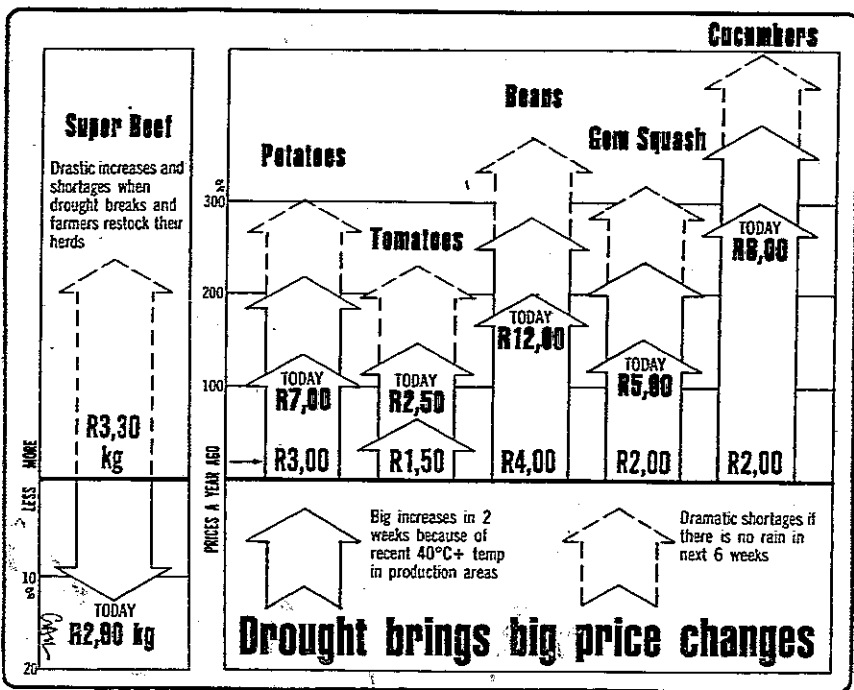
He said this restriction came into effect about three months ago.

General

Mercury 14/9/83

The drought has brought with it soaring food prices — many vegetables have doubled in cost — and when the rains do come, the price of red meat will zoom.

Sources disclosed yesterday that when the drought breaks, stock farmers will withhold animals from the market to force up prices so they can afford to replace herds decimated by the drought.



While meat prices continue to drop, fresh produce and even sunflower oil prices are skyrocketing.

And inflation is being fuelled as the Government pours in public money to hold down the prices of imported and controlled staple foods, while the consumer is faced with rising food bills.

Yesterday supermarket buyers on the Reef said temperatures of up to 42°C had hit Transvaal fruit and vegetable production areas, and predicted drastic price increases in the next fortnight.

They say that unless there is heavy rain before November, South Africa will be hit by a fresh produce shortage.

Yesterday potatoes were selling to the supermarkets at R7 a pocket — more than double the normal price of R3 for this time of year.

Similarly tomatoes were going at R2,50 a case (normal price for the time of year R1,50); beans were selling at R12 a pocket (R4), gems at R5 and cucumbers at R8 (R2).

There are fears that poultry prices could hit the ceiling by Christmas, with birds dying from respiratory diseases aggravated by the heat.

Meanwhile farmers are R1-800-million in the red, according to Dr A S Jacobs, deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank.

The price of maize has not been increased, even though more than R2-million tons of maize is to be imported this year following the failure of the local crop. Last season's production was only 3 800 000 tons, instead of a projected 14 600 000 tons.

South Africa normally uses 6 500 000 tons, and the surplus is exported.

The cost of importing maize is being met by the Government.

The milk price is also being held steady, but the price of bread could rise next month unless the Government is prepared to increase the R200-million annual subsidy, according to Mr Denis van Aarde, general manager of the Wheat Board.

In the red meat industry farmers are being forced to sell off carcasses at a floor price of about R2,23/kg as they cannot afford to feed the animals.

"The market is in a complete over-supply situation with 80 000 carcasses (two weeks supply) in cold storage," a spokesman said.

"There is a glut on the market with 80 000 carcasses, (two weeks' supply) in cold storage," a spokesman said.

The Meat Board is supposed to buy everything offered at the floor price, but the coldrooms are full.

"We haven't got refrigeration space, and we can't create freezing space to cope with a situation that only happens once in 200 years," a Meat Board spokesman said.

A buyer for one of the country's major supermarket chains said sunflower oil, which used to cost 99c/l, was now being imported at R1,55/l, forcing up the price of margarine.

Groundnuts were also being imported, and the price of peanut butter would rise as a result.

"It will get very much worse before it gets better," the buyer said.

Rain will push up cost of meat

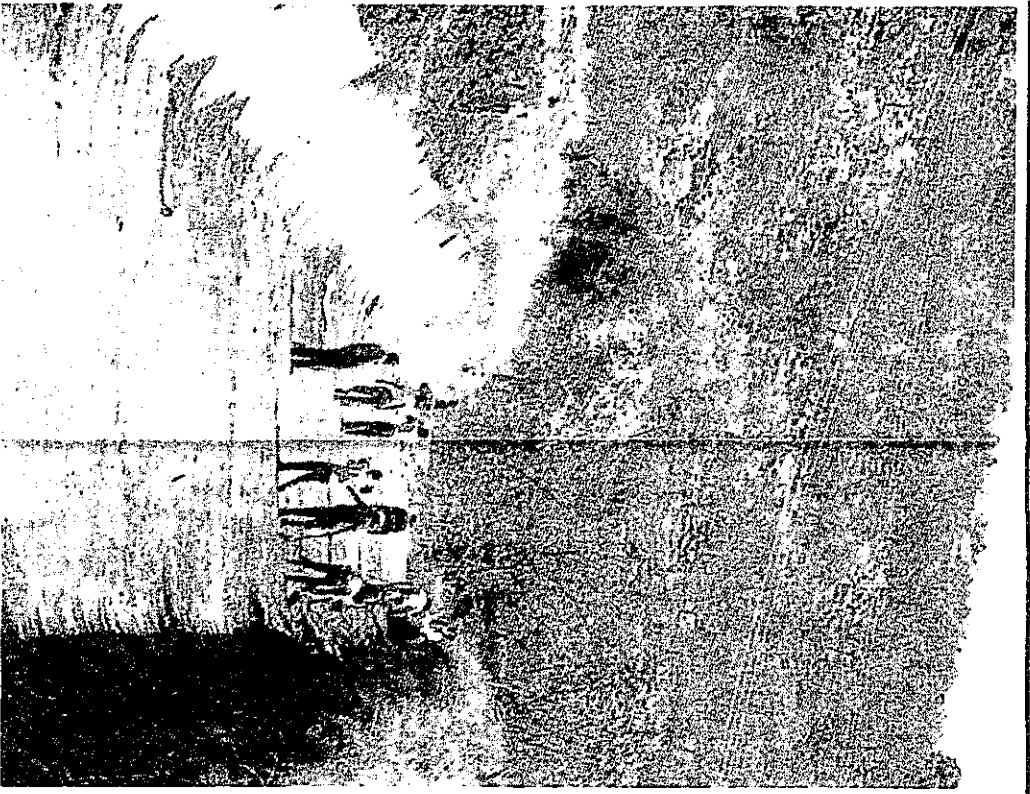
Food prices soar as hot days begin

3 September General

By GEOFFREY ALLEN

CDM 15/9/8

3 General 16/9/83



Water from the Lindleyport Dam normally flows down this canal to feed the tobacco, maize and chilli

farms north of Swartvogels and bordering the Elands River



Farmer Louis Visser in the bad of his fast disappearing dam. He says he has only enough cattle pasture to last until the end of September.

Where farmers sweat it out

Louis Visser slowly swept his arm over the desolate, dusty scene before him.

"Last year I had 70 ha in maize. This year nothing. I've got just enough grazing for my cattle until the end of this month. After that I don't know what I'll do..."

The Swartburgers maize and cattle farmer has been luckier — some say smarter — than many others. He diversified long ago rather than rely on income from one major source.

With the Great Drought in its second year his 1200 ha farm irrigated by waters from the Lindleyspoort Dam stands dry and increasingly barren.

The irrigation waters have not run this year. The dam is down to seven percent of its capacity and farmers are fighting to hold on to their life's investment.

Until recently Louis Visser's main household provided 90 902 litres an hour. It is now dry.

Like so many farmers not only has his income been dramatically slashed on production but his costs have increased because of loans and high interest rates, extra fuel, and fuel costs for pumping water.

It now takes a day to get enough water for basic needs from the surviving slow-flowing boreholes.



The effect of the pitor exercise covering drought on his spending has been harsh — "We buy only what we desperately need. We don't make trips anywhere unless it's absolutely necessary."

If the rains don't come it will be a catastrophic situation not only for the farmers but for all South Africa. Even the Government can't deserted.

These are the proper times where farmers have sold off their stock after having seen their pasture and crops wither. Now they live in places like Rustenburg or commute here daily.

On the far side of Swartburgers, south of Groot Marigo where the African writer Herman Charles Bosman created

Swartburgers is 200 km west of Johannesburg, a town of 900 whites and about 3 000 blacks. It also has a small Indian population. It is dominated by its gleaming massive "cathedral" — the local branch of the Koster Co-operative Association's grain silos. They stand dign and huge, dwarfing the town. And they stand empty. There's no grain in them. In normal times they almost overflow with maize as it is brought into the railhead in an endless stream of trucks, fed by the once-bountiful grain lands around the town.

the all-knowing Coom Schalk Lourens, is the big maize growing area. And a growing drought.

It is the area the Voortrekkers first came to in the Transvaal because of the plentiful supplies of water. But now that water is drying up and

Story by Russell Gault Pictures by Philip Littleton

can get out of it. Mr Theeron said of the 900 farmers in the association's area about 500 were idle. Last year these farmers had a carried-over debt of R35-million with the association.

This year the debt had soared to R135-million. In some cases farmers owe perhaps R200 000. Then there are the other debts they have with the Land Bank and the private banks. The bills they face are massive.

Mr Theeron said farmers were having difficulty changing to other forms of production because sunflower, sorghum and even meal prices were depressed.

"I fear the future of the town is bleak."

The Koster Co-operative Association reports a dramatic fall in maize production in figures given to 24



"I seriously wonder how many farmers will get over this. The association handles all their finances and their position is critical. Another bad season and many people will have to leave the land."

"In my case I know if I have three good years I

eight weeks," said Mr Nel.

"We'll get over this though. There are farmers who are battling but the good ones plan ahead."

Mr Theonis Rodakis has been 16 years in the town but he said this season might be his last. If there was no rain.

"I think we'll be finished. At times we don't get a customer for days — there's no money."

Garage proprietor Mr Bill Martin said that for the first time since he moved to Swartburgers five years ago there had been no August winds.

The mayor, Mr John van Heerden, said he was carrying a large customer debt as the town's chemist, because people didn't have the money to pay.

"The overall financial situation of everyone is bad but we must not be pessimistic. The rain must come. It can't stay away any longer — I think we'll get through."

Barley's Bank branch manager, Mr Bennis Steyn, is a veteran of drought conditions in Namibia where he lived for years. But he sees the seriousness of the local people's plight.

"Ninety percent of this town's income is dependent on the farmers and

General Steyn 16/9/85



... were having difficulty changing to other forms of production because sunflower, sorghum and even meat prices were depressed.

... where he lived for years. But he sees the seriousness of the local people's plight.

"Ninety percent of this town's income is dependent on the farmers and

The Koster Co-operative Association reports a dramatic fall in maize production in figures given to 24 Hours:

- 1980 292 000 tons
- 1981 338 751
- 1982 199 554
- 1983 83 591

farming is very dark, but we farmers always believe the coming season will always be better.

Cattle farmer Johan Botha has spent as much cash as his finances have allowed in the past four or five years on fencing, boreholes and keeping his stock inoculated and dipped.

The programme has paid off. His bushveld property has no debt, his pasture management is strictly controlled as are his cattle numbers.

"Many farmers around here have over-grazed their land and the drought has worsened their position. That's why a lot cannot now make a living. They haven't even been able to inoculate and dip their cattle and as a result the animals have fetched very poor prices.

"The problem too is that many farms are too small to be economic," he said.

With no pasture cattle farmers were having to buy baled maize stalks for R1,50 a bale. One farmer said he had bought 55 000 bales.

when they aren't producing everyone is affected.

Across the road and over the rail line that is the maize region's life-line stand the silos of the Swarttruggens branch of the Koster Co-op Association.

They stand empty, the meagre crop that was harvested hardly touched the concrete bottoms of the towers before it was railed out to the hungry markets.

The manager, Mr C Steynman, said farmers were all geared up to start planting again — they had their ground prepared, their seed and fertiliser ready. Some had spent tens of thousands of rands getting prepared.

"Now we wait for the rain," he said. "If it doesn't come in reasonable quantities — normal rainfall is up to 650 mm — and consistently, much of the investment in new crops will have been lost.

In the past year rainfall has varied in the region but over a wide area no more than 150 mm has fallen.

Records kept by one

Production costs were increasing so fast farmers were being forced off the land, Mr Pieter Theron, executive committee member of the Transvaal Agriculture Union, told 24 Hours.

He blamed the monopolies in South African business which fixed prices and ran cartels oblivious of the Government and the consumer.

"As a farmer it's no use asking the price of an item. It's all fixed. I see it all the time in all sorts of goods we use in farming."

Mr Theron, a director of the Koster Co-operative Association, said members reacted against fixed prices and called tenders for insecticides.

"When the tenders came in all the prices were the same. I can tell you there is a strong feeling against the big people. A series in The Star on monopolies (an inquiry over more than a week by the 24 Hours team in July and August) was right.

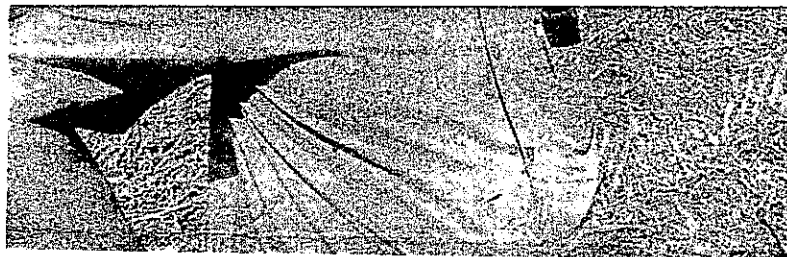
In the town of Swarttruggens the effects of the drought have hit local businessmen.

Hotelier Mr Danie Nel and his wife Hanneke have suffered a drop of nearly 20 percent in earnings this year.

"Representatives were checking in here every week and calling on farmers. Now we see them maybe every six or

farmer suggest a diminishing rainfall for the past five years. His future depends on the trend breaking this month when his resources — run out.

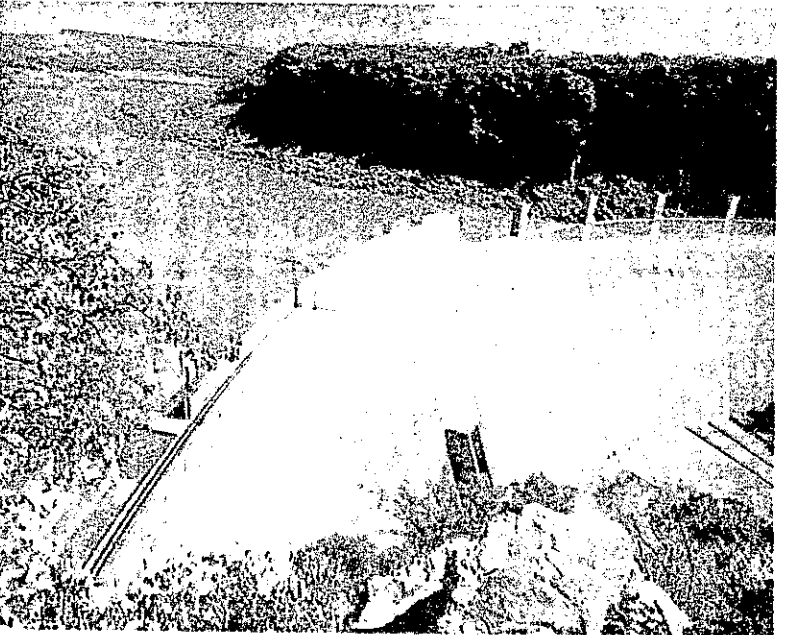
So the people of the Swarttruggens district and the drought-hit farmers of the rest of South Africa sweat out the days waiting, hoping for those first clouds.



Pieter Theron stands disconsolately in a maize field in Transvaal, a small valley. But now his boreholes where the crop became animal fodder. His farm are drying and his crop this year was a quarter of the average yield.



Mr Rudolf du Toit of the Water Affairs Department that should be flourishing with tobacco or chili plants oversees a desolate scene of empty farmlands — soil



Two years ago the water was flowing over the wall of the Lindleyspoort Dam feeding the Elands River.



● Moiletswane . . . veld of death.

Picture: Chief Photographer DOUG LEE

A deadly day for the donkeys

18/11/83
5 Stress (3) Journal

ABOUT 100 donkeys were shot in Moiletswana, near Mabopane, last Friday by Bophuthatswana Police who are wiping out hordes of donkeys as an emergency drought measure.

The veld and river banks are strewn with rotting carcasses, creating a "health hazard" for families drawing water there.

The mass slaughter is part of the Bophuthatswana Government's drought relief scheme during which more than 60 000 donkeys will be shot.

"The wind carries the stench of the dead donkeys across the village," said Reverend G Schulte, stationed at the Lutheran Mission between Moiletswana and Dipompong.

"Next the flies will come, and that means disease," said the 41-year-old missionary, who has been shocked by the cruel slaughter.

Mr Schulte said the culling in his area began at Jericho three weeks ago. The following week donkeys were shot at Madidi and Winterveld.

Last Friday surplus donkeys were shot at Moilets-

By DANIELA WYSZKOWSKI

wana and Dipompong.

He said the donkeys belonged to the poor inhabitants who had no boreholes and needed to fetch water from the river or the communal pump close by.

"The donkeys are also needed to carry firewood and to bring the old to fetch their pensions and the sick to the clinic.

"The villagers feel strongly about what happened — and now the animals have been left to rot," he said.

"Killing of the donkeys hurts the poorest of the poor."

The people were told to herd their donkeys to the river where a quota of four male donkeys was allowed for each household, and the rest were shot.

"When the police left I saw three donkeys were still alive.

"A little one was still standing. It had been shot in the stomach and the blood was dripping — drop by drop — from its wound.

"Another one was bleeding from a neck wound where a bullet must have only grazed it. If they have to kill, why can't they have the mercy to do it properly?" he asked.

"We had cholera cases in this village, now there is a fear of the disease returning," he said.

Reports this week said Bophuthatswana health authorities had promised to look into complaints by Moiletswana residents over the unburied donkey carcasses.

Police at Jericho said the Bophuthatswana Agricultural department was responsible for disposing of the bodies.

A spokesman for the department said Defence was in charge of the operation. The Minister of Defence, Brigadier H F P Rieckert, was not available for comment.

Eggs ³ to aid drought relief

3 ~~Annual~~ ~~Eggs~~ *C. Times* 20/9/83

Staff Reporter

THE equivalent of 500 000 dozen eggs — described as part of the “normal egg surplus” — have been made available by the Egg Board to official drought relief schemes, at subsidized prices.

The chairman of the board, Dr Eugene Brock, said the subsidy would

come from the Egg Board's stabilization budget, which was usually used to finance egg exports.

“The drought relief programme is being undertaken in such a way that it will not affect existing egg producers or trade channels,” said Dr Brock, adding that the amount of eggs involved was too small to affect

foreign trade.

He said there were always surpluses of eggs because one had to market for times of high demand and of low demand. The Western Cape was in fact in a better position regarding surpluses than it had been for many years.

Dr Brock said the eggs for relief schemes would

come from the board's reserve stock at a subsidized price of 40 cents a dozen, which was 35 per cent of the retail price of eggs.

This supply was usually available for processing or export as part of the board's “buffer stock” provided for the purpose of ensuring a constant flow of eggs to the market.

“In the light of the drought and accompanying problems, we have decided to channel eggs to problem areas to help alleviate the shortage of food,” he said.

It was up to the relief agencies to distribute the eggs as they deemed fit, said Dr Brock, and he hoped full use would be made of the offer.

E Cape now 90pc drought stricken

B. Oberholzer
n.n.s. 21/1/73

EAST LONDON — More than 90 per cent of the Eastern Cape — including the entire Border — is in the grip of one of the most severe droughts in history and is now on the government's official "drought stricken" list.

This was disclosed yesterday by officials of the Department of Agriculture who said that 42 of the 45 magisterial districts which make up the area bounded by the Kei, Orange and Gamtoos rivers have been declared drought stricken.

A spokesman for the department's offices in Pretoria said the only districts not yet included on the list are Burgersdorp, Hankey and Middelburg.

According to the latest information available from the Department of Agriculture 77 magisterial districts in the entire Cape province are now on the drought stricken list — the other strangle hold areas being in the Karoo and North Cape.

The economist of the South African Agricultural Union, Mr Johan Willemse, said latest statistics showed that farmers' debts now totalled more than R6 000 million.

"The bulk of this is loans from the government, but a fair percentage has been borrowed from ordinary commercial banks," he said.

The drought in the Eastern Cape has already brought many farmers to their knees while pineapple growers are expecting a 25 to 30 per cent drop in their annual R15 million crop.

The secretary of the South African Pineapple Growers' Association, Mr Allen Pike, said the shortfall in production will be due to a decrease in size and weight of fruit.

"Many farmers have also reported severe sunburn," he said "and there have been others who have chopped up plants for fodder for their stock."

Mr Pike said the pineapple growers in the Eastern Cape, who produce about 80 per cent of South Africa's annual pineapple crop, were expecting to lose about R5 million as a result of the drought.

Representatives of the National Wool Growers'

Association said that wool farmers in the Border were also expecting a marked drop in their annual yield.

Farmers in the Eastern Cape coastal belt and Border inland areas produce about R50 million worth of wool a year — nearly 20 per cent of South Africa's total clip.

A spokesman for the wool marketing organisation said farmers only recently started shearing "and they feel that there is going to be a fairly substantial drop in quantity as a result of the drought."

The only farmers in the Eastern Cape who feel that the drought will not have any serious effect on their production are the chicory growers in the coastal belt between East London and Port Elizabeth.

These farmers produce South Africa's entire chicory crop.

The general manager of the South African Chicory Board, Mr B. F. Weich, said: "We have had a bit of rain and are now banking on follow-up showers. If these come we'll produce close to 15 million kilograms of dried roots this season."

Mr Weich said this estimate was nearly double the total production for the 1982-83 season.

And if the follow-up rains do not come? "We'll just have to wait and see," he said.

Magisterial districts in the Eastern Cape that are now on the official drought stricken list are: Aberdeen, Albany, Adelaide, Albert, Alexandria, Aliwal North, Barkly East, Bathurst, Bedford, Cathcart, Collesberg, Cradock, East London, Elliot, Fort Beaufort, Graaff-Reinet, Hofmeyr, Hanover, Humansdorp, Indwe, Jansenville, King William's Town, Kirkwood, Komga, Lady Grey, Maclear, Molteno, Noupoort, Pearston, Port Elizabeth, Queenstown, Seymour, Somerset East, Sterksdroom, Steynsburg, Steytlerville, Stutterheim, Tarkastad, Uitenhage, Venterstad, Willowmore and Wodehouse.

● Johannesburg faces the prospect of stiffer water tariffs on the lines of Pretoria should measures to curb water wastage not work.

The chairman of the Johannesburg City Council's management committee, Mr J. F. Oberholzer, said yesterday the city was investigating these punitive measures because of lack of co-operation from flatdwellers in particular.

He also announced that the management committee had asked the city engineer to report on the feasibility of installing individual water meters in flats.

"I think we shall have to do it where it is technically feasible."

The management committee had also asked for a report on the revision of water tariffs to enable a landlord to charge his tenants for water.

Mr Oberholzer appealed to citizens: "Please show a degree of social conscience. Water saving is in the national interest. If the Vaal runs dry we shall be murdering each other for water."

"People with boreholes will be attacked for water. Industry will run down. Power stations will shut down. There will be no food or jobs. If the Vaal is pumping mud everything will grind to a standstill."

He also appealed to Sowetans to make greater efforts to save water. He did not believe the West Rand Administration Board could install all the meters needed in the black township.

● The Umgeni River mouth has closed for the first time in about eight years and water flowing over the Howick Falls has dried up as the grip of the drought tightens on Natal.

According to estuarine experts the Umgeni River mouth was last blocked by a sand bar in the middle 70s.

The drying up of the Howick Falls is not expected to be a long-term problem, according to Mr Fred Munro, circle engineer for the Directorate of Water Affairs.

"The SA Rubber Manufacturers' Company have a hydro plant above the falls and are probably taking some of the water off," said Mr Munro. — DDR-DDC.

Feeding scheme based on rubbish

Garbage gardening catches on in township

~~2/11~~
~~2/11~~ (3) General
S. Post
1/10/83

By CLIFF FOSTER

RUBBISH that blows around in black townships can help to feed their hungry inhabitants, say pioneers of a new gardening scheme in Grahamstown.

Used to form compost in trench gardening it can enable a plot to yield four times the amount of vegetables it would normally yield.

Rubbish is the basis of a gardening project launched by Mrs Rosemary Smith, social worker for Grahamstown Area Distress Relief Association (Gadra), and supervised by 72-year-old Mr Dudley Hall, former chairman of the Young Farmers' Association in Zimbabwe who saw the system worked successfully there.

This week Mr Hall demonstrated the simple process which he claims could keep a small family (two adults, three children) adequately supplied with vegetables.

A trench 10 metres long, three metres wide, one metre deep, is filled with alternate layers of rubbish 15 centimetres deep and soil five centimetres. On the top of this vegetables are planted and the plants protected by a mulch (grass clippings or dead weeds).

Red worms convert the rubbish into humus which feeds the plants. Bacterial action also sets in.

A further advantage is that the plot requires far less watering than a normal plot. The trench lasts for several years.

Africans in Grahamstown did not need any urging to participate in the scheme when told that 24 unprepared plots were being made available alongside the TB clinic run by the East Cape Administration Board.

Within 24 hours all plots had been taken, and this week the allotment was being worked.

Water tanks will collect run-off from the clinic roof.

A second allotment of 12 plots has also been opened up by Gadra, and the the method has taken root in the townships — all in the space of four weeks.

"This is the answer for Africa," according to Mr Hall, who pioneered similar schemes in Zimbabwe.

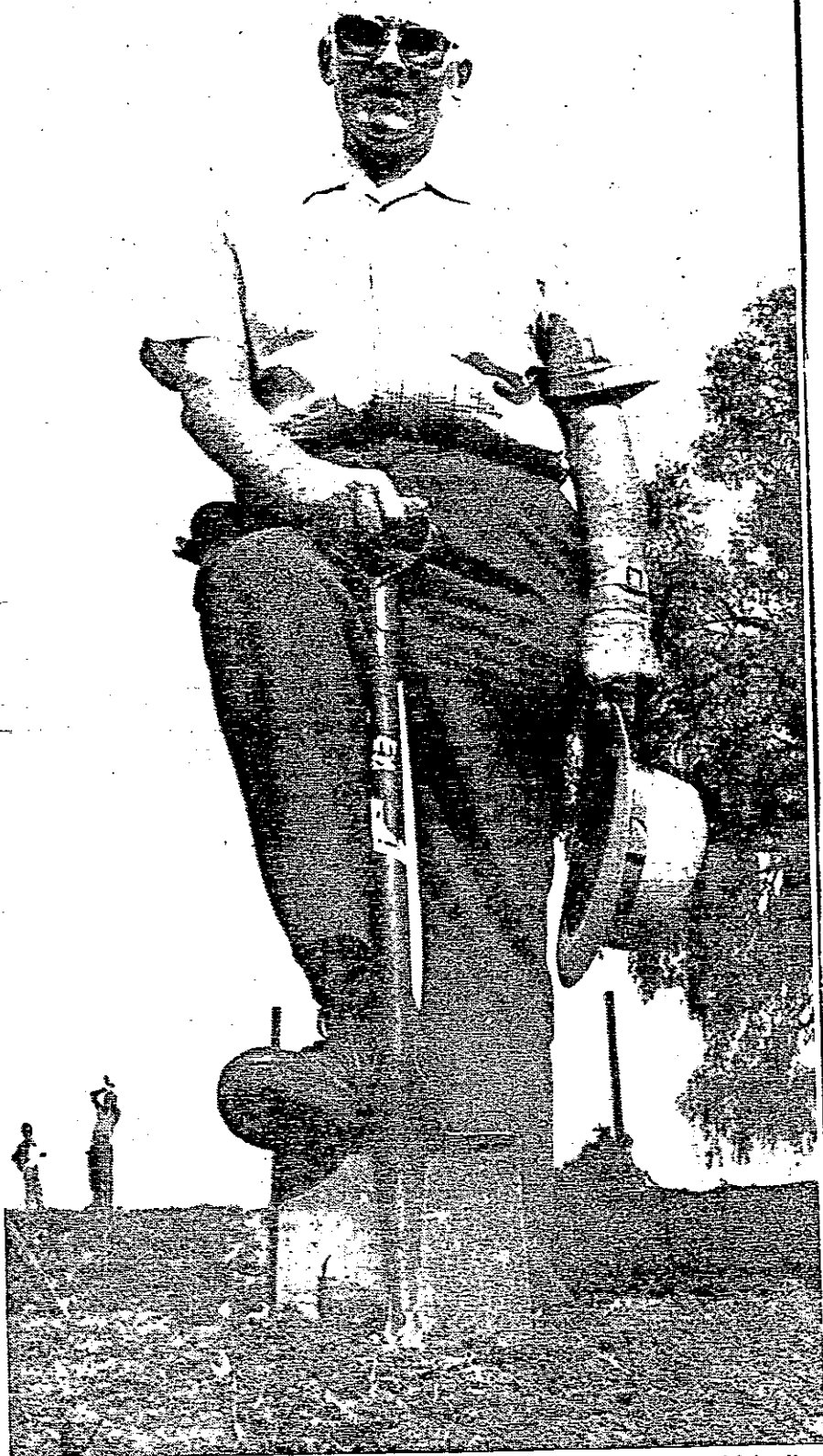
"We've had a very enthusiastic response from the people in the townships and hopefully the project will expand and other organisations will become involved."

He said modern technology was out of place in Third World countries where more emphasis should be placed on the peasant farmer in agriculture.

Mrs Smith described the scheme as "the most exciting thing I have been associated with".

The allotment at the clinic has been fenced and loganberries are to be planted against the fence.

"A lot will no doubt get stolen, but then does it matter?" said Mr Hall. "At least they will be feeding somebody."



Mr DUDLEY HALL of Grahamstown showing "the answer for Africa" — gardening. Mr Hall, who pioneered similar schemes in Zimbabwe, claims a trench system of gardening, using refuse for compost, could help feed hungry blacks in South African townships.

21/9/83 (104) (3) General VSM

Dead donkeys rot in Bophuthatswana veld

SCORES of rotting donkey carcasses, which were left lying in the veld by Bophuthatswana police in Moleletswane two weeks ago, have not yet been removed.

Reverend G E Schulte of the Lutheran Church in the village, said the carcasses were still lying in the veld, despite complaints by the villagers.

The donkeys were shot by the Bophuthatswana police who moved into the area two

weeks ago to destroy "surplus" donkeys.

The donkey shooting campaign was part of a bid by the "homeland" authorities to alleviate the serious grazing problems brought about by the drought.

Colonel David George, PRO for the Bophuthatswana police, said they had had no response to a telex to the chief of the police in the Odi and Moretele regions asking him to do something about the matter. — Sapa.

3 General

Good rains bring hope to farmers

EAST LONDON — Good rains have fallen in most Border areas, raising farmers' hopes for a good season "after all".

Mr L. Schoeman, public relations officer of the East Cape Agricultural Union, said: "with further follow-up rains and warmer weather, farmers might have a good season after all."

He said the rains were "hopefully the beginning of the spring rains." He added these normally started about the end of September.

The rains are likely to continue today, according to the Weather Bureau in Pretoria. Cold, warm and cloudy conditions are expected over various parts of the country, including the Border areas.

However, conditions in the Eastern Lowveld, escarpment, Venda and the coastal belt from

Port Alfred to the Tugela are expected to be fine to hot.

Border areas have recorded some of the highest rainfall figures in the country, with 15mm being measured at Burgersdorp. While East London had 3,8mm, Stutterheim 5mm and Fort Jackson 6,1mm, very little rain fell further down the coast at Port Alfred and Port Elizabeth.

Queenstown had 13 mm, which Mr Schoeman called "most welcome."

Good rains have also fallen in the Kidd's Beach area over the past few days, with more than 6mm being recorded in one 24-hour spell.

Pineapple farmers have welcomed the rains, saying they will boost the growth of pineapples only recently planted.

In some areas of the

Cape and the Free State, storm damage was reported. In Warrenton in the Cape, roofs were blown off and trees uprooted, while branches

were ripped off trees at Edenburg in the Free State.

Some rain even fell at Luderitz in SWA/Namibia. — DDR-SAPA.

(3) Sugar
F.M. 30 (9/83)

One thing the old "sugar year" (August-September) will go, to be replaced by individual growers' crop years. So there will be no more annual estimates of the size of the sugar export cake with consequent adjustments of the old basic export tonnage quotas. "The system will be operated by the price mechanism alone," says Chance.

DIAGONAL STREET Churning

Over most of the year gold has surprisingly been caught in a confined area. And in the past three months of trading, the gold price has become progressively trapped into an even narrower trading band at the lower price levels of the year. During this period the gold price has neither been tested below the \$400 level nor has the \$430 level been pierced. The longer gold languishes at these relatively low prices, the more vulnerable the shares are likely to become.

Gold share prices have been steadily falling from their higher reaches over the past three weeks. Marginal mines have fallen most, with, for example, ERPM down by 16,3%, and Loraine down by 14%. But quality golds have not been immune to the sell-off. Western Deep has fallen 12,9%, while even Drie Cons suffered a 13,5% drop. A technical reaction could momentarily pro-

pel gold share prices upwards, as on very short-term considerations some of the shares are beginning to look over-sold.

In the past week of trading, continued heavy overseas selling of gold counters has pushed heavy-weights, such as Vaal Reefs and Buffels, 800c and 500c respectively, lower. Talk has it that Pasteur, a New York gold share dealer, is insolvent and that a substantial stock of gold shares that was under his control has been off-loaded. This could well have been a major contributing factor to softer gold share prices.

Professional trading is dominant in the market place but when there are setbacks, there is small time buying interest at the lower price levels. Gold share prices have weakened across the board in the past week, though a notable exception is Wit Nigel, which gained 15c on the previous week's price of 315c. Erstwhile stockbroker Peter George and four associates who are thought to control up to 40% of Wit Nigel's shares and who have plans to raise some R30m to re-start sinking the mine's No 10 shaft, are trying to get themselves elected to the board.

In line with the gold producers, De Beers has fallen back, to trade, for the first time in many months, at below R10. Palamin dropped a 100c which reflects the fall in world free market price of copper. All the platinum were down on the week with Impala leading the way. Mining houses and

mining financials tended to mirror the falls in the gold counters. The market is looking forward to the five-way share split in GFSA shares, and it seems to be hoping that other highly-priced counters will also split their shares soon.

The industrial board was generally speaking dull and featureless, and trading values and volumes were on the whole relatively poorer than in previous weeks. The industrial index continued to inch its way upwards despite the plethora of adverse comment that in the short term the market has had its run.

Acrow, which was suspended and then re-listed during the week, is still being traded heavily around the 380c mark. The JSE has called for returns from stockbrokers of all transactions carried out in Acrow between September 12 and September 21. An inquiry has been called for the usual reasons of sharply higher prices and volume traded prior to the announcement that the firm was engaged in negotiations which could result in a change in control of the company. Neither Acrow nor Landlock, the putative purchaser, have anything to say on likely developments.

Tedelex at one stage traded at 900c, well below the take-over price of 1 100c, despite denials by Gencor that its purchase deal is off. Trading in Union Steel has almost dried up, though take-over interest remains.

Brian Zlotnick

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SUGAR

ISA: Private wrangles

③ Sugar

Barring accidents the 79 nations at the Geneva International Sugar Agreement conference will not go home empty-handed when the three weeks of haggling end on Friday, writes our European editor. There is no hope of a new International Sugar Agreement (ISA) — including for the first time the European Economic Community (EEC) — coming into effect on January 1. But as the FM went to press the belief in Geneva was that the delegations would at least concur on "heads of agreement."

These will form the basis for continuing negotiations in November and will be followed by a third full session early next year. With luck a credible ISA will come into operation on July 1.

A week ago it looked as if the talks would break down, leaving the same inconclusive mess as the first session in May. The big four exporters, the EEC (5.7 Mt raw value), the ABC cane growers, Australia (2.8 Mt), Brazil (2.8 Mt) and Cuba (2.4 Mt) remained locked in private argument. With Australia at loggerheads with the EEC over its proposed high level of producer-held stocks (6 Mt), the conference was bogging down.

Reference export availability tonnages (the diplomatic wording concocted to get around the EEC's rejection of quotas) were another stumbling block as was the price range of the proposed agreement. Australia had put up an alternative to the existing US 13c-23c/lb with frequent downside triggers, leading to a maximum 15% cut in quotas — a system which has failed primarily because the EEC stayed out of the last ISA.

The Australians proposed a 7c-25c range. Downside triggers for stock increases would come into play at 10c and 7c: on the up, official changes would operate at 21c and 25c. In the middle it was proposed there would be a 12c-18c "no go area" or "zone of inaction" in which the market would be left alone.

Tired of waiting for the big four to break the logjam, the junior six among the 10 leading exporters formed their own subgroup, negotiated and agreed on a formula which was put on the table early this week. Argentina, the Dominican Republic, India, the Philippines, SA and Thailand — accounting in all for 6 Mt of the existing ISA export quotas — may have unblocked the negotiations.

"We are quite a powerful force," says John Chance, who led the SA Sugar Association's advisers to the SA delegation. "And while the big four could not immediately agree to our proposals the reaction was favourable. They saw it as a constructive document."

Details of what the six proposed are con-



Sugar ... new agreement is proving elusive

fidential. Basically, however, they envisage Reference Export Availability (REA) tonnages to be set at an average 5.5% below existing quotas — which, Chance says, is "in line with the market." Small exporters (below 150 000 t/year) would be allowed to sell up to the maximum of their past performances with a top limit of 150 000 t. The six want REA's to be based on past tonnages but SA won agreement to a flexible approach which would iron out crop disasters.

Best news for SA

This was the "best news" for SA, said Chance even though it would have to accept a lower "quota." "With our disastrous crop this year and the one in 1980 we could have been in a catastrophic position. But now I think that, backed by our group, there is a good chance that abnormal crop years will not be institutionalised."

On prices, the six want a higher floor of 8c-9c — the EEC talks of 6c — and lower ceiling than 25c. As for the "zone of inaction" they would like it tightened to 4c a pound.

Explaining the "zone of inaction,"

Chance says that when prices were within that range growers could export whatever surplus their current crop produced, regardless of their REA. The catch is that if prices fall in the next season the "extra" exported must be put into special stocks at the producers' own expense whatever the new production level.

On the level of "security stocks" the EEC appears to have softened its line, now setting 3 Mt as a minimum and allowing for 6 Mt (which would cause storage problems for many exporters) to be treated as a "target." It is also anxious that there should be a system of consultation among the 10 biggest exporters so that voluntary extra stocking can take place to pre-empt price falls.

The heads of agreement expected out of Geneva on Friday are likely to cover:

- Reference export availability levels;
- The level of security stocks;
- Special supplementary measures to be taken at the bottom range of prices; and
- The provisions for sub-150 000 t exporters.

When it comes, the next ISA will be a more complex affair than in the past. For

(B) General 4/10/83 Aex

Assuring the farmer's future is vital for SA

By Michael Menof

In the current political climate involving the threat of sanctions the importance of self-sufficiency in the agricultural sector cannot be over-emphasised.

South Africa's relationship with the rest of Africa is centred largely on agriculture, with this country responsible for more than 40 percent of all food produced in Africa.

Food output has been declining steadily in all sub-Saharan Africa except South Africa which has experienced a 94 percent increased farming production during the last 20 years.

Not surprisingly South Africa has become the lifeline for many sub-Saharan countries. Even those hostile to South Africa import tinned meat and other products from it through double invoicing and false certificates of origin.

MBA students at the University of the Witwatersrand recently studied the tax plight of the South African farmer. They found farmers' imported cost inputs had risen 369 percent since 1970, whereas prices received for their outputs showed only a 295 percent increase.

The farmers also suffer from being unable to pass on increased costs to the consumer. On the tax aspect farmers have often been classed as the "Royal Game Taxpayers", but despite the emotional attention given this issue there are only three significant areas where farmers appear to be taxed more leniently than industrialists:

- Being able to deduct 100 percent of the cost of capital assets and related costs.
- Electing to be taxed at the rate applicable to their average income over the previous five years. This concession allows farmers to offset the large fluctuations in their income.
- Valuing their livestock according to certain standard prices laid down in the Act.

These concessions are not unique to SA farmers. In other major Western countries this applies:

United States

- Capital expenditure is subject to deduction over their useful lives with capital gain tax applicable on sale.
- The averaging provisions apply slightly modified.
- Four different methods used to value livestock, one being similar to standard values used in SA.

United Kingdom

- Averaging over a two-year period.
 - Valuation of livestock at cost or market value.
- #### New Zealand
- Permits the write-off of capital assets on their purchase.
 - Excess income may be invested in a government-administered fund and exempt from tax until it is withdrawn from the fund.
 - Livestock is valued according to standard values or their market value.

Australia

- Capital assets receive limited deduction.
- Averaging provisions to level out fluctuating income applies.
- Valuing livestock on an averaging method.

Examining the agricultural sector and the farmer's plight has led the MBA students to the following recommendations, which are worth discussion. Problems facing farmers may be summarised as:

- (1) High risk due to wide fluctuations in income resulting from variations in climatic conditions and prices.
- (2) Deteriorating financial position of farmers

indicated by low returns on capital, diminishing profit margins, increasing agricultural debt.

(3) Low productivity relative to other major farming nations.

(4) Inability of agriculture to attract young farmers to its ranks.

(5) Expansionism without higher productivity.

Some protection is needed to compensate farmers for hazards and losses beyond their control. As for taxes, this is adequately taken care of through the averaging provision.

The Jacobs Committee recently recommended that a tax-free reserve fund be established where farmers could pay into a fund during a year of high income, such a payment being exempt from tax until it was withdrawn from the fund, presumably in a year of low income. Australia and New Zealand currently operate such a system.

But this proposal was, strangely, rejected by the Minister of Finance.

As regards the deteriorating financial position of farmers, there are two possible solutions — further protection or increased productivity.

The former is probably easier, however, the long-term socialistic implications are profound. It is far more desirable to increase productivity.

A very effective method of achieving this through the tax system would be to abolish income tax for farmers and introduce a system of land taxes. These taxes should be based on the potential output of the land, and be payable by the landowner.

This would have a number of benefits which the present system lacks:

- (1) Farmers would be encouraged to produce in excess of the assessed potential of their land, since this would effectively be tax-free.
- (2) It would prevent the under-utilisation of land. Excess land would be leased out or sold. At present 97 percent of the agricultural output is produced on 60 percent of the land.
- (3) It would halt unproductive expansion. Only the efficient would be able to expand.
- (4) It would help to keep property prices within reach of the young agricultural graduates who ought to be populating the land.
- (5) Young agricultural graduates would be attracted by the possibility of earning high partially tax-free incomes in return for high productivity and efficiency.
- (6) Farmers would be encouraged to use advanced technology to increase productivity.
- (7) There would be no need for the averaging provision and the tax would be easier to collect and impossible to avoid.

Spain has a partial system of land tax based on the fixed value of the land and notional profits from the exploitation of the land.

While such a system is significantly different, the students submit it has considerable merit and may solve the country's ailing farm sector.

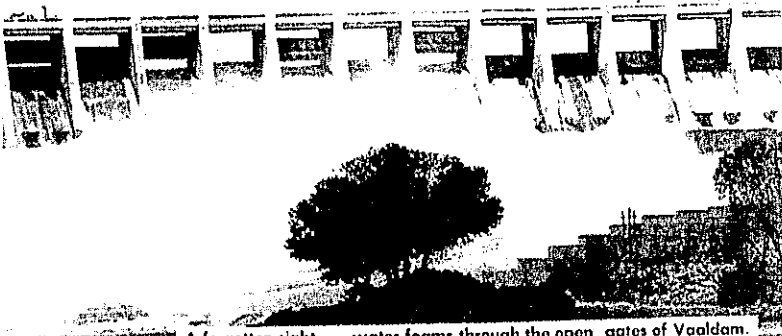
The farmer works in an environment with factors beyond his control. The incentives introduced in the SA Tax Act are designed to give him relief. Whether this relief goes far enough is doubtful.

Let us give the farmer all the encouragement he needs to ensure that "a famine and poverty" potential crisis experienced in other parts of the world does not happen here.

Effective planning and development of SA dams in the last decade prevented a crisis during the current drought. A little more understanding of the farmer's role and some encouragement to help him develop and maintain his economic position is now overdue.

● Michael Menof is a tax consultant.

run out for South Africa



A forgotten sight . . . water foams through the open gates of Vaaldam.

Board (UWB), and rest of Natal may another water crisis 0 years unless more is taken of existing lies. nce the introduction water restrictions in y, which limited holders to 400 litres ater a day, consump- has dropped by about cent. dams are now only 8.5 cent full and it is esti- that the supply run out by February, sss good rains fall. hort-term plans to plement the supply in- the diversion of oi River into the per Umgeni above dmar Dam, near ritzburg, and a R3.5 lition emergency rome to supply water Durban from Hazel- re Dam, near Veru- n. There are also plans

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would supply Durban with water and Impendle and Midmar dams the rest of eastern Natal. The Government has been accused of seriously neglecting the development and management of water resources in Natal. The province, which comprises seven percent of the land surface in the country, has 25 percent of the country's total water run-off and 40 percent of its usable water resources. During the last 100 years it has received only 10.4 percent of the R1 200-million spent on water development. The Tugela basin has long been recognised as an undeveloped area having the greatest potential for industrial development - capable of providing one of the biggest hydro-electric schemes in the world. Apart from electricity,

the project could provide water for Durban and Richards Bay, as well as industrial complexes between the two. But for political reasons the Thorrrington-Smith Plan for a series of dams on Tugela River has remained on the shelf since 1953. Durban industrialists are now using more "second-hand" water and there are plans for separate channelling systems in the city to distribute non-drinking water to industries. There are bitter feelings about the scheme which pumps water from Tugela River across the Drakensberg mountains to Sterkfontein Dam for Vaaldam. Although water would have flowed into the sea, people in Natal complain they have to live with the restriction of 400 litres a day, while

on the Reef people are allowed to water their gardens.

Bloemfontein

Restrictions on watering gardens and filling swimming pools were introduced in the city on Saturday, but the water supply is not yet critical. Two independent consulting firms are drawing-up proposals for the Government to provide water for the growing population and industry.

The Central Free State Water Development Association was formed with Bloemfontein's mayor, Mr Ewald Fichardt, as chairman. The association's aim is to establish the water needs of the city and surrounding metropolitan areas.

Welkom

A ban on watering gardens, introduced last week, underlined water crises which have plagued the area since 1975. Other municipalities in the goldfields are expected to follow that lead.

Town clerk Mr Koos van Zyl said: "I believe the time when we in South Africa could waste water is past forever."

From 1947, when a goldfields water scheme was introduced, the area had more than enough water. The scheme was running at half capacity but the honeymoon was over when the price of gold jumped to more than 800 dollars.

"It was first realised in 1978 that the pipeline and the capacity of the purification works at Balkfontein, along with reservoirs at Koppie Alleen, were too small to cater for growth," our Welkom correspondent said.

The Government was now in the final stages of developing a R50 million extension to the water supply which would solve problems as long as Vaal Dam had water, Mr van Zyl said.

Goldfields Water Board chairman Gert Deysel said completion of the scheme would probably mean the end of water restrictions.

Kimberley

Water savings of 20 percent on last year's figures were reached after the introduction of restrictions on March 30, but a long-term plan exists to pump water from the Orange River.

Municipality spokesmen say home-owners and industrialists co-operated well, but many watered gardens illegally.

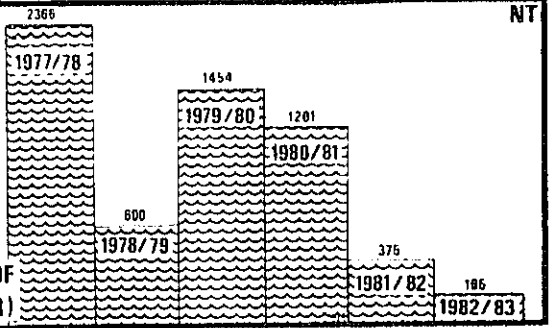
The last severe drought in the city - served from Vaal River - was in 1965/66 when 432 mm of rain was recorded during the two years. Last year's total rainfall figure was 335 mm.

Winburg

Water supply from the local dam has been cut off to this Free State town. The small amount of water left has become too murky for human consumption.

VAALDAM: THE FIGURES THAT TELL THE SAD STORY

(INFLOW IN MILLIONS OF CUBIC METRES A YEAR)



Two boreholes, one in a black township and the other outside of town, are the only remaining water resources.

Nelspruit

Towns in the Eastern Transvaal lowveld are facing serious water shortages as rivers reach dangerously low levels.

Dams throughout the region are at their lowest in living memory and, with no prospect of rain in the immediate future, municipalities are tightening measures to control water usage.

Strict restrictions and heavy fines are in force throughout the area, where parts have not had rain for eight months.

One of the towns worst hit is Barberton where, to reduce usage to the minimum, water is only available for certain hours daily.

The Lomati River is dry and our only other source, the Suid Kaap River, cannot cope with having to supply agriculture and Barberton and the matter is reaching

crisis proportions," said town clerk Andre Steenkamp.

At Komatiport there is a ban on watering gardens and washing cars.

"Our supplies are dangerously low and to keep going we are pumping water from the river bed with a tractor," said the acting town clerk, Mrs Maritjie du Preez.

Water from Witklip Dam has brought relief to the parched town which has had water restrictions since last November.

For the first time in eight months residents may water their gardens every day - though only with a bucket or watering can.

To limit water usage, a tariff of 40 cents a kilolitre - up to 30 kilolitres - and R1 a kilolitre for people using 30 kilolitres and more, has been introduced.

People in Nelspruit are still occasionally allowed to water gardens but sprinklers are banned and cars may not be washed with hosepipes.

Newcastle

A 32 km pipeline costing R15 million is being built by the Government to feed water from Buffalo River to Newcastle's purification works.

It is expected to supply 400 000 cu m of water a month to the town. It should be completed by the beginning of next month.

The town is facing restrictions of 66 percent on last year's figures and relies on the almost empty Chelmsford Dam for water. The dam could be empty before the end of the year.

East London

Restrictions were introduced last October and have since been stepped-up, a municipality spokesman said. Hosepipes were now banned, but gardens could be watered with buckets or watering cans.

Hardly any rain had fallen over the catchment area of the most important dam, Bridle Drift, which was 30.8 percent full.

Pietersburg

The area had no problems, a municipality spokesman said. The town, served by the Dap Naude Dam (58 percent full), Ebenezer Dam (73 percent) and bore-hole water had no restrictions.

Cape Town

The southern and western Cape has no water supply problems. As one official said: "We have water coming out of our ears."

Port Elizabeth

Restrictions are not in force. "We have so much water we don't know what to do with it," said our correspondent.

Every dam was almost full after two days of rain. Elandsjacht Dam is 99.7 percent full; Lake Ment is 97 percent full and Churchill Dam is overflowing.

"We have enough water to last us three years - even if it didn't rain again," the correspondent said.

By Stephen McQuillan
and Own Correspondents

Water and time run out fo

The land is dying, but a drought-ravaged nation lives in hope

South Africa's heart still beats, but the pulse is weakened as dam levels fall week after week and the country's lifeblood threatens to clog

As temperatures soar, as the veld becomes dust and as the bread-basket turns to toast, there is only one remedy - rain

"We now get on our knees and pray," said a high-ranking Directorate of Water Affairs official.

The countrywide picture, compiled by 24 Hours, shows the official was not joking

The Reef

The vital Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging (PWV) area - industrial hub of the nation - has a tiny reserve. There is less than eight months' water supply left.

A less than average rainfall over the Vaaldam catchment area this summer would cripple life for about five million people - a fifth of the country's population - and 60 percent of all industrial output.

Last year's inflow into the Vaaldam was less than half of the worst year on record - signalling the worst drought in 200 years.

The previous worst inflow occurred the year before

Emergency Government plans for the Reef have to be prepared by October 15 and given the

go-ahead by October 30 if no significant rains fall before then.

The multimillion rand project would involve tougher water restrictions - possibly 30 percent or more - taking more water from Natal, and exploring underground water pockets on the West Rand.

The Government is already taking water from the Tugela River and transferring it nearly 500 kms to Eastern Transvaal power stations, which supply about 80 percent of the country's electricity. The scheme removed the threat of electricity rationing until the end of 1984.

The new element of the project involves taking water from Spioenkop Dam, Driel Barrage and Woodstock Dam. The water would then be transferred to Kilburn Dam, using an existing route, through Sterkfontein Dam and along a 240 km stretch of Wilge River to Vaaldam.

The scheme would have to be operational in four months to ensure a water supply for the Reef at the end of next year.

Engineers are expecting enough runoff this season to fill the recently-built Woodstock Dam, which now stands empty.

Spioenkop Dam is 69 percent full and has a capacity of 282 million cubic (cu) metres (m). Woodstock Dam has a ca-

capacity of 383 million cu m. Both are dwarfed by Vaaldam's capacity of 2 191 million cu m.

The underground water aspect of the plan would involve constructing a pipeline network to transfer water directly into the distribution system for cities. The water, which is of good quality, would not go to dams or through purification plants, but would be chlorinated.

People in the Rand Water Board (RWB) area passed the weekly consumption cutback target two weeks ago for the first time since restrictions were introduced in March.

The overall target of a 20 percent cutback on last year's figures should be met by the end of the month, RWB chairman Mr Dale Hobbs said.

The saving had been made despite a handful of rebellious municipalities, two of which ignored a RWB proposal to ban hosepipes, and furious citizens who have attacked the council on its inability to cope with thousands of burst water pipes.

Nurserymen also applied pressure for the easing of restrictions, saying their multimillion rand industry was at risk.

Mr Hobbs said the threat of rationing was still real. If there was another poor rainy season, rationing would have to be introduced. Even a 30 percent saving then



A forgotten sight... water for

would not be enough. Rainfall in September had been half the average.

It was possible Vaaldam - key to the Reef's water supplies - could be filled by good rains, said Mr Hobbs. The heaviest rains ever to fall in the RWB area in its 60-year history amounted to 4 000 cubic metres in one year - about twice the dam's capacity.

But no one can bank on freak weather.

Vaal Dam is now 21 percent full. Sterkfontein Dam is 51 percent full.

Natal

People in Durban and Maritzburg have a drastically changed lifestyle, likely to remain for "a long time yet", experts said.

They said the cities, supplied by the Umgeni

Water Board (UWB), and the rest of Natal may face another water crisis in 10 years unless more care is taken of existing supplies.

Since the introduction of water restrictions in May, which limited householders to 400 litres of water a day, consumption has dropped by about 55 percent.

Dams are now only 8,5 percent full and it is estimated that the supply will run out by February, unless good rains fall.

Short-term plans to supplement the supply include the diversion of Mool River into the Upper Umgeni above Midmar Dam, near Maritzburg, and a R3,5 million emergency scheme to supply water to Durban from Hazelmore Dam, near Verulam.

There are also plans

for a pipeline between Estcourt and Maritzburg to carry water from the nearly full Wagensdrift Dam to the city.

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ARGUS 7/10/83 3 General

114mm downpour lashes Durban but dams still low

Argus Correspondent

DURBAN. — More than 114mm of torrential rain — more than the average for the entire month — fell here last night and weathermen say there is more on the way.

However, only 9mm over river catchment areas did little to raise dam levels.

Mr Fred Munro, the engineer for the Department of Water Affairs here, said today the combined level of the Midmar and Albert Falls dams — Durban's and Maritzburg's main supply — had remained constant this week at 8,2 percent.

The highest figure, 114,5mm, was recorded at the Point Prison. The October average is 87,0. About 59mm was recorded at the airport and 100mm at Amanzimtoti.

RIVERS

The heavy rain turned many roads into rivers. Flooding was reported from the beachfront, Fynnlans, Chatsworth and the Bluff.

According to Mrs Jackie Varner of Prince Street on the beachfront, children had taken out their surfboards "to try surfing along the beachfront road".

In the Witwatersrand, widespread rain is expected to continue to fall today and the weekend.

Rain started to fall on the Reef yesterday evening and showers have continued through the night, raising hopes that it could improve water supplies.

ACCIDENTS

The rain has brought the usual spate of road accidents and prompted a warning from police. A spokesman said there had been 27 accidents.

Extensive cloud is covering south-western and southern Transvaal, the whole of the Free State, Natal, the northern Cape and most of South West Africa.

"We expect rain over all these areas," the Weather Bureau in Pretoria said.

Cape Times 8/10/63

Rain brings relief

JOHANNESBURG. — Widespread soft rain fell over most of the country yesterday.

Scattered rain and thundershowers, are forecast for most of the interior today.

With the exception of the Peninsula, Western Cape and parts of the Cape interior, soft rain has fallen in most areas.

The rain, coinciding with the Kruger Day long weekend and the closing of Transvaal schools for the mid-term break, has brought a rise in the number of road accidents.

As thousands of holidaymakers head for the coast, traffic authorities have urged motorists to drive with caution.

In one accident, 10 cars and three trucks collided in a major pile-up on the Durban-bound highway near Maritzburg, but there were no deaths.

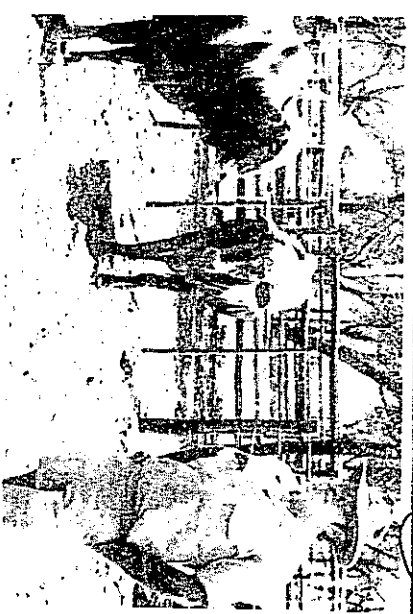
Meanwhile, taps in the Eastern Transvaal town of Piet Retief, where the Assegai River dried up this week, are running again. Water has been pumped from a coffer dam higher up in the river.

Soft showers had brought relief to Bloemfontein where water restrictions have been in force since Monday.

In Durban, roads were washed away, telephone connections severed, and vehicles flooded in a cloudburst last night.

— Sapa

3) General Steyn 5/12/85



Farmer Frikkie van Staden, 50 km outside Ellisras, shows two of his prize-winning stud cattle. "It's a hard life for farmers in the bushveld", he says. "But it gets into your bones and finally there's nowhere to touch it".



A jubilee Govie Jacobs stands on the banks of the Limpopo while the river flows at its headiest for over 12 years following heavy rains around Stockport and across the border in Botswana. Only a week earlier the river had been parched.

Bushveld renewal stuck in the sand

By Haunnes Ferguson, Farming Correspondent

Big changes are coming to the Bushveld as a Government task force grapples with the problems which have kept the region in the doldrums for many years.

Pretoria's interest could be the most significant development in its history. The aim is to get more people into the border areas and establish a communications, farm and business infrastructure.

The task force will deal with farming and infrastructure problems separately, but stumbling blocks still have to be removed — namely the provision of power at economical rates, and the slashing of cattle marketing and railway costs.

created since the 1960s. Many deserted farms were not large enough to be farmed economically.

The State departments providing the physical and social infrastructure the SA Transport Services, Eskom, the Post Office, Water Affairs, Health and Education — were willing to help, but brought policy problems of their own.

The Bushveld redemption plan became stuck in the sand. Uncertain what to do next, the then Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, said the new act would not be implemented.

Softer than usual loans to new farmers were to be given, but the consolidation of the debts of existing farmers would have priority.

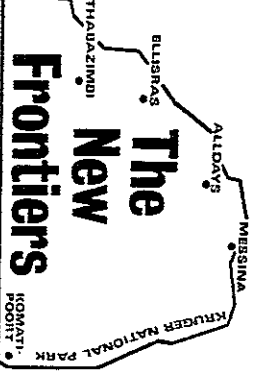
Indebtedness caused by high land prices brought on by a bushveld buying spree by city people, had reached danger proportions.

Land prices had reduced the yield on cattle farming. Investments to about three percent, so that even Mr Schoeman's soft loans at eight percent made it impossible for the few new settlers to make the grade.

The agricultural policy standing committee, chaired by Dr A S Jacobs of the Reserve Bank, was called in. It stressed the limitations to resettlement because of the fast increase in the number of hectares required to

Flight from the farm to the city highs have been reversed — on South Africa's north and eastern borders at least. One of the new pioneers says: "I see this territory as a boom place, a new frontier in South Africa's history."

The 24 Hours team visited South Africa's border country, the east, the north and the west. Only in the west, on the empty Botswana boundary, is the country still being depopulated. But even in the west, the "Weekend Bushvelders" are moving in. Terrorism is the least of the worries. The issues are water, roads, electricity. Here is the last in our five-part series.



ments, the agricultural unions and the various local development associations.

The new loan conditions seemed adequate and more applications were received.

Service loans were actively promoted.

Development work at Swartwater and Allids began as Government activities would be sited

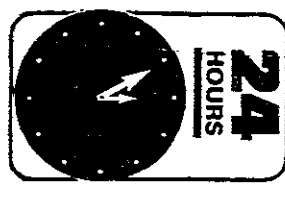
tioned the system. In a Green Paper on Electricity Supply, the Transvaal Agricultural Union said in 1978 that an accepted cost accounting rules, the extension fee represented profit, not cost.

As Eskom is by law bound to sell power by cost, the TAU asked that the extension fees be dropped. Despite the criticism, Eskom has simply



A roadside meeting in the north-west bushveld between Govie Jacobs and Frikkie van Staden who own farms more than 150 km apart but share all the same interests.

Photographs by Rebecca Hearfield



The military have been interested in the task force's deployment but are keeping a low profile. General Constand Viljoen actually set the

The scheme would depend on the willingness of the SATS to charge special beet fall-larvae and Pretoria.

As the SATS had far more-serious reasons already accepted slushy

The minimum floor

Thousands flee to cities to escape rural starvation

OFFICIALS are trying to turn back a tide of desperate and hungry black people fleeing to the cities from drought-devastated bantustans.

The East Rand Administration Board is trying to evict about 29 000 people and has demolished 11 800 homes — called "illegal structures" — in its campaign against squatters.

The number of illegal squatters in Erab's area is put by officials at 58 000. Another 3 000 squatters are estimated to be in the Orange-Vaal area, and an unknown number are in the area controlled by the West Rand Administration Board (Wrab).

At Crossroads, outside Cape Town, 4 000 squatters have been ordered to leave.

The removal campaign erupted into violence this week when squatters, churchmen and journalists were beaten at Kaitleng, near Alberton. One reporter had his arm fractured in two places, and the incident has resulted in a spate of court actions.

Pictures of angry officials — advancing on the camera, one of them wielding a heavy stick, have gone around the world.

Erab charged 32 people for squatting in Kaitleng. Mr Charles Marx, chief director of Erab, said there were 58 000 people without accommodation in the area under the board's jurisdiction.

THE 32 squatters arrested at Kaitleng this week don't want to go to the homelands because they fear there is no future there.

The people, who come from as far afield as Transkei, KwaZulu, and KwaNdwane, believe their lives in Kaitleng are much better than the homelands offered.

This week about 90 squatters were evicted by East Rand Administration Board officials.



● Kaitleng this week — the squatters don't want to hear about 'homelands'

BY MIKE CADMAN and LAUREN GOWER

tion and "about 50% of those have been called upon to go". He said about 11 800 illegal structures had been removed and that there was a waiting list of more than 13 000 for houses in Kaitleng.

"I think the drought has been significant in making people come to the cities because they have no work and perhaps no food, but our services are so overloaded we cannot cope with the population anymore."

The chairman of the West Rand Administration Board, Mr John Knoetze, said: "We do not deny that people are living illegally in Soweto, but the numbers are far less than I anticipated." He would not say how many illegals there were "because these numbers are vulnerable". He refused to elaborate.

He acknowledged that the drought and the economic recession had put tremendous pressure on people living on the plateau. "I have given instructions that people in Soweto should in all cases be treated humanely by officials of my board," Mr Knoetze said.

Homelands? Send us to jail, say squatters

BY MIKE CADMAN

chiefs who have been harassing them for months. The chief director of Erab, Mr Charles Marx, said this week that nearly 29 000 people had been asked to leave the area in recent months.

But the squatters didn't want to hear about homelands. "I will refuse to go to the Transkei — even if they put me in prison it will be better than going there," Mr Nedda Rora said. "There are no jobs, the drought is very bad, there is nothing there for us."

"I can't return — I have nowhere to stay and no money," Mr Sikololae Mkingedane said. "My wife and child will have to come with me and we will be going to a situation worse than this."

"I have done temporary jobs in the Witwatersrand area since 1970," Mr Mkingedane said. "How am I to find a job there (in the Transkei)?" After Tuesday's ban on squatters at the squatter camp 32 people appeared in the Germiston magistrates' court. Their case was postponed until November 9.

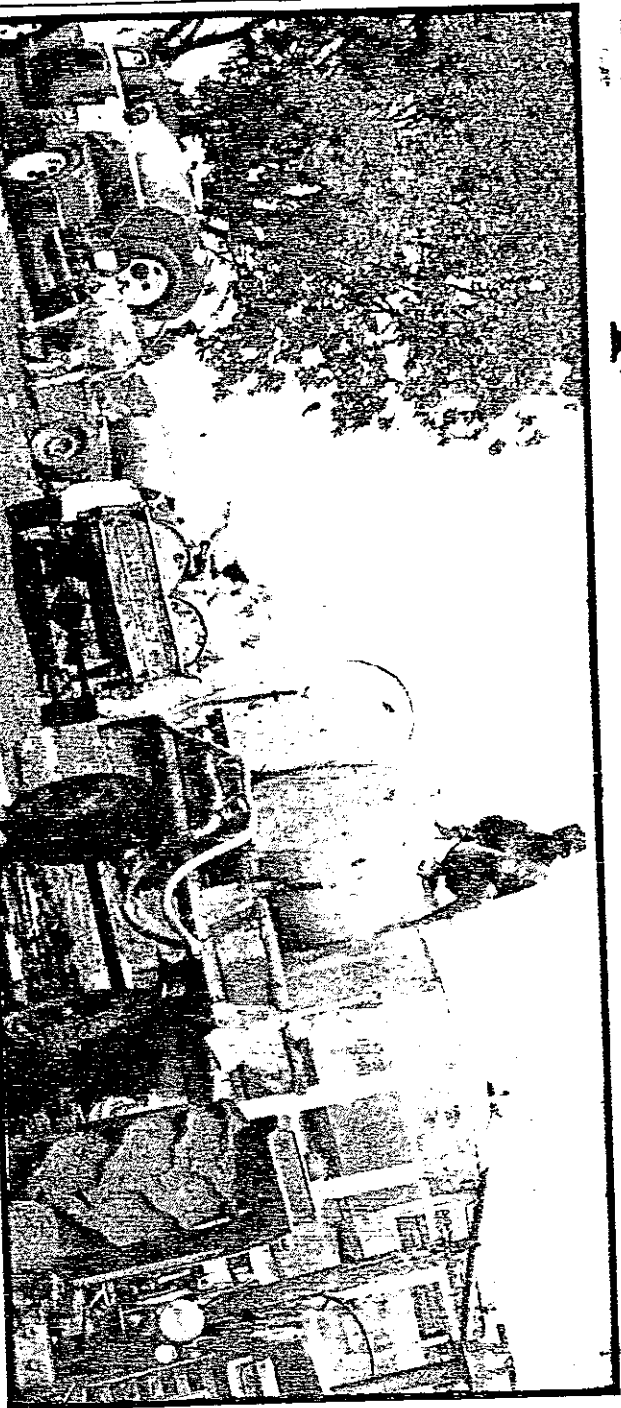
Board, said there were about 3 000 people without urban rights documents in his area. "We can't just leave them in the air, so we allow them to stay on a temporary basis," he said. Squatters in Klipfontein, Johannesburg, were charged in June and squatters near Grahamer, south of Johannesburg, have been continually harassed.

Mrs Sheena Duncan, national president of the Black Sash, said this week men seeking work were coming into the Black Sash advice office, weeping. "They say: 'What must we do? My children are crying and there is no food in the homelands. We have no more credit because we have not paid the shops for a year.'"

Mr David Cutbert, marketing director of World Vision, an organisation that administers drought relief, said: "We come across families that are destitute — they have no food and no cash to buy any. "Water resources are running dry, the soil is depleted and people are having to rely more and more upon hand-outs."

Mrs Ina Perlman, Operation Hunger co-ordinator, said: "I can tell you quite simply what happens to people who are endorsed out of the urban areas. They and their families will starve unless they get relief feeding." She said the pattern that was emerging was one of a "steep deterioration" in health, grazing and cattle. "A very disturbing thing is the increase in pellagra — a malnutritional disease among adults."

Queuing to buy water in a parched land...



Children with cans, traders with carts... all queuing to buy the precious water.

Pictures: Chief Photographer DOUG LEE

Mr Hans Schoeman... sells water from dam

... AND CHILDREN ARE ALSO DRUMMING-UP BUSINESS for sale at Oom Hans's controversial stall

BY WILLMAR UTTING

MR Hans Schoeman, Conservative Party MP for North Rand, is doing a roaring trade at his roadside stall near Brits — selling water to residents of the parched villages of adjacent Bophuthatswana and Garankuwa.

Thousands of villagers are the main customers for the chickens, goats, vegetables, cattle and sheep sold by Mr Schoeman at his prime trading spot right on their doorstep.

... AND CHILDREN ARE ALSO DRUMMING-UP BUSINESS

ONE OF a number of juvenile dealers, Lucas Malepe, 13, is the family provider, selling water from his donkey-drawn cart at R1,30 a drum.

On Friday when the Sunday Express team spoke to him, he had just taken four drums to a household of seven, a distance of less than 2km from the dam.

He had a further five orders waiting, at R2,80 each. He would finish before lunchtime. Takings R18,20; profit R14, hold of seven.

Some of the dealers, who are turning over up to R200 a day, are suspected of the regular sabotage of the water pumps in the villages.

Mr Schoeman, 68, was at the centre of public controversy three years ago when he was surprisingly given general dealers' rights by the Transvaal Board for the Development of Peri-Urban Areas for his 'Elite Cafe' on a coveted trading site near De Wildt station.

It is on the main road adjacent to Bophuthatswana and Garankuwa, midway between Brits and Rosslyn.

One of his regular customers, Mrs Sarah Mhlungu, pays him between R23 and R25 a month for two drums delivered twice a week. Those 800 have to meet all the weekly needs of a household of seven.

Other applications by white traders were rejected on the grounds that it was against government policy to allow them to operate within 5km of a black territory.

Mr Schoeman was refused a licence to sell mineral water — but selling ordinary water is paying well enough. Each day villagers with canisters, children with donkey carts and the entrepreneurs with tankers and tractor-drawn carts queue up to buy tens of thousands of litres of water from his dam, supplied from a gushing pipeline.

Thirsty people can drink from the dam free of charge. But they pay for each drop they carry away.

For a 20l canful Mr Schoeman charges 5c. For a 400l drum he charges 30c.

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keep count of the water. We are not sellers of water. We are suppliers, at only 30c a drum.

"I know the water men buy it and then make money out of their own people. They have no heart for each other."

"The local chief complained to the government that my husband was taking all his people's money. But President Mangope told him to leave my husband alone. We are helping the people." Mr Bertie Badama, general manager of the Bophuthatswana Water Corporation, said from his offices in Matheng: "I will get someone there as soon as I can. I don't know Mr Schoeman

BY WILLMAR UTTING

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Development of Peri-Urban Areas for his 'Elite Cafe' on a coveted trading site near De Wildt station. It is on the main road adjacent to Bophuthatwana and GaRankuwa, midway between Brits and Rosslyn, and directly opposite the village of Ramogodi, one of the main entrances to Bophuthatwana. Other applications by while traders were rejected on the grounds that it was against government policy to allow them to operate within 5km of a black territory.

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several thousand rand. Directly across the main road, in the squallid, parched village of Ramogodi, Mr Schoeman has a ready market. When the Sunday Express visited the site this week, Mr Schoeman's son, Mr Johan Schoeman, was bargaining with a customer over livestock penned at the roadside. When approached about the water, he said: "What we sell is none of your business. No, we don't sell water. Right, so we do sell water, but how much we sell is none of your business."

At his farm, a few kilometres away, Mr Schoeman senior was indisposed. His wife, Mrs Agatha Schoeman, said: "We don't

drum. "I know the water men buy it and then make money out of their own people. They have no heart for each other. The local chief complained to the government that my husband was taking all his people's money. But President Mangoshe told him to leave my husband alone. We are helping the people." Mr Bertie Badman, general manager of the Bophuthatwana Water Corporation, said from his offices in Maiteng: "I will get someone there as soon as I can. I didn't know Mr Schoeman was selling water."

"The water story of that area is a tragedy. How can someone trade on tragedy?" Mr Badman said the system of selling water in the villages was illegal. "But we turn a blind eye, because we cannot find enough water for the people. The area is highly populated and the water supply is risky." Mr Badman said he was aware that the pumps were regularly sabotaged. It was assumed this was the work of people interested in keeping the villages dry. "We are planning to pump water to the area and set up taps no more than 1km apart, so that the farthest people will have to walk for water is half that distance."

NGK schemes bring relief to drought areas

Sec 18/10/83

By Hannes Ferguson

The Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk (NGK) has launched several broad-based economic development projects in the drought-stricken areas of Lebowa and Gazankulu after recent crisis talks between black and white churchmen.

At the talks it was agreed that the drought had brought the long-term socio-economic stagnation of the northern homelands to a head and that the response of the churches to the crisis had to go far beyond drought relief alone.

The Rev Marcus Maphoto, of Orighstad, told a Press conference last week that the rural black

population was dependent on outside jobs.

Unemployment, crop failure and cattle losses had to be faced by raising morale generally and developing initiative at grassroots level, he said.

EMERGENCY

A Church Emergency Aid Committee (CEA), chaired by Dr Henrie Moller, has set up a R100 000 fund of which R22 500 has been spent on 25 projects, now in various stages of completion.

At Maandagshoek, in eastern Lebowa, a kwashiorkor prevention campaign has been started.

The minister of the local black NGK congregation, the Rev Manna-tote Mankoe, said that all

children under five years of age would be regularly weighed by "care groups" and would be helped by a feeding scheme where necessary.

The superintendent of the local Boshoff Hospital, Dr P Roux, said the number of kwashiorkor patients had increased considerably since the drought started and preventive care was all-important. Kwashiorkor was the result of ignorance as much as of hardship.

At the old NGK mission station, Nkhensani near Giyani, Gazankulu, a save-your-cattle scheme has been initiated. The church bought cattle-feed and put up local feed lots where

farmers could feed some of their starving stock up to a weight where they could market them.

With the proceeds farmers could then buy feed to save the rest of their small herds, Dr Roux said.

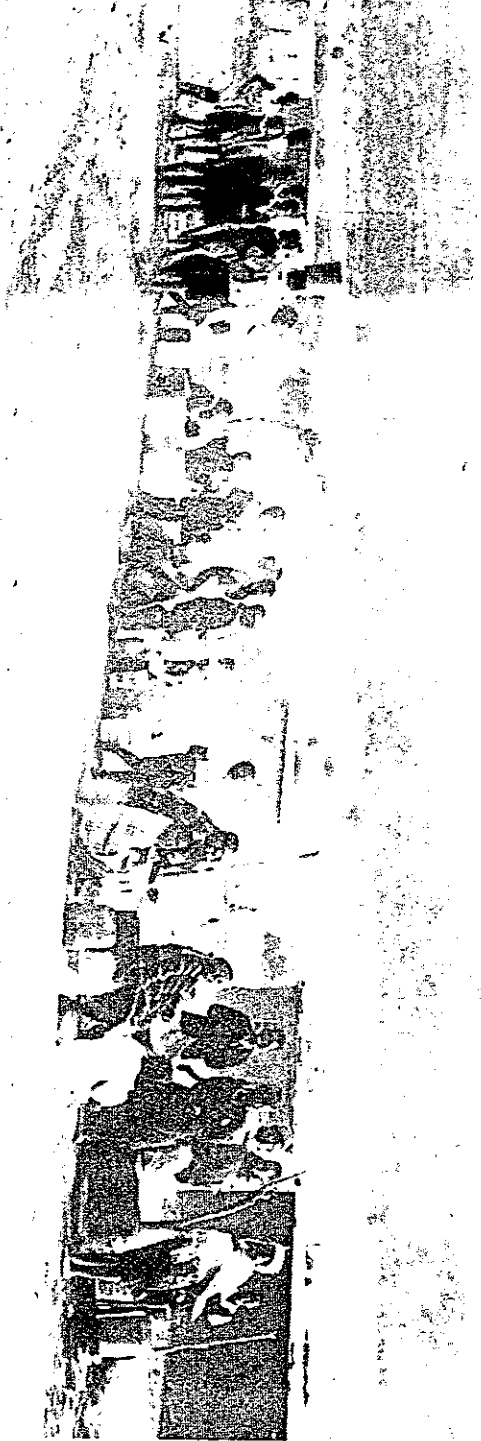
GOODWILL

The operation ran into cattle marketing snags but, with the goodwill of the Meat Board and the veterinary authorities, this would soon be solved.

"Also near Giyani, small committees of women have been helped to start vegetable gardens to provide their families with better food, as well as income to pay back church loans for fencing and pumps," Dr Roux added.

This type of community development was replacing old-style missionary work, said a CEA member, the Rev Faure Louw.

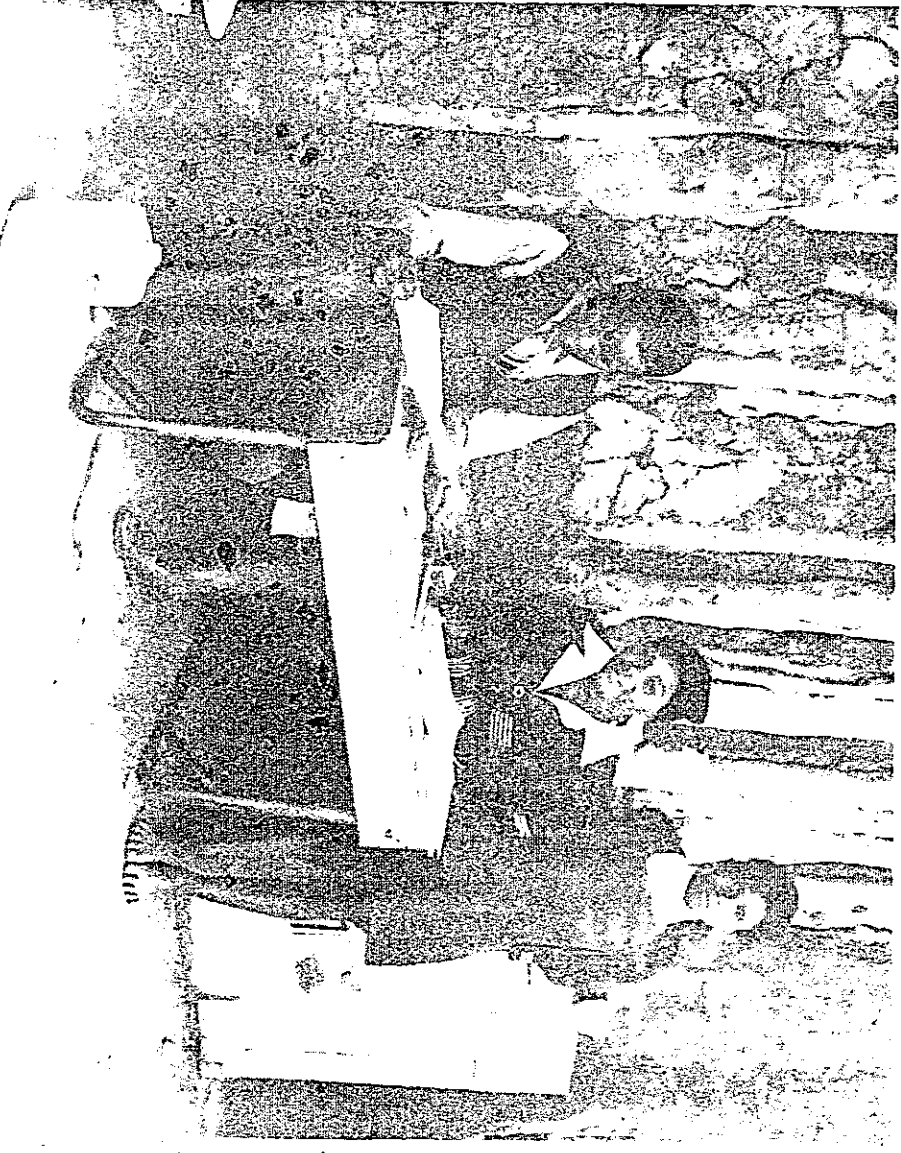
About 18 white ministers were helping with the various projects.



Queuing up at the only top for 6 000 people.



The face of kwashiorkor.



School principal's office, Gazankulu.

85 000 a month ^{Star} ^{(3) General} flood to SA cities ⁽²⁰⁰⁾ 17/10/83

Collapse of black subsistence agriculture through drought and over-population is pushing a tide of 85 000 people a month into South African cities.

It is an irreversible flood that in another two decades will have seen another 20 million blacks cram urban areas.

Homeland authorities report that two thirds of the cattle and most of the pasture have died during the drought of the past two years.

Much of the funds needed for development in the homelands have had to be channelled into relief work — just to help people survive.

Scores of thousands coming into cities each month are lodging with friends and relatives in places like Soweto and squatting in Katlehong.

The huge influx is worsening already severe unemployment and causing unbearable strain on housing and other municipal services, the 24 Hours team was told.

A Human Sciences Research Council (HRSC) report has warned that in 17 years the black population will be 37 million — 75 percent living in vast settlements around main cities.

The trend will continue despite Government efforts to bulldoze squatters and their shanty towns back into the distant veld.

Dr Flip Smit, who co-authored the HRSC report, said that, next to nuclear warfare and massive hunger, "urbanisation" was the third biggest threat facing not only South Africa but the world.

In most cases blacks were leaving behind a life of poverty and starvation on dying lands ruined by generations of over-use.

Dr Smit said by that by the year 2000 an extra seven million jobs had to be created for black migrants — which will cost the nation R166 000.



Mrs Nosecond Semela, from Lady Frere in the Transkei, feeds her child at the Anglican Church camp in Katlehong.

The partial failure of the Government's industrialisation initiatives in the homelands has increased pressure on metropolitan areas.

Row upon row of houses built for black workers and their families stand empty because of the Government's inability to attract sufficient industry to the area. Meanwhile, in crowded townships on the East Rand authorities are forcing away people who are adding to the critical housing shortages.

Dr David Webster, senior lecturer in social anthropology at the University of the Witwatersrand, said that in the past migrant males would go to the city for work. Now they were bringing their families.

● See Page 12, World section.

Huge exodus to cities

85 000 a month escaping rural hopelessness.

A Reus 18/10/83

3 Grand

Argus Correspondent JOHANNESBURG. — Collapse of black subsistence agriculture through drought and over-population is pushing 85 000 people a month into South African cities.

It is an irreversible flood that in another two decades will have seen another 20-million Africans cram South Africa's urban areas.

Devastation of agricultural land and the burgeoning population mean that a city existence is the only way out of the hopelessness of the rural poverty trap.

Homeland authorities report that two-thirds of their cattle herds and most of the pasture were lost in the drought of the past two years.

Much of the funds needed for development in the homelands had to be channelled into relief work to help people to survive.

Many thousands of people coming into the cities each month are lodging with friends and relatives in places such as Soweto and squating in camps in Katlehong.

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"People are moving from the rural areas into the cities and nothing can stop the process. It is historical, evolutionary and inevitable."

In most cases Africans were leaving behind a life of poverty and starvation on dying lands ruined by generations of over-use.

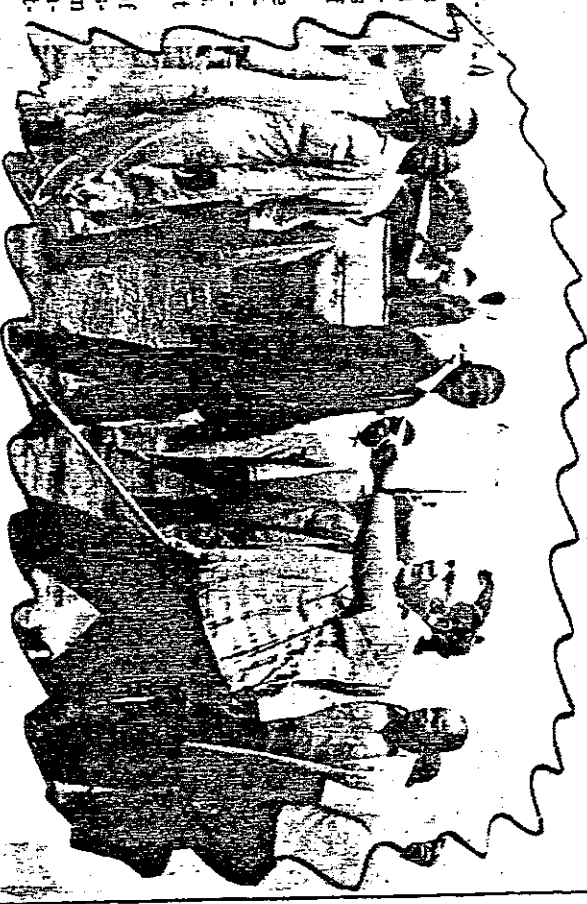
Dr Smit said by the year 2000 an extra seven-million jobs had to be created for black migrants. That would cost R166 000-million.

The partial failure of the Government's industrialisation initiatives in the homelands has increased pressure on metropolitan areas.

An example is Ekangala outside Bronkhorstpruit, which has been much heralded as a key industrial decentralisation zone.

Row after row of houses built for black workers and their families are empty because of the Government's inability to attract sufficient industry to the area.

But, 70km away in crowded townships on the East Rand, authorities are forcing away people who are adding to the critical housing shortages.



Flashback to the baton charge against "illegal" Katlehong squatters earlier this month. Mrs Sheena Duncan of Black Sash has warned that the flood of Africans from the rural areas was unstoppable and would inevitably lead to more violence, like the clashes at Katlehong.

Dr David Webster, senior lecturer in social anthropology at the University of the Witwatersrand, said in the past migrant males went to the city alone for work. Now they were taking their families.

More angry

If they did not get jobs they drifted into the "informal sector" of the economy — hawking, watch and shoe-repairing, gambling, running shebeens, stealing.

A programme of increased industrialisation and a major reconstruction of rural agriculture was a priority.

He also saw the introduction of welfare benefits as the only short-term solution to the migrants' misery.

"And if no action is taken people will become more angry, desperate and political.

"The people who are really suffering will become more apathetic and resign themselves to the hopelessness of their plight," Dr Webster said.

"It's an unstoppable flood which will inevitably lead to more violence, like the clashes we saw at Katlehong," said Mrs Sheena Duncan, national president of Black Sash.

"And Piet Koorndorff's Orderly Movement and Settlers' Bill could create more friction — not just among Africans but whites as well."

An indication of the size of the problem facing police alone is the number of arrests under the pass laws.

In 1980 there were 108 499 arrests. By 1982 the number had mushroomed to 206 022.

Mrs Duncan said a factor in the squatter crisis was the Government freeze on black home-building between 1968 and 1977.

Had it not been for the freeze there would have been more accommodation available and far less pressure by migrants on township dwellers.

Education) future and Ciskei staff,

SA food supplies 'are opening doors'

3 General JCM. 19/10/83

CAPE TOWN. — The strategic value of South Africa's agriculture was increasing and opening doors in countries which constantly criticised the Republic's policies, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, said last night.

Opening the annual congress of the South African Agricultural Union in Cape Town, Mr Wentzel said South Africa was the only country in Africa that was able to provide almost all of its own food requirements and was one of the few major exporters of food in the world.

"The farmer must be kept on the farm to ensure the country has enough food, and he must be able to farm profitably," Mr Wentzel said.

There were great challenges ahead because the high rate of inflation and the fluctuating climatic conditions, with their effect on production, had made farming a high risk industry in recent years.

Although the Government was doing, and would continue to do, everything possible to combat the drought conditions, farmers would also have to make sacrifices to absorb part of the problems, he said.

In this regard, capital expenditure would have to be curtailed and restricted to only the absolutely necessary, particularly in the current consolidation period of South African agriculture.

Mr Wentzel said a healthy agricultural industry and a happy and satisfied rural population were vitally important

for South Africa. No regional development plan could succeed without this.

An important pre-requisite for a healthy agricultural industry was the availability of local infrastructure, and the vital role the agricultural sector could play regarding decentralisation and regional development was obvious.

Returning to Government aid for farmers, Mr Wentzel said this was not intended to compensate for their losses, but to enable farmers to survive financially until their situations improved.

The drought had hit hard, but the one lesson it had taught should never be forgotten.

"We will have to look at our farming methods very closely. Our motto must be to farm with nature and not against it," Mr Wentzel said. — Sapa.

forged

used to
evidence

from Dr J Ossey and gave it to Hon. who forged prescriptions to obtain Vesperax tablets from a Foreshore pharmacy.

In mitigation, Mr Judo, for both men, asked the court not to send Hon — who had previous convictions and a suspended sentence of three years for a similar charge — to prison, but to give him a chance of rehabilitation.

A probation officer, Mr Blatt, suggested that Hon be sent to a rehabilitation centre because he lacked the motivation to rehabilitate himself.

The magistrate, Mr R Duran, said that it was clear from the probation officer's report that Hon was a drug addict.

Hon was warned that should he abscond from the centre the one-year suspended sentence would come into force.

Le Roux, fined and given a suspended sentence, was a first offender.

Mr D Loxton appeared for the state.

AGRICULTURE

Govt to issue White Paper

Staff Reporter

NEXT year the Government will declare its hand in agricultural policy by issuing a White Paper.

Opening the congress of the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) in Cape Town yesterday, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, said his White Paper would be no magic formula to cure all ills.

But it would provide the necessary guidance for all State departments in their approach to agricultural problems.

If agriculture became uneconomic, South Africa would no longer be able to feed its people, Mr Wentzel said.

INDISPENSIBLE

But agriculture was not only a food producer. It was South Africa's largest employer and a supplier of raw materials for many processing industries, as well as an earner of indispensable foreign exchange.

The White Paper would take the national physical development plan into full account.

SAAU denies sectional approach to agriculture

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19/10/83

36 word!

Staff Reporter

THE SA Agricultural Union has no sectional approach to agricultural policy, according to its president, Mr Jaap Wilkens.

In his presidential address to the SAAU congress in Cape Town yesterday he said the SAAU always tried to take a broad view and see agricultural policy within the context of the economy as a whole.

But the drought had taught that when agriculture went through a crisis, other sectors suffered as well.

DEBTS

Summer grain production had declined from 16-million tons in 1981 to four million tons this season. As a consequence carry-over debts to co-operatives rose from R270-million in 1982 to more than R900-million after the present season.

Develop rural areas, says report

Staff Reporter

THERE could be no regional development or economic decentralisation without the rehabilitation of country districts, according to a report released yesterday by the South African Agricultural Union.

Referring to the Good Hope plan announced by the Prime Minister in 1981, the report analyses the future demand for farm products and the ability of agriculture to act as a basis for economic growth in rural areas.

It recommends measures to encourage farmers to contribute to rural development through wage incentives, supply of electricity at economic rates, irrigation development and greater aid for housing and training of workers.

TRANSPORT

Services supplied by country towns should be improved, transport facilities updated, agricultural-processing industries moved to rural areas and use of irrigation potential.

The Government should give proper guidance to the local regional development associations and the regional advisory committees which promote the growth of the eight official development regions, the report concludes.

Mr Wilkens warned that South Africa was over-stressing the importance of gold in its economy. As a result, the exchange rate was making both agricultural and industrial exports uncompetitive.

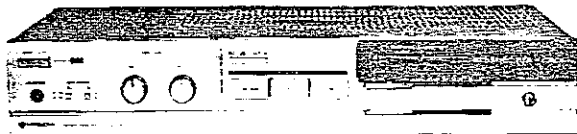
Not in the gold price, but in restarting the competitiveness of the export industries on which its recovery depended, lay the real solution, Mr Wilkens said.



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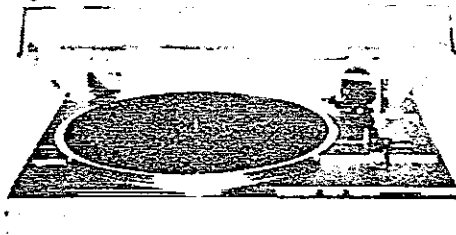
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Govt black urbanisation strategy is under review

By Anthony Dugan

The Government's black urbanisation strategy was being revised, the Department of Co-operation and Development's director general said this month.

Mr G van der Wall said: "We have had an urbanisation strategy for many years and it is continuously being updated. Right now we are busy revising that strategy countrywide."

His announcement, made shortly after taking over the post of director general, comes at a time when the urban influx of blacks has been aggravated by the drought and the recession.

Experts were reported, this week as saying about 20 million black people — more than a million a year — would have to be accommodated in urban areas (including new towns in the homelands) between now and 2000.

Mr van der Wall's comments are particularly pertinent in the light of what the Government's urbanisation adviser, Dr Filip Smit, said earlier.

He said black urbanisation was the inevitable result of population growth and economic development which could be channelled but not stopped. At the same time, few people realised the enormous socio-economic and political forces which black urbanisation would unleash.

Dr Smit, who is also vice-president of the Human Sciences Research Council, said the Government still had no clear strategy on black urbanisation.

Mr van der Wall said: "Black urbanisation cannot be seen in isolation. It is increasingly linked to the Government's decentralisation policy and will depend on that."

The Black Local Authorities Act, under which urban blacks will elect their first town and village councils next month, and growing home ownership among black families would give impetus to black self-sufficiency.

"The management of their own living conditions and the increasing provision of their own housing will be the keystone of black urbanisation in the fu-

24 HOURS
The team that wraps up the news

ture," Mr van der Wall said.

Although it might seem black housing still had to get off the ground, a lot of preparatory work had to be done. Many restrictions had been eliminated along the way. "Within the next year I can see a snowball effect as provision of housing on a large scale takes off."

Mr van der Wall said he could not comment on whether there had been a significant illegal influx of black people recently to urban areas, saying "I have no evidence on which to agree or disagree that this is happening."

However, there was no doubt the drought had hammered the homelands. "It has been a disaster for the animal production areas in the national states in particular."

"I think agriculture in those areas will recover in the long run. I don't say it will return to what it was though. The system of agriculture in the national states will undergo a change in the future, possibly gradually away from subsistence farming. Every incident like the drought precipitates that change."

Homelands in farming crisis

By Hannes Ferguson, Farming Correspondent

The governments of black states are fighting a losing battle against drought, recession and increasing urbanisation.

A conservative estimate puts the number of urbanised blacks by the turn of the century at 20 million, a three-fold increase over the present 7,5 million.

Little is being done to accommodate the trend and adding to the enormous problems in store is the present lack of development.

For a start, subsistence agriculture as it is known today — still the major support of rural families — will disappear within the next two decades.

"The system of agriculture in the national states will undergo a change in the future away from subsistence agriculture," said Mr G van der Wall, newly appointed Director-General of the Department of Co-operation and Development and former chief director of its agricultural advisory services.

Mr van der Wall said there was no evidence to confirm opinions that the basis of subsistence agriculture had been destroyed in some areas, forcing families to leave their kraals for the urban areas.

POPULATION PRESSURE

About two-thirds of the economically active population of the homelands work outside their borders, leaving their families in charge of their patches of tribal land. There are many indications that this trend towards relying on the urban areas will snowball.

The black states are in danger of becoming glorified townships — satellites of metropolitan areas.

The pressure of population against the borders of the white area with its industries is increasing. One result is a squatter problem — overt in the Western Cape, resulting in an administrative tug-of-war with political overtones, and less apparent but just as serious where kwaZulu or other homelands border industrial centres.

Concentrations of blacks, largely unemployed, live in unsatisfactory conditions around Durban. Near Newcastle a few blacks with freehold plots or tribal land rights make money by letting out building sites without services.

UNEMPLOYMENT MOUNTING

As the population outpaces the slow growth of the inflation-scarred economy of the white cities, unemployment mounts.

On the threatening long-term trend of rapid urbanisation, conflicting short-term trends are superimposed.

One is the recession. Employment is increasingly harder to come by. Retrenched workers stream back to their homelands, which still have to function as labour reservoirs.

Some can fall back on family and friendship ties which traditionally have to substitute for social security. Some

cannot, and fall into poverty.

Another factor is the drought. The recession drives people back to the homelands. Drought drives them in the opposite direction, fleeing parched plots and cattle skeletons, seeking whatever crumbs the hard-to-enter cities may offer.

On average, about 40 percent of cattle have died. Only isolated areas — southern kwaZulu, for instance — have had any crops at all.

The subsistence agriculture of the black states is at the centre of the stage. Gone are the days when the small patches worked by peasant women provided a living for most of their populations. During the present drought this supplementary income dried up.

Capital-starved black governments have made desperate efforts to rebuild rural communities, upgrading peasants into small commercial farmers. Agricultural development organisations — especially in Bophuthatswana and Gazankulu — have been reasonably successful.

In kwaZulu an emerging class of small sugar farmers has in some districts reduced urbanisation from about 70 to about 60 percent.

But farm reform has still hardly dented rural decay. Much-needed funds have had to be channelled into relief work.

In kwaZulu much of the administrative effort is concentrated on bringing drinking water to the rural areas. In this rush, rural development has largely stagnated.

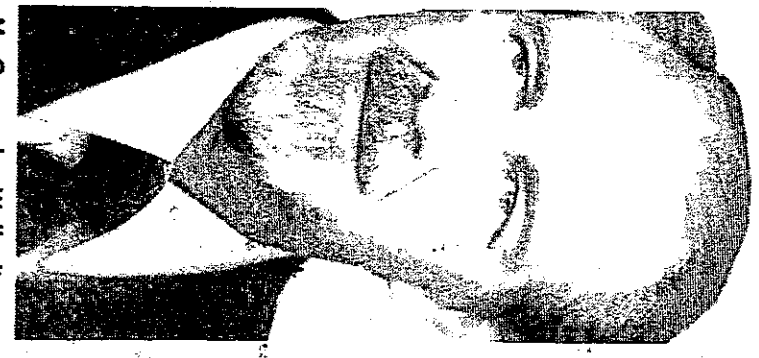
Meaningful industrial development has also not got off the ground. The much-vaunted showpiece of the new decentralisation policy, Ekangala, north of Bronkhorstspuit, has produced rows and rows of empty houses. Only a few Witwatersrand industries could be persuaded to re-establish in kwaNdebele.

Dr F J van Eden, manager-designate of the new Development Bank of Southern Africa, said that when the bank began functioning March, more capital for industrial expansion in the black states would be provided. He was hopeful that much of the irreversible urbanisation of blacks could be channelled into black cities to be built in the black states themselves. The decentralisation measures taken would still prove viable, he felt.

Other economists, while applauding the intentions of the Development Bank, fear it might prove too little, too late. There is a danger, they feel, that the State might try to pass the buck to private initiative. This, on such a vast scale, would plunge South Africa into social and economic disruption.

Professor Stef Coetzee, president of the recently formed Development Society of Southern Africa, stressed the urgency of the need for rural development.

There was no time to lose, the professor said.



Mr G van der Wall, director general of Co-operation and Development.



The drought that has continued for up to three years in some parts of the northern Transvaal homelands is devastating lands that have kept families in basic foods for years. This woman, from Matlhisbstravd in Lebowa, is one of the tens of thousands who are now getting virtually nothing from their lands.

Heartwarming stories of aid



Drought opens floodgates of compassion

Blumenthal
26/10/83

By Olga Horowitz

Perhaps South Africa's devastating drought may, after all, have achieved permanent good in stirring people's hearts to help their neighbours.

Recitals of positive help give this story a place in a "Sunnyside Up" series - as long as people determine that the floodgates of compassion should not dry up as have the waters of the country.

Some marvellous things have been happening. People "with hardly a cent to their name" have given what they can with heartbreaking apologies that they could not do better. Big corporations have given hundreds of thousands.

In one area alone - kwaZulu - water tankers have been driving day and night to keep people and stock alive.

The tankers have been covering a distance the equivalent of 15 times around the Earth's equator every month on their mercy mission. The people of Durban have contributed a quarter of a million rand in food parcels.

"We in Natal have had to cope with a desperate

drought situation since 1980 - long before the onslaught of the national drought. But we have had incredible help from concerned people, big and small, throughout KwaZulu" says Mrs Inca Mars, chairman of the Natal Region of Red Cross.

"There is some absolutely splendid work going on throughout the country" says Mrs Rosa Ferreira, secretary of the National Council of SA Red Cross.

"The most wonderful and heart-warming happening has been the response from the general public," says Mrs Ina Perlman, manager of Operation Hunger.

An added tribute comes from Father Geoff Davies of the Churches Hunger Relief Fund launched by Bishop Desmond Tutu: "I would like to emphasise the tremendous offering of many parishes - for example the little Anglican church in Turffontein which handed me R500 in cash; also the cheque for R3 500, signed with two African names, with a note "from a group of people who do not wish to be known."

The need is so desperate that all help is soaked up like raindrops by the parched earth.

Both Red Cross and Operation Hunger emphasise that even downpours of rain now will not ease the situation before April.

In many cases there is no seed, and in many the land is so devastated that it has been bled dry of all sustenance. Both the cattle and the humans are too weak to plough and often the people have sold their implements to buy food.

Here is just a glimpse of the heartwarming, sunny side of the picture.

All the employees of the Marley Tile group, white and black, have committed themselves for six months to help Operation Hunger.

The bosses have given R15 000 and the workers R15 000. At factory floor level the Garment Workers' Union collects weekly for Operation Hunger.

The Gillette Factory in Springs has agreed to sponsor feeding in two schools - one in Lebowa and the other in kwaZulu.

Two major milling groups, Tiger Oats and Premier, have each given the equivalent of R100 000 in mealie meal. The Robertsons group gave the equivalent of R150 000 in high protein food.

The OK Bazaars gave R100 000 worth of groceries and Checkers more than R250 000. Pick 'n Pay have launched a big promotion to raise money.

A woman sent her beautiful wedding ring. Children from schools all over the country are collecting money.

In Natal the Red Cross acknowledges the "massive" help of the public - R2-m in cash and tons of food such as pilchards, rice, soup.

The Sugar Association has done a tremendous job in providing boreholes. At Enseleine the Red Cross water development scheme has made safe water available for 10 000 people and has created an irrigation scheme for women's community gardens where 60 green acres are now under vegetables.

The heart of South Africa has been deeply touched say all the organisations.

But all add the same rider:

Help must be ongoing. Says Operation Hunger: "The drought has underlined the appalling norm in South Africa: 2,9-million children under 15 with active symptoms of first degree malnutrition and an increase in adult pellagra."

Howe
Waring
W

Mr King - card tower

A/B

Farmers warn on fertiliser

By SIMON WILLSON
Industrial Editor

IF THE Government granted the fertiliser industry's application for protective tariffs, the industry would regain its monopolistic hold on the market and the consumer would ultimately lose out, a farmers' representative body said yesterday.

Reacting to the abolition of price control on fertiliser and the phasing out of import controls, the National Association of Maize Producers' Organisations (Nampo) said it was not convinced that the industry would be sufficiently competitive.

Mr J N Viljoen, Nampo's deputy chairman, said maize farmers welcomed in principle any steps which made the fertiliser industry more market-related, especially since two official investigations had found specific malpractices to the detriment of the farmer and the public.

Import protection had placed the industry in a mo-

nopolistic position which enabled it to carry out these malpractices. The extent of tariff protection to be granted to the industry was a cause for concern.

"Early in 1982 the fertiliser industry applied for exceptionally high protective tariffs. Should these rates be allowed, the industry will find itself back in the same monopolistic situation.

"However, at that stage farmers will no longer have any protection against malpractices."

Nampo was not convinced that Sasol's entry into the fertiliser industry would create sufficient competition to assure realistic prices.

South African fertiliser prices were very much higher than those in the world market. SA farmers paid 47% more than the world price for their urea, despite the relative weakness of the rand against the dollar.

"Any recovery in the value of the rand will decrease the cost of imports."

3 General
27/10/83 ROM

End of control could mean a drop in real terms

Fertiliser price hopes

General Review 27/10/83

By SIMON WILLSON
Industrial Editor

FERTILISER prices may fall in real terms with the removal of price controls — a move announced yesterday by Dr Dawie de Villiers, the Minister of Industries.

Dr De Villiers said the Government had decided to abolish price control on fertiliser from January 1 and to phase out import controls.

The Board of Trade had almost completed its investigations into the restructuring of tariffs. Import controls would be phased out as soon as these tariffs were introduced.

The Government recognised that the industry had substantial surplus stocks and unused production capacity as a result of the drought.

Industry sources said last night prices would not necessarily move up as a result of decontrol and were more likely to ease in real terms, that is, excluding inflation.

In welcoming the abolition of price control and the decision to phase out import control, fertiliser representatives said prices were unlikely to rise in the short term because of the buyer's market that had existed for the past nine months.

Downward pressure on real prices could come from access to cheaper foreign nitrogen after import controls were phased out.

Mr Kobie Adriaanse, chairman of the Fertiliser Society, said the removal of controls was unlikely to have any direct impact on price until after the economic upswing had gathered pace and the summer rains had fallen.

"There has been a complete buyer's market in the last nine months or so, and the discounts available to farmers have been unprecedented in my experience."

"Removal of price control will have no dramatic effect on customers who are already benefiting from the intense competition in the industry."

The measures had been reasonable and fair and were not a source of concern to the industry.

The society's figures showed that national fertiliser use in January-September was 32% down on the figure for the same period last year.

Mr Louis Luyt, chairman of Triomf Fertilizer, said the removal of price control would give his company the opportunity to halt the trend of increasing production costs.

"Price control brought about a few superficial advantages, but also several deep-rooted disadvantages as, together with import control, it encouraged higher production costs due to more expensive raw materials."

The price of nitrogen under the existing system was alarmingly high, he said.

Nitrogen accounts for about 43% of the fertiliser price, and has become the largest single cost in its

manufacture.

SA-made nitrogen, produced mainly from coal, is not price-competitive with foreign nitrogen produced mainly from oil. But foreign nitrogen has been barred from competing on the domestic market by import controls.

Mr Luyt said: "The abolition of price control presents the opportunity to Triomf... to negotiate free world market prices for its nitrogen requirements."

"The spiral of increasing fertiliser production costs is thereby checked to the ultimate advantage of the farmer."

Mr Adriaanse said: "The price of fertiliser could even come down because of this new access to overseas nitrogen."

The exact savings to be made could only be calculated when the Government announced the tariffs it was granting the fertiliser industry, which applied for protection last year.

Drought: Food crisis worsens

Weekend Argus
Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The number of people needing emergency food relief in South Africa's drought-stricken areas has risen by more than 25 percent during the last month to 670 000.

Mrs Ina Perlman, national manager of Operation Hunger, said new appeals for relief were pouring in daily and placing intolerable strains on relief organisations' ability to cope.

Sustained

"We now need at least R200 000 a month to supply the basic foodstuffs necessary for these starving people," she said.

This level of relief would have to be sustained until at least April next year even if good rains fell within the coming weeks.

"But the most terrifying feature of the rural scene at this moment is the dramatic increase in adult and teenage pellagra dementia — mental deviation arising from a lack of proper food," said Mrs Perlman.

In the past this condition was virtually unknown as it was mainly among children that the effects of mass malnutrition were noticeable, she added.

Worst hit

The worst hit areas in the Transvaal are Lebowa and KwaNdebele where 180 000 and 63 000 people respectively are being fed on the minimum to keep malnutrition at bay.

Even in South Africa's wealthiest metropolitan area, the PWV,



The legacy of drought.

hunger relief has to be given to 20 000 people.

But in many ways the worst area was Ciskei, where 150 000 people were being fed. Resources had been so ravaged by drought and overcrowding that it would be years before the land could carry people again, Mrs Perlman added.

Dr M Mphahlele, a member of Lebowa's drought relief committee, said by next week there would be nothing left of the nearly R7-million drought aid given by the South African Government six months ago for job programmes and relief work.

Sympathetic

"We have repeatedly begged for more money because programmes involving thousands of people are now faced with collapse if no further funds are forthcoming," he said.

The Government was sympathetic but said

more money was just not available, he added.

World Vision of South Africa, a Christian action agency, is also involved in drought relief programmes throughout South Africa, and is spending between R100 000 and R150 000 a month on self-help projects for rural communities. It is also feeding thousands of starving people.

The aim of Operation Hunger's programme is to give families who have no resources about one third of the protein they need each week — as far as possible, this works out at two protein meals a week plus a daily supply of mealie meal, Mrs Perlman said.

But, she added, the demand was such that this ration was being cut in places to spread it even more thinly over the needy.

Operation Hunger's address is PO Box 97, Johannesburg 2000.

By Anthony Duigan

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Mrs Ina Perlman, national manager of Operation Hunger, said today new appeals for relief were pouring in daily and placing intolerable strains on the resources of relief organisations.

"We now need at least R200 000 a month to supply the basic foodstuffs necessary for these starving people," she added. This level of relief would have to be sustained until at least April next year even if good rains fell within the coming weeks.

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● Checkers, which launched a drought appeal campaign several months ago, has called for a "blitzweek" from Sunday to encourage customers to donate goods to the food banks which have been placed in every store.

Mrs Ina Perlman, national manager of Operation Hunger, helps unload part of a food donation with Mrs Gillian Pirow, a volunteer worker at St George's Church in Parktown, Johannesburg. Behind are (from l to r) Mr Sam Morat, Mr David Kosana and Mr Caspar Cele. Yesterday Federal Marine delivered half a railway container load of tinned fish to the church where it will be stored before being sent to the Northern Transvaal.

● Picture: Phillip Littleton.



Relief organisations under intolerable strain

Queue of hungry soars to 670 000

General Per 28/10/73

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Food for the starving villagers ... these boys help Mother Superior Cecelia to hand out sacks of maize to waiting mothers

Sanctuary of hope in village of death

tion surrounded by great purple
a trees nestles in the heart of
blaco.

he village it is a centre that inspires hope
rought-stricken wasteland they call their

Sunday Times reporter CHARMAIN NAIDOO and
Chief Photographer JAMES SOULLIER visited the
mission at Subiaco ...

2 000 12.5kg sacks of mealie
meal travels along the dusty
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At a given signal from the
Benedictan sister who runs
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maize.

Their smiling faces show
that they're pleased because



there will be food on the table
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Sister Josephine Walburga
is a large round lady with a
warm smile and a heart to
match.

She says she's not quite
sure what her job is - she's a
teacher, a nurse, a mother to
the young children in the re-
covery ward, sewing instruc-
tress, chief overlocker of the
garden that grows the pro-
duce they use in the hospital

Sometimes, Sister Jose-
phine is also psychiatrist and
analyst - giving aid where it
is most needed.

She says: "Since Operation
Hunger began providing us
with the food supplies we so
desperately needed to stave

of hunger and malnutrition, I
have noticed a marked im-
provement in the quality of
health of both the adults and
the children.

"A few months ago I was
desperate. The children were
dying like flies and there was
nothing I could do."

When the youngsters came
into Subiaco's recovery ward
their little bodies were swol-
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and nasty open sores on their
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Treatment began immedi-
ately and the ailing children
were fed with skim milk until
the swelling had gone down.

At this stage they get
critical and are often close to
death. That's when they get
put on a drip for about six to
10 days.

When they've passed this
critical phase they move on
to the cup stage where we
combine whole milk with
skim milk.

"Thereafter, they get so-
lids and have to learn how to
eat all over again so that they
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Vital

After-care is vital since
sending the child home might
mean a return of the dreaded
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physical appearance of
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"The parents have to be
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cial training session for
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weeks and when the child is
discharged, we ask that they
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"We try to encourage
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In all, 14 villages with 3 200
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Tiger Oats food trucks
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Mr Patrick McLaughlin,
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Praying

"First a nucleus of the
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A kind neighbourhood
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As Sister Josephine bustles
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"It is such a pleasure to see
the children grow from
strength to strength and to
have them back to normal
again. We are still praying
for rain."



Happiness is ... the schoolchildren lend-a helping hand in off-loading "our food truck"



An old lady collects her supplies which have to last her for the entire week

A few months ago I was desperate. The children were dying like flies and there was nothing I could do.

— SISTER JOSEPHINE WALBURGA



Food for the starving villagers ... these boys help Mother Superior Cecel

A sanctuary of village

A LITTLE mission station surrounded by great purple blossoming jacaranda trees nestles in the heart of Lebowa. Its name: Subiaco.

For the little people of the village it is a centre that inspires hope and a chance of life in the drought-stricken wasteland they call their home.

Before help arrived in the form of food supplies provided by Operation Hunger, for the hungry hordes of Subiaco death became as commonplace as the rumble in their bellies.

Between January and June this year, a child died every week after being admitted to Subiaco's recovery ward — the cause of death in each case, advanced malnutrition.

There was nothing that the people could do to keep death from claiming their young — even the adults were stricken. The village, like many others around South Africa, was dying from the drought.

Smiles

Subiaco had turned into a dust-bowl and the rocky ground yielded no crops and therefore no food for the starving masses who prayed each day for life-saving rain.

Then Operation Hunger — initially sponsored to the tune of R10 000 by Tiger Oats — moved in and began a feeding scheme that would put nutritious food into the bellies of the hungry.

From June till the Sunday Times visited the village this week, Subiaco's recovery ward has had no fatalities and those victims of a few months ago are well on their way to recovery.

The large truck bearing

Sunday Times reporter **CHARMAIN NAIDOO** and Chief Photographer **JAMES SOULLIER** visited the mission at Subiaco ...

2 000 12.5kg sacks of mealie meal travels along the dusty road from Pietersburg once every fortnight, and pulls up outside the school.

At a given signal from the Benedictine sister who runs the mission hospital the children leap out of their classroom seats and hurry to what they have termed "our food truck" and help to unload the precious bags of maize.

Their smiling faces show that they're pleased because



there will be food on the table that evening.

Sister Josephine Walburga is a large round lady with a warm smile and a heart to match.

She says she's not quite sure what her job is — she's a teacher, a nurse, a mother to the young children in the recovery ward, sewing instructor, chief overlooker of the garden that grows the produce they use in the hospital.

Sometimes, Sister Josephine is also psychiatrist and analyst — giving aid where it is most needed.

She says: "Since Operation Hunger began providing us with the food supplies we so desperately needed to save

of hunger and malnutrition, I have noticed a marked improvement in the quality of health of both the adults and the children.

"A few months ago I was desperate. The children were dying like flies and there was nothing I could do."

When the youngsters came into Subiaco's recovery ward their little bodies were swollen, with their skin peeling and nasty open sores on their limbs.

Treatment began immediately and the ailing children were fed with skim milk until the swelling had gone down.

"At this stage they get critical and are often close to death. That's when they get put on a drip for about six to 10 days.

"When they've passed this critical phase they move on to the cup stage where we combine whole milk with skim milk.

"Thereafter, they get solids and have to learn how to eat all over again so that they can build up their strength."

Vital

After-care is vital since sending the child home might mean a return of the dreaded kwashiorkor — which seriously stunts their growth. In some cases at the mission, eight year-olds have the physical appearance of three-year-olds.

"The parents have to be educated and we have a special training session for mothers once every two weeks and when the child is discharged, we ask that they return for regular checkups.

"We try to encourage children to go straight from the recovery ward to the pre-school on the premises so that we can follow up on their progress," Sister Josephine said.

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Mr Patrick McLaughlin, group public affairs manager for Tiger Oats, explained how they decided on a "distribution point" for the food.

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"First a nucleus of the famine area has to be identified — the place that is chosen should have medical facilities attached to it. This then becomes the focal point of the community as far as famine relief is concerned."

Mr McLaughlin stressed that the starving people had to be assured of a constant supply of food — "until they are able to get back on their feet again".

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Widespread rain brings some relief from drought

News 8/11/83

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JOHANNESBURG. — Heavy rains over many parts of South Africa since the weekend have brought some relief from the drought, but experts have warned that the crisis is far from over.

Rains have lashed many parts of the country over the past two days. Some rivers in Natal are flowing for the first time in years, several agricultural areas have been taken off the emergency list and mealie farmers in Natal and Transvaal are overjoyed.

Farm dams are overflowing and dam levels, while not increasing, remain constant. More rain is expected in the north-eastern parts of the country and Natal during the next few days.

Cloudburst

A cloudburst, preceded by a violent sandstorm, plunged parts of the northern Free State and the goldfields into darkness from noon yesterday. In some places more than 40mm of rain fell in 20 minutes.

The highest rainfall figure on the Witwatersrand last night was the 32mm recorded in Bryanston.

The most rain in the Transvaal fell in the Eastern Transvaal, Hall in the Ermelo and Camden districts caused damage.

Showers in Klerksdorp in the Western Transvaal were accompanied by a devastating hailstorm.

It was still raining on the Witwatersrand late last night.

Cape grazing areas

The rains in a wide area of the Cape have enabled 12 districts, listed as grazing distress areas, to be de-listed.

In the Utrecht district in Northern Natal, where the Blood and Black Mfolozi rivers flooded following a cloudburst, farm implements, cattle, sheep and poultry were washed away.

The rains are also helping to fill important dams, but the drought is not yet over, according to the Department of Environment Affairs.

Argus Correspondent

EL faces higher meat prices — farmers union

D. Disputel 8/11/83
(3) General

EAST LONDON — East London consumers could be faced with an increase in meat prices next year, if the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, does not adopt one of two solutions soon to be put to him by Border farmers.

Next year in March, East London's abattoir in Cambridge will close for a six month period and undergo a multi-million rand facelift to bring it into line with the requirements of the country's new meat hygiene regulations.

During this period, animals from East London will be railed to the Port Elizabeth abattoir for slaughter.

The carcasses will be railed back to East London, and then marketed.

Farmers are in line to pay for the transportation costs during this period, in addition to the normal abattoir and Meat Board levies they pay.

"Because of these ex-

tra railage costs the consumer is going to be badly hit next year," said Mr Bernie Jacobs, the deputy chairman of the East London Districts Farmers Union, which met local Meat Board and municipal officials yesterday to discuss the railage costs problem.

Mr Jacobs estimated that it would cost R20 to transport one large animal to Port Elizabeth, and R10 to bring back the carcass.

He said "It's not going to be a proposition" for stock farmers to slaughter during the six month period, if they have to bear these costs in addition to the present levies they pay.

Mr Jacobs gave an example of how a farmer paid R56,40 for the slaughter of a 166 kilogram ox. Broken down this amount was paid for:

● A standard abattoir co-operation levy of R21 for each ox. (Abattoirs are controlled by the abattoir corporation,

with its headquarters in Pretoria).

● A Meat Board levy of R10,22, to cover marketing costs. This figure varies according to the weight of an animal.

● Slaughter fees, feed costs at the abattoir, insurance, a special levy and agent's commission amounted to R25,18.

The deputy chairman said that if farmers have to pay R86,40 for the slaughter of an animal of this size when the local abattoir closed next year, consumers will be faced with a 5c per kilogram increase in the price of meat, which would make the East London market "unstable."

Mr Jacobs said the standard levy of R21 paid to the abattoir corporation for the slaughter of each ox built up a fund which was used to build and renovate abattoirs.

"The point we are trying to make is that we are paying for the abat-

toir repairs and yet we are still being called to pay the extra railage costs," said Mr Jacobs.

He said there were two solutions to the problem, which would prevent an increase in the price of meat next year. These solutions would be put to the Minister of Agriculture after a East London Districts Farmers Union meeting on November 15. The solutions are:

● That money from the Meat Board's stabilisation fund "made up from levies which farmers pay to the Meat Board" be used to pay for the railage costs during the six month period. Money from this fund is normally used to prevent the price of meat from fluctuating when the meat market is under pressure.

● Or that funds from the R21 abattoir corporation levy be used to pay the railage costs while the local abattoir is being renovated. — DDR

Stewarts & Lloyds

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earnings plunge 31%

By PATRICK McLOUGHLIN

JOHANNESBURG. — Stewarts & Lloyds, hit by the economic downturn and the drought, yesterday reported a 31 percent plunge in attributable earnings — from R17,996m to R12,458m — for the year to September 30.

Turnover managed a 4,3 percent improvement, from R480,561m to R501,041m. But income before interest and tax suffered from tighter margins, higher costs, and lower volumes throughout the group and the total retreated 14,6 percent to R23,169m (R27,114m).

The sag in earnings, which went from 78,9c a share to 54,3c, led to dividends being pared from 35c to 25c, while cover came down slightly to 2,2 times (2,3 times).

Share price

At the current share price of around 390c, the engineering conglomerate yields 6,4 percent which compares with the engineering sector's historic average of 5,1 percent.

The interest bill to a larger bite at R10,739m compared with

R10,179m previously and pre-taxed earnings were down 26,6 percent to R12,430m (R16,935m).

A hefty 74,2 percent fall in the tax bill, from R2,160m to R557 000, helped matters at the bottom line. The tax rate was lower at only 4,5 percent (12,8 percent) was mainly due to training and capital investment allowances, and the use of assessed losses from previous years.

A surplus of R1,444m (R3,406m) was made on the disposal of land and buildings, lease-hold property rights and unlisted investments.

The full year results follows the depressed interim figures when the group cut its interim dividend to 7,5c compared with 12,5c previously. This was after interim earnings a share of 13,2c against 32,5c.

At the time chairman Henri Kuiper said he expected a deterioration in economic conditions in the second half and doubted whether the company's traditional second half improvement would be as substantial as it had been in the past.

Slump

In the event, the second half seems to have held up fairly well with attributable earnings of R9,435m (R10,591m) compared with the slump in first half earnings to R3,023m (R7,405).

Directors, commenting on the full year figures, said that trading conditions remained depressed through the year in most business sectors, with low demand levels leading to unfavourable manufacturing volumes and increased competitive pressures. This caused reduced gross margins.

The commissioning problems of the stainless steel and hot forming hollow section mills continued into the current year. Although they have to a large extent been solved, these problems together with an overall lack of volume adversely affected results.

The group has performed some surgery on itself to maximize its current year perform-

ance in its operating areas — the agriculture, automotive, construction, energy and mining sectors — all of which are slack.

Reductions have also continued in the number of employees to 9 052 (9 529), indicating attempts at pushing up worker productivity.

Two companies which were not satisfactorily profitable were axed and managing director Percy Levick says there are "no dead ducks" in his group.

The group also apparently experienced something of an improvement in trading conditions in the last couple of months, but it is hard to say if this will continue.

Mr Levick says that with gold down, the drought unbroken and the economic downturn showing few signs of going away, the current year will not be easy for S & L.

Order books

Order books are generally low, as they have been for the past six months. Certain areas, such as the valve order books, are holding up well but the general picture remains bleak.

The group says the current year performance should not be worse than the latest results. Hopefully profits, and possibly dividends, will be maintained.

Farms awash as hail and floods batter Northern Tvl

15/11/83
By Dirk Nel and Clyde Johnson

Floods have hit the Roedtan area of the Northern Transvaal, with more than 160 mm of rain falling in less than two hours. Farms have been cut off, buildings flooded, many roads are impassable and farm dams are bursting their walls.

And in the Lowveld the Crocodile River has come down in flood, washing away two policemen who spent 5½ hours clinging to the branches of a half-submerged tree before being rescued by an Air Force helicopter early this morning.

At Roedtan, about 50 km south of Potgietersrus, many farms remained cut off by floods this morning after massive downpours and hailstorms hit the area yesterday. Shops and homes were flooded in the town.

There was substantial hail damage in the Na-boomspruit and Warmbaths districts and in the Springbok Flats, west of these two towns.

There was drama last night near Komatipoort when the Crocodile River flooded.

Cold and shocked, the two police constables who were swept downriver were rescued by an Air Force helicopter at 1.30 this morning as they clung to the branches of a submerged tree.

Swept off bridge

The District Commandant, Colonel Tommie Olivier, said Constables Dawie Pieterse and Johan Benade were on patrol duty when their vehicles stalled on a low-water bridge across the Crocodile River near the Mozambique border.

Seconds after Constable Benade got out of the vehicle to attempt to push it, the river came down in flood. He was swept from the bridge but managed to get to a nearby rock, to which he clung.

While Constable Pieterse was attempting to rescue him with a length of rope, he slipped and fell into the raging waters.

Both men were swept about 150 m downstream.

Police attempts to rescue them failed and it finally took the helicopter to hoist them from the river. Both are being treated for shock and multiple cuts and bruises.

Rain fell over a wide area of the Northern Transvaal region yesterday. The Lebowa Secretary of Agriculture, Mr Boet Fick, said the drought had been broken in most areas.

More than 40 mm of rain was recorded in the drought-stricken districts of Messina and Alldays.

At Bylsteel, north-west of Pietersburg, where it has not rained for 20 months, 20 mm was recorded. A spokesman for the local farmers' association said this district, which has been declared an emergency grazing area, needed more rain.

Good falls were also recorded in the catchment areas of the Fanie Botha and Albasini Dams.

Hail damage 'incredible'

More than 10 000 homes were badly damaged by huge hail stones which hit the East Rand two weeks ago, insurance assessors said.

"The damage was quite incredible," said Mr Michael Carey, a director of the loss adjusters, Alan Rich and Associates.

He said it was likely damage from the November 1 storm would prove to have affected more people than any other natural calamity in recent memory in South Africa.

More than 50 000 people had been affected by the damage. Each rain storm further damages furniture and personal effects making life uncomfortable and difficult for people who may have to wait weeks for new roofs and windows.

His firm hired a helicopter and took video films of the storm-damaged areas which included Springs, Delmas and Delmas.

By Russell Gault and Gavan O'Connor

Viewed in particular, the East Rand Administration Board townships of Delmas, Delmas and Bottling, next to Delmas.

Viewed by the 24 Hours team yesterday, the film showed row after row of houses and hostels with roofs pock-marked as if they had been under intense shell fire.

Mr Carey said the video showed "now appalling the damage really is". Insurers were doing everything possible to move men and materials into the area to repair the damage.

Initial estimates of damage have been put at R4 million. Mr Carey said that figure might be exceeded as full

reports of the storm were compiled.

Some of the worst hit buildings were hostels housing a total of 7 000 people.

Mr Carey said 500 000 metres of new asbestos roofing would be needed and countless tons of glass for windows.

He said preliminary estimates suggested that by the time repairs were finished there would be 5 000 tons of rubbish to be removed.

A major difficulty in getting repairs done had been the inability of local contractors to do the work. Builders from the Reef and Johannesburg had been called in to help and labour had been brought in from outlying areas.

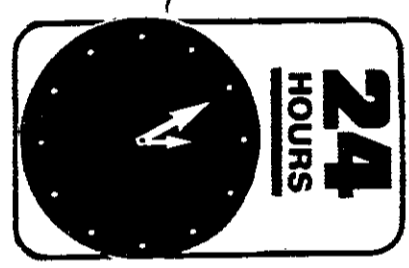
Mr Carey said although white areas were hard hit, living conditions were not affected to the degree suffered by blacks.

Many cars were damaged and inspectors reported queues of dented vehicles lined up at panel-beaters while owners awaited quick repair quotes. Central Statistics Service figures had indicated that only for four days in every 33 years were there violent storms like the November 1 deluge.

Questioned whether it would make more sense to replace asbestos roofs with corrugated iron, he said much more cash would be needed to strengthen homes for iron.

"Apart from that asbestos is cool in summer and has served well as a roofing material. Hallstones like these come along once in a long time," he said.

Handwritten: 17/11/83
 @General
 JPK



Signs of storms now more a curse than a blessing

About 75 percent of the asbestos-roofed houses in KwaThema township, Springs, were damaged by the recent hailstorm. Windows in almost all the houses were smashed.

As a result signs of rain now arouse concern among residents.

For rain has become more of a curse than a blessing — it means no sleep for the families living in houses whose roofs leak like sieves because of rain damage. Rain means a sleepless night and worries that furniture already damaged could be ruined in a downpour.

One resident, Mrs Amelia Tsoeneamako, said she had come to hate rain and what it meant. She said she had been buried by rubble during the 1953 Payville tornado and had needed extensive medical care as a result. And now she is receiving medical attention

A devastating hail storm hit the East Rand on November 1. The full extent of the damage is only now being realised. The loss assessors for the East Rand Administration Board took film from the air and gave The Star's 24 Hours team a breakdown of the damage.

for injuries from hailstones the size of eggs which smashed through the roof of her bedroom on to her legs.

Although the rain did not damage any of her furniture, Mrs Tsoeneamako is taking no chances. She has packed away all her valuables in a room which was less badly damaged.

Mr L. Letisie, a hostel resident, said many fellow hostel-dwellers had had to seek shelter in houses because some of the hostel rooms had become uninhabitable as a result of broken windows and a damaged roof.

Mr Joseph Ngyanya, a resident who had added extra rooms to his four-roomed house, built by the East Rand Administration Board, had a big-ger problem. He said he had been told by the township manager that his insurance would be responsible only for damage to

Springs pulling itself together — at a cost

By Erik Larsen, East Rand Bureau

Springs residents are still counting the toll after one of the most violent storms to hit the area.

Hundreds of cars were badly dented, wind-screens smashed, thousands of window panes broken, roof tiles destroyed and gardens ruined.

At one factory, Raleigh Cycles in Nutfield, about 6 000 panes of glass were smashed by hailstones. Each pane was about 3 m by 1 m in size.

Six cars were damaged beyond repair and hail also damaged stock and the factory roof.

The company's managing director, Mr Robin Drake, estimated damage at about R3 million. "It was one of the worst storms to hit

Springs. The hailstones were the size of tennis balls," he said.

Part of the roof at Clovis Motors in central Springs was ripped off and more than 150 panes of glass at the local magistrate's court were shattered.

It is estimated that the majority of houses in the Springs area had between 10 and 15 window panes smashed.

Glaziers have been working around the clock to replace the broken windows.

A spokesman for Plate Glass in Springs estimated that they still had about a month's work ahead of them. "I cannot remember having been so busy. We have received thousands of calls from local residents since the storm," he

said. He said that glaziers from Vereeniging and Johannesburg had had to be brought in to help.

"We have about 30 three-men teams of glaziers working from 6 am to 10 pm daily to try to catch up with the work."

Insurance companies have also had a busy two weeks assessing damage to cars and property. They are expected to pay out millions of rands in claims.

"It has been like a madhouse. Claims are still pouring in," said an AA Mutual spokesman. He said his company had received claims for about 500 hail-damaged vehicles. Pat Hynde Motors had put in a claim for 66 damaged vehicles.

The spokesman said several of the cars had been so badly damaged that they had had to be written off.

"Five claims inspectors have spent the past two weeks assessing damage to houses," he said. "Claims range from R7 000 to R9 000 for damage to windows and roofs to between R1 000 to R3 000 for damage to household goods such as carpets and furniture."

Residents have had to cover windows with plastic sheets to keep the rain out while they wait for glazing firms to replace windows.

One resident, Mr Johan Buys of Selcourt, had to take leave from work to protect his house from burglars as the hail had smashed his large french windows. His broken windows were replaced late last week.

3 General
5 Times
20/11/83

Twixt RAIN and RUIN

By SUE OLSWANG
and EUGENE ABRAHAMS

SOME farmers hit by the drought say they are still fighting for survival despite widespread rains.

But others report a slow improvement.

"We've had about 150mm of rain in the last few weeks and the situation here is much better," said Mr Michael van Huyssteen, whose dream turned into a nightmare of parched fields and empty dams in April this year.

Mr van Huyssteen said the ground on his "dream farm", Tweefontein, near Parys, was wet and his dams were "nearly" full.

"Everything is much better now," he said.

Mr Wyn Dedwith, who together with his father farms vast tracts of land north of Parys, estimated in April that the drought had cost them R250 000.

"Things are looking better, but I can't say yet how much the drought has cost us.

"We are planting, and have quite good hopes for next year, but we can't tell exactly what effect the drought had until those crops are reaped."

However, Mr Des Torr, who owns six farms in the King William's Town area, and who spent a fortune building 24 dams as a safe-



guard against drought, could not report a vast improvement.

His wife said: "There isn't much of an improvement here."

"Our stock dams are full but the levels of most of the other dams have not risen considerably.

"I unfortunately can't say much more because my husband doesn't tell me that much — he gets too depressed when he thinks about it."

A Komga farmer, Mr Gordon Renton, reported in June that the usually strong-flowing Kubusie River, which runs through his farm, had virtually dried up and only a few isolated pools of water were left.

This week he said the situation was improving "slowly".

"I estimate that it will take about two or three years to get my farm back to what it used to be."

Oom Gert van Rensburg, a sheep farmer in the Frankfort District, was surrounded by cattle and sheep facing starvation in July.

He says the situation has improved "slightly".

"All the natural grass on my land is dead and I still



have to buy feed for my animals.

"The drought has so far cost me R30 000 on feed, and things look bad for next year.

"We've had about 225mm of rain since October and the ground is wet but everything will depend on how much rain we receive during the next few months."

Mr Joel Kotze, public relations officer for the Transvaal Agricultural Union, said that the situation was "still critical".

"We have had rain over most parts of the country, but the public must not rejoice too early.

"Most farmers are planting now so we will only be able to gauge the drought's effect next year.

"We have been advising farmers to use discipline when planning for the next season because we don't know what is in store for us with regard to rain."

Mr Kotze said farmers in the Northwestern Transvaal, from behind the Soutpansberg to Messina and Phalaborwa, were hit worst and most had little feed left for their cattle.

But while areas in the Western and Southern Cape have been experiencing record rainfalls, places like Pofadder, Swartklippies and Agenhuis are still battling against the drought.

Drought in Africa tightens its grip

James Smith reports from Molimo Nthuse in Lesotho.

The woman strapped her baby to her back and balanced a cardboard box on her head.

The packets of oats, dried milk and vegetable oil from the monthly clinic -- labelled as US foreign aid -- would last about two weeks, she said.

Then she would help build roads, part of Lesotho's food-for-work programme, in return for two packets of corn meal and six cans of fish donated by other countries. That would carry her until she returned to the clinic again.

'Without this we would just die,' the woman said through a Sotho interpreter as she prepared for the day-long trek back to her mountain village. 'We have nothing. We don't even try now to plant anything. It's no use.'

A 'significant proportion' of 150 million people in 22 African countries are facing similar 'catastrophic' food shortages after two years of withering drought, says the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation in Rome.

In parts of southern and western Africa, human suffering is said to be at its worst since the 1973-74 famine below the Sahara desert, which killed several hundred thousand people.

The FAO is seeking an extra 700 000 tons of emergency food donations and 76 million dollars in other aid. The United States doubled its emergency pledge this month to 50 million dollars after the FAO said pledges amounted to just 25 per cent of the needs.

Grim

Statistics in Lesotho suggest how grim the situation is: production of maize, sorghum and other cereals is down from an annual average of 200 000 tons to 53 000 tons - a loss of close on R40 million. There have been up to 58 000 livestock deaths - a loss of about R12 million. Total direct losses in agricul-

In southern Mozambique, 'reliable reports suggest dozens have died per day' in recent weeks,' states the official news agency AIM.

Although recent rains have raised spirits in the country, the government has estimated the country would need 250 000 tons of grain before the harvest in April.

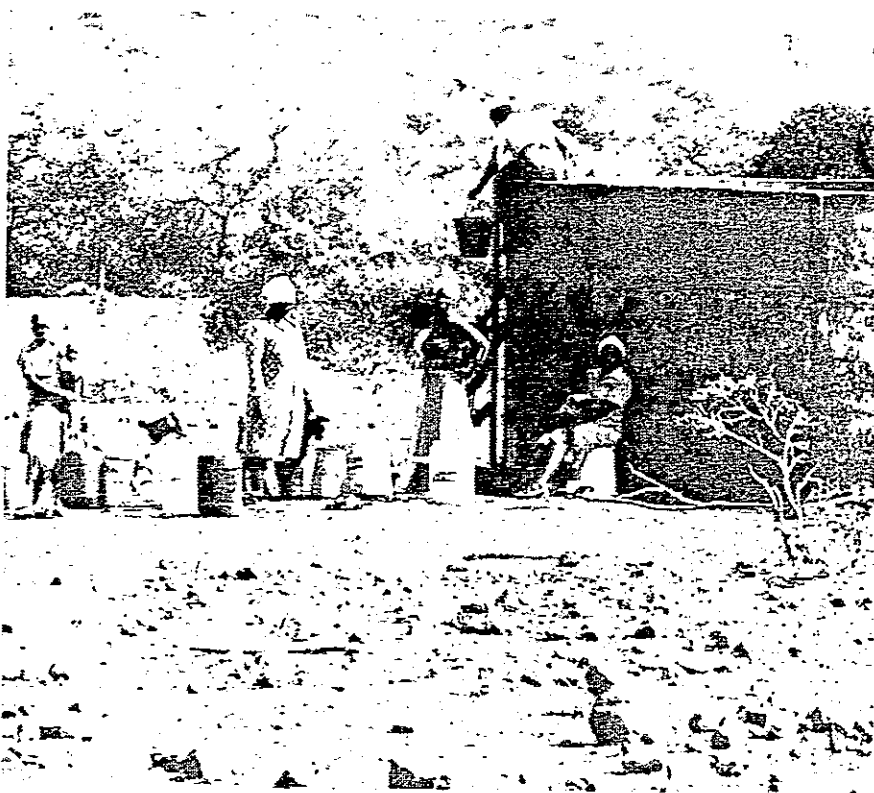
Zambia

In Zambia, hungry peasants have resorted to eating grass and roots - some of them poisonous. The *Times of Zambia* reported that seven people died last week after eating poisonous roots.

The Sahel

In West Africa, unusually harsh dry winds have fanned bush fires in tropical coastal countries. Ghana and the Ivory Coast say lack of rainfall and the resulting vulnerability to fires have sliced production of coffee, their principal export.

Rinderpest, a crip-



pling cattle disease, has afflicted drought-weakened herds in several countries. Cassava crops have suffered outbreaks of insect pests.

The semi-arid Sahelian countries of Chad, Niger, Mali, Upper Volta, Senegal, Gambia and Mauritania are ravaged by the rain shortfall.

The cereal deficit in the Sahel region this year is estimated at 1 million tons. Officials say, however, that the drought is less severe than that of the early 1970s, and that few deaths have been reported so far.

Lake Chad

'Lake Chad is at its lowest level in more than 150 years. UN environment programme director Mostafa Tolba told the General Assembly in New York last month: 'As a re-

sult of this drought, lake and river water has been severely depleted, animal and plant life destroyed.'

Because of drought, civil unrest and other problems affecting 34 countries, Tolba said, 'Projected famine is likely to be the worst ever in these countries, with millions of people affected.'

Corruption

Diplomats and aid workers say the difficulties are compounded in some countries by inefficiency and corruption in the distribution of emergency aid.

They say Lesotho is relatively free of these problems, encouraging donor agencies to help. Further, the government opposes handouts to villagers, fearing that they will become dependent on aid, and prefers that

they clear fields or build roads in return for food.

Lesotho has not yet hit bottom, but conditions are worsening.

At the Mophatos Mantsase mission near Mafiteng, the Rev Patrick Maekane said the drought-related diseases of kwashiorkor (protein deficiency), gastro-enteritis and tuberculosis have risen among the 400 children who attend the mission's monthly clinic.

His assistant, Adelaide Nkeli, said: 'Dozens of children have kwashiorkor. Half of them are hopeless cases.'

Chief Masuphe Seiso, brother of King Moshoeshoe II, said, 'Now we are still able to share the little we have. But when even that runs out, what will we do then?' (Sapa-AP)

close on R40 million. There have been up to 58 000 livestock deaths - a loss of about R12 million. Total direct losses in agriculture are about 30 percent of the gross domestic product.

More than half of Lesotho's 1,2 million people are considered in need of emergency food aid because of drought. The country is seeking 22 000 tons of food supplies from overseas donors to survive until the next harvest in April and May.

The country attributed 100 deaths to the drought in a report six months ago.

Elsewhere across the continent:

South Africa, the breadbasket of the southern region (which includes Lesotho), produced about 4 million tons of maize this year, less than half the normal output, forcing the country to import for the first time in years.

Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe, the government says half a million head of cattle will die from lack of grazing and water, a figure similar to that predicted in neighbouring Botswana.

Zimbabwe is in danger of becoming a net food importer for the first time, and some 400 000 families will not grow enough to feed themselves. The maize crop is down from the bumper 3 million tons in 1980 to 600 000 tons.

'The position in the (African) communal lands is catastrophic,' said Eddie Cross, head of the meat slaughtering commission. 'I don't think that's too harsh a word.'

Mozambique

Mozambique and Angola, both former Portuguese colonies, are contending with guerilla movements that have compounded the drought problems. Food shipments to the needy often are delayed or unable to get through dangerous areas, increasing the hardships of the rural areas.

Pretoria Correspondent
Hail, floods and wind storms have caused millions of rands of crop damage on South African farms since the rainy season started towards the end of October.

More than R9 million would probably have to be paid out in hail damage claims by Sentraoes, a short-term insurance organisation which says it handles at least 80 per cent of the country's crop insurance.

This amount was twice what was paid out at the corresponding date during any of the four preceding seasons, Sentraoes general manager Mr Lorenz Schutte said.

And the eventual amount to be paid out during the current season could be expected to be much higher as the real hail season was still to come, he said.

Sentraoes paid out R40 million on hail damage claims during the previous season.

The organisation paid out R106 million on claims for all kinds of damage to crops and suffered a loss of R4 million during the season.

Crops worth millions lost to recent hail

Mr Schutte said most claims received since the beginning of November this year concerned hail damage to maize, wheat, grain sorghum, tobacco and a variety of vegetables.

They came mainly from the districts of Bethal, Ermelo and Lichtenburg in the Transvaal, eight Free State districts and the Hartswater area in the Northern Cape.

The actual damage suffered by farmers was much bigger than insurance claims indicated as crops were being insured only after they became visible on the lands, said Dr Kit le Clus, chief of

research and development at the National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo).

Maize farmers over large areas suffered losses because grains of sand driven by windstorms cut down the tiny young maize plants at ground level.

At other places maize failed to sprout after heavy hailstorms and flooding.

Dr le Clus said it cost a farmer R150 a hectare to plant maize and some farmers were now replanting for the third time this season.

In Pretoria Mr Gert Schoonbee, chairman of

the Cotton Board, said cotton farmers had also suffered losses as a result of hail and flooding on the Springbok Flats, in northern Natal and at Vaalharts.

He appealed to farmers to plant again immediately.

"There is still time and there is also sufficient seed of the new cotton cultivars," he said.

The bigger the new cotton harvest, the better payments to producers would be, Mr Schoonbee said.

Apart from crop damage farmers also seem to have suffered considerable storm damage to buildings and equipment since the rainy season started.

Mr Pierre Maritz, general manager of the insurance co-operative Sentraoes, said his organisation would probably have to pay out about R1 million in regard to claims of this nature received from farmers so far this season.

He agreed that hail damage since the beginning of the rainy season could be regarded as extraordinary.

Alldays set to become

hub of NTVI

April is set to become the boom-time date for a large portion of the far Northern Transvaal.

That's when electricity arrives in Alldays, the miniscule dorp in the middle of South Africa's new frontier.

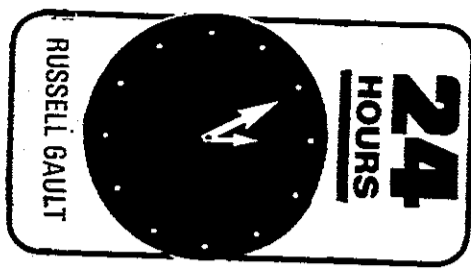
And when it comes life will change for everyone fighting to make a living out of the harshness of this arid land where temperatures this month will hover around 49 deg C in the shade.

A master plan for the redevelopment of Alldays into the most important centre of the north is close to completion.

By April, with the arrival of Escorn, real work on the new Alldays will start.

New factories, mines and small businesses are among the development projects.

An engineering firm is also planned — one of the most desperately needed



services in the region which will become the hub of the area between Messina in the east and Ellisras in the west.

Alldays is 160 km from Messina, 250 km from Ellisras and 170 km from Pietersburg.

Farmers now have to travel hundreds of kilometres to Pietersburg for repairs to vehicles and

machinery.

Electricity will enable new water and sewerage facilities to be developed, exploitation of underground water reserves and the creation of a town with an industrial base.

"It is going to be a new era for the whole region," said the man who helped nurture the project, local farmer Mr Ross Thom.

"We have Government and private enterprise money committed. As soon as electricity arrives the plan will take off."

With the Alldays development, the construction of new tarred highways will go ahead with new incentives, giving frontier inhabitants faster and more pleasant movement instead of corrugated roads and their swirling dust trails.

Shopping and education facilities will be dramatically improved, of-

fering some relief for wives particularly.

Schooling is a major worry for couples who have difficulty in getting places for their youngsters in any school north of Pretoria.

All children from the age of six have to be sent to boarding establishments and with deteriorating education standards in Zimbabwe many Zimbabweans are sending their children south of the border to Messina and Pietersburg.

It is envisaged that Alldays will become a significant point for boarding schools within two years.

Mr Thom said another bugbear of cattle and grain farmers was the cost of transport to the big markets of Johannesburg and Pretoria.

"We want silos for storage and to enable bulk haulage from farms and we want a freezer for

Farmers hunt for game profits

Thousands of kilometres of 2 m-high fencing is going up in the Northern Transvaal's bush.

It heralds the emergence of an industry many property owners hope will produce big cash returns — game safaris and game production for meat.

Farmers said the difficulties of cattle farming in the far north meant many had to diversify if they wanted to stay on the land.

A farmer with 2 000 ha who kept cattle and game could charge shooters up to R70 a day as well charging for the animals shot.

On bigger properties, millions of rands have been spent on facilities for shooters and on fencing.

A big game equipment business owner, Mr "Lui" van Tonder, of Pietersburg's Paradise Safaris and Game Exporters, said hunting was growing into an exciting industry for the region.

"There's game of every description in the border areas. With proper management and control there need not be a shortage of animals."

He said he knew of property owners who had spent R1,5 million

on farm improvements to cater for hunters.

Oversas brochures list 14 hunting spots covering 100 000 ha near the Limpopo River bordering Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

Rates for each hunter range from R100 to more than R400 a day. Specially arranged group safaris range from R25 000 to R40 000.

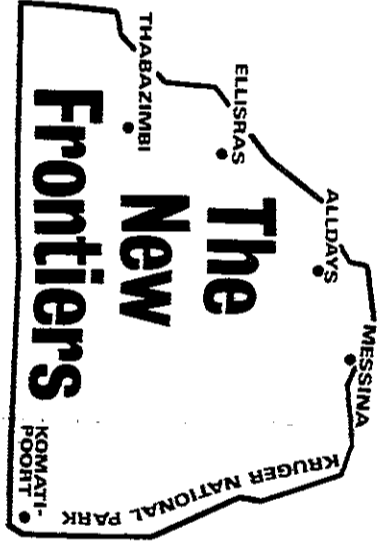
Rates include five-star accommodation, all meals, skimmers, trackers, special bush vehicles, cold room facilities for venison, trophy preparation room and the services of "professional white hunters".

Accommodation charges can be just the start.

One game property advertises these charges: kudu R400 each; impala R70; wildebeest R300; baboon R20; zebra R400; red hartebeest R450; eland R700; waterbuck R700; nyala R575; tsessebe R600; bushbuck R250; buffalo R1 500; white rhino R6 000; leopard (if found) R1 200.

Prices vary at other game farms but overseas hunters would not be disappointed by the variety of animals available.

One property even advertises jackals "free of charge".

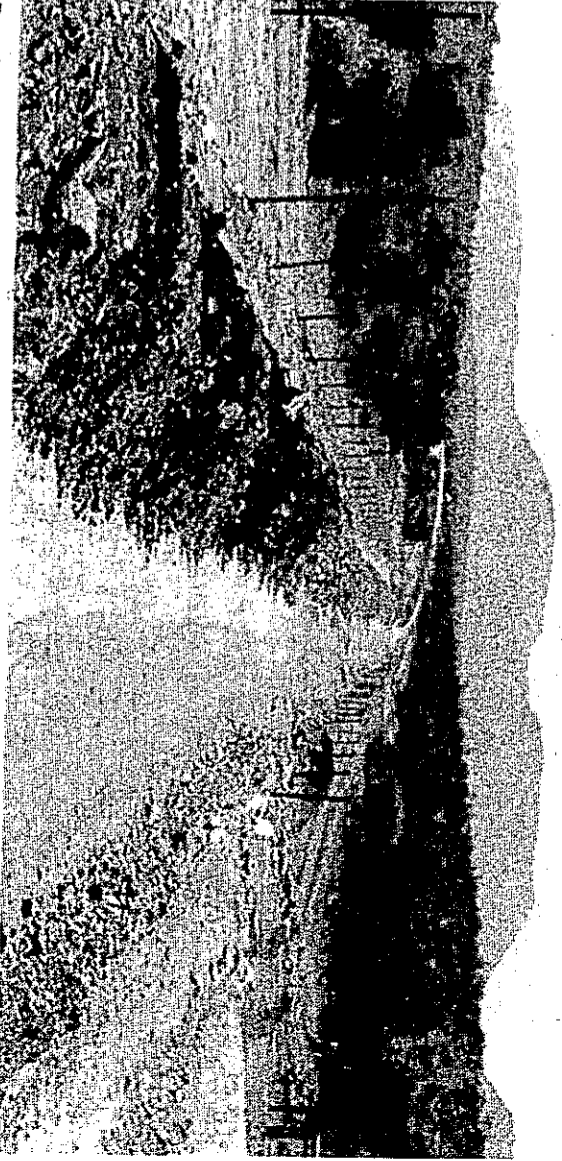


Flight from the farm to the city lights has been reversed — on South Africa's north and eastern borders at least. One of the new pioneers says: "I see this territory as a boom place, a new frontier in South Africa's history". The 24 Hours Team visited South Africa's border country: the east, the north and the west. Only in the west, on the empty Botswana boundary, is the country still being depopulated. But even in the west, the "Weekend Bushvelders" are moving in. A new world is growing on the new frontier country. Terrorism is the least of its worries. The issues are water, roads, electricity. Here is the first of a series of four reports.

TOMORROW: We look at the "Weekend Bushvelders" moving into the north-west.

"Then we will need a rail link which, with the mining projects in operation, will be a necessity."

Mr Thom added: "I see this territory as a boom place, a new frontier in South Africa's history."



Running over the northern bushveld is this new road which will soon provide an uninterrupted sealed link across the entire northern border of

South Africa. This is the final section to be constructed between Alldays and Ellisras.

1. Enter at the top of the block
2. Blue or black answers acceptable. Red underlining which penalizes
3. Names not to be used (e.g. grade, examination)

Any dishonesty will be reported to the relevant authorities.
Made in South Africa

S. General
1/12/1983

General Sowetan 28/11/83

WHEN you drive into Driefontein, on the outskirts of Ladysmith, there is not much to see beyond a collection of mud huts, a store and a small agricultural project.

This tiny community, with its tractors, ploughs and simple earthbrick buildings, stands like an oasis of effort in a landscape of apathy. But its critics say it is a waste of time and money.

For more than 17 years, Father Makepeace Nomvete (60), a Methodist priest, has been working for the people of Driefontein. He started the Dalisu development project 10 years ago but his critics say he has precious little to show for it.

During that time it has swallowed an estimated R150 000 or more in aid from concerned overseas church bodies, mainly a German group called Bread for the World, via the South African Council of Churches.

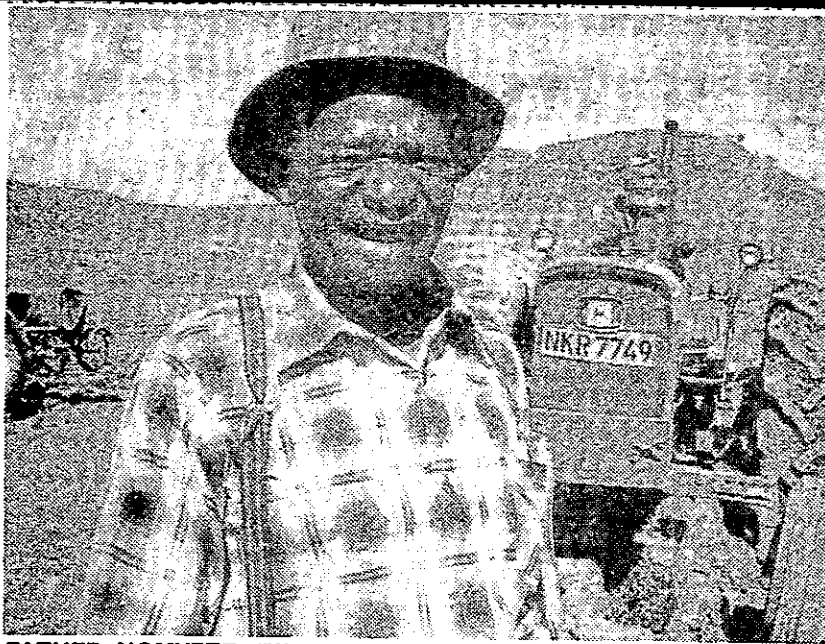
Critics point to the small clutch of earthbrick buildings and the tractors used to plough land for mealies and say it is not much to show for the money.

But Mr Patrick Msimang, a third generation Driefontein resident and a member of Dalisu's 15-man committee, says simply: "Without Dalisu, this place would be a desert."

Dalisu is a Zulu word which means "trying to find a way out."

When you hear Makepeace Nomvete describe the history of the area, you understand why finding a way out was necessary.

"We are a grey area. This land was bought originally by the first African Christian converts," says the tough, stubborn man in khaki hat, check shirt and



FATHER NOMVETE: "We are growing food for women who have no husbands."

Help project under attack

Own Correspondent

braces.

His wife, Ruth, a nursing sister who trained at Durban's King Edward Hospital in the 1940s, wears a crisp white uniform which sees practical use every day.

We sit in their cool earthbrick office. On the dusty bookshelves, novels by Sir Walter Scott in tattered covers jostle with church records.

"For more than 50 years this community of landlords and tenants has been under threat of removal," Nomvete says. "We are surrounded by white farmers and the development of the area was stunted. It has been neglected by its own people, who work in the towns and come back for holidays at Christmas."

Father Nomvete re-

members coming to Driefontein as a priest from Harrismith in 1967 because the local church had been blown down and needed rebuilding.

His wife saw a different priority, because an estimated 550 of the 600 children at the local school showed the signs of pellagra.

It was the time of the removals at places like Limehill. "We felt we were in a special category because people owned land here," Nomvete said. "This land was a Christian heritage. We tried to help people develop it."

Development, however, was apparently not what the Government had in mind.

A plea for a tuberculosis clinic was turned down. Visits by security policemen followed and, say the Nomvetes, still continue.

Father Nomvete

thinks remarks he made about the land belonging to the local community were reported to the police and were seen as subversive.

"I saw the rebuilding of the church as a symbol of the people's right to stay here," he said. "It would be a sign of our not wanting to go."

"The Methodist Church thought we were doing the wrong thing. But we took the risk. It is now many years later and the church is still standing."

"In those days there was a funeral almost every day. People were dying from TB and malnutrition. The authorities weren't interested in the problems of the area. So, in 1968, we started a clinic and a feeding scheme."

The work of the clinic has mostly been made redundant now by the building of a Government clinic two years ago. But Patrick Msimang says people still walk up to 10km to come to it. In addition, a kombi has been turned into a mobile clinic which Ruth Nomvete takes to outlying areas on a regular basis each week.

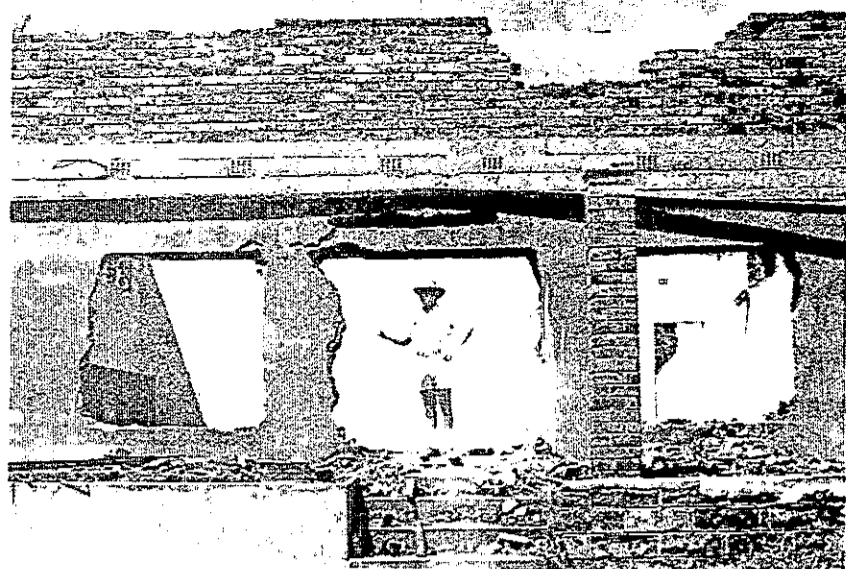
Dalisu feeds 600 children five days a week. It is only soup and bread and precious cents are collected as donations to keep the scheme going, but for many families it is the only real meal of the day.

"From there we decided the basic thing was to help people grow their own food," Father Nomvete said. "The whole approach of Dalisu is that people must make use of what they have, even if that is very little."

Govt urged to revise incentive programme



Flight from the farm to the city lights has been reversed — on South Africa's north and eastern borders at least. One of the new pioneers says: "I see this territory as a boom place, a new frontier in South Africa's history". The 24 Hours Team visited South Africa's border country: the east, the north and the west. Only in the west, on the empty Botswana boundary, is the country still being depopulated. But even in the west, the "Weekend Bushvelders" are moving in. Terrorism is the least of its worries. The issues are water, roads, electricity. Here is the second of our series of four reports.
TOMORROW: New frontiers in the E Tvl.



Farmer Frikkie van Staden framed in what was the main entrance into the general store at Marongkop, about 50 km outside Ellisras, abandoned in the exodus that started from the north-west borders several years ago.

All along the Limpopo on the north-west border, and inside the deep strip as far as Thabazimbi and Ellisras, "the Weekend Bushvelders" are upsetting the slouch-hatted men who are trying to farm in the area.

The locals believe that Government incentive packages to halt the exodus of old-timers and bring in a new generation of farmers will end in failure unless there are dramatic revisions.

"Most of the weekenders are great guys — lawyers and doctors and architects, mainly from Johannesburg and Pretoria," says Gawie Jacobs, a 25-year-old farmer with a 5 000 ha stretch of cattle and irrigation farmland on the banks of the Limpopo 14km south of Stockpoort.

"Once a week or once a month, they drive in on Fridays, outspan for a couple of days, and by Monday morning they are back in their offices.

velopment to make farming economically viable. We want electric power supplies, new roads, more schools, shopping centres, dams to keep the Limpopo flowing.

"We don't want government subsidies. The best incentive to persuade the younger generation to stay is the chance of higher living standards — and that starts with vast improvements to the whole infrastructure.

"I've asked Escom about electric power supplies to my farm. They want R1 200 a month just to connect the lines — the fee before I have even switched on a light. Where does that sort of money come from?"

"And without such simple services, how can we use new technology and achieve the better productivity that's essential if we hope to compete in markets for our cattle and produce that are 350km away?"

"We need the Weekend Bushvelders to support us in demanding better infrastructure. Most of them are just not interested.

"And the weekenders have compounded the economic problems by pushing land prices sky-high"

Concern about the need for better infrastructure is shared by Mr Willie Lewies, chairman of the District Agricultural Union.

"We want Escom to find ways of connecting more supply lines at reasonable cost, better roads, more schools, new water schemes for irrigation farms, perhaps rail subsidies to bring us to par in competition at the market place.

"Happily the government sounds highly co-operative."



Mr Pieter Strydom, estate agent — most farmers have moved out because of economics.



Willie Lewies, chairman of the District Agricultural Union, supports the new rules that insist that farm buyers stay resident for at least 300 days a year,

Farmers take a financial whacking from weekenders

Mr Pieter Strydom, an estate agent at Thabazimbi, unrolled a map of the north-west border and ran a finger across to Derdepoort, along the Limpopo beyond Stockpoort and down to Ellisras.

In the past few years, he said, no fewer than 30 percent of the 600 farms

in the border strip had been sold — most of them to what many old-timers call the Weekend Bushvelders.

In the process, average prices of cattle farmland had soared from around R60 to R300 or even R350 a hectare.

It is the dramatic increase in land prices

which is at the root of a growing resentment peppered with accusations that the weekenders — most of them prosperous businessmen from Johannesburg and Pretoria — have created a stumbling block to Government schemes to halt and reverse the exodus of farm owners.

"It's really unfair of farmers to blame them for the depopulation problems," Mr Strydom said.

"Of course, scores of farmers have packed up, but they have not been pushed out. Most of them have moved out because of economics.

"Several of the farms were too small to be economically viable any longer or else the farmers didn't have the capital to get them into shape.

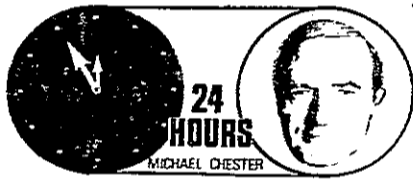
"Many of the newcomers should be welcomed with open arms. They have built new fences, restocked with better grades of cattle and created modern farms. They are by no means all turning to game ranches intended to impress visitors.

"They may be resented by one set of farmers. But about 15 percent of the remaining farmers looking for a buyer hope for a bid too high to be resisted."

Ellisras attorney and District Development Committee member Mr Gys Vlok also defends the weekenders.

"They are making an enormous contribution to the development of the area, bringing in sound modern business methods to make farming profitable again," he said.

"There's a lot of confused thinking about our problems here. If you count the number of existing farms and match the total with the number of farm owners, it's obvious the district is overpopulated — not underpopulated.



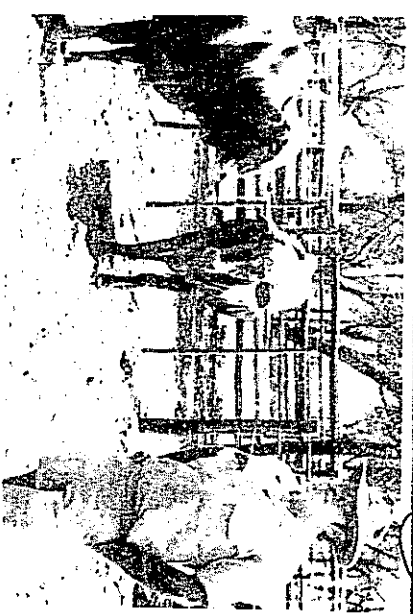
"Normally they buy a chunk of bushveld — sometimes paying R1 million or more — to turn it into a game farm with a few kudu and impala, and find it good for the ego to impress people with invitations to safari weekends.

"The problem is that they usually want only to own a piece of raw bushveld — and keep it raw as a patch of what they boast about as the real Africa.

"We, on the other hand, want de-

"The emphasis should not be on the number of farmers along the border; it should be on what makes an economic farm unit."
"Recent studies have shown that a cattle farm needs to be a minimum of 3 000 ha to be a viable unit. And there is the rub."
"Dozens of farms are only a fraction of that. They need to be consolidated. If the newcomers have the capital and business talent to make farming a viable proposition, they should be given a chance to do so."
"Prices have gone up — but what's wrong with that? We are trying to encourage free enterprise. The prices rise with supply and demand."
Here Mr Gawie Jacobs, a young farmer from near Stockpoort, springs back. "I like many other farmers around here, I know about farming. And I know about economic units, which makes me want to expand. But how can I possibly afford the present land prices being demanded? A lot of us are in the same boat — and it seems to us that the Government is looking for solutions in all the wrong directions."

3) General Steyn 5/12/85



Farmer Frikkie van Staden, 50 km outside Ellisras, shows two of his prize-winning stud cattle. "It's a hard life for farmers in the bushveld", he says. "But it gets into your bones and finally there's nowhere to touch it".



A jubilee Govie Jacobs stands on the banks of the Limpopo while the river flows at its headiest for over 12 years following heavy rains around Stockport and across the border in Botswana. Only a week earlier the river had been parched.

Bushveld renewal stuck in the sand

By Haunee Ferguson, Farming Correspondent

Big changes are coming to the Bushveld as a Government task force grapples with the problems which have kept the region in the doldrums for many years.

Pretoria's interest could be the most significant development in its history. The aim is to get more people into the border areas and establish a communications, farm and business infrastructure.

The task force will deal with farming and infrastructure problems separately, but stumbling blocks still have to be removed — namely the provision of power at economical rates, and the slashing of cattle marketing and railway costs.

created since the 1960s. Many deserted farms were not large enough to be farmed economically.

The State departments providing the physical and social infrastructure the SA Transport Services, Eskom, the Post Office, Water Affairs, Health and Education — were willing to help, but brought policy problems of their own.

The Bushveld redemption plan became stuck in the sand. Uncertain what to do next, the then Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, said the new act would not be implemented.

Softer than usual loans to new farmers were to be given, but the consolidation of the debts of existing farmers would have priority.

Farmer indebtedness caused by high land prices brought on by a bushveld buying spree by city people, had reached danger proportions.

Land prices had reduced the yield on cattle farming. Investments to about three percent, so that even Mr Schoeman's soft loans at eight percent made it impossible for the few new settlers to make the grade.

The agricultural policy standing committee, chaired by Dr A S Jacobs of the Reserve Bank, was called in. It stressed the limitations to resettlement because of the fast increase in the number of hectares required to

Flight from the farm to the city highs have been reversed — on South Africa's north and eastern borders at least. One of the new pioneers says: "I see this territory as a boom place, a new frontier in South Africa's history."

The 24 Hours team visited South Africa's border country, the east, the north and the west. Only in the west, on the empty Botswana boundary, is the country still being depopulated. But even in the west, the "Weekend Bushvelders" are moving in. Terrorism is the least of the worries. The issues are water, roads, electricity. Here is the last in our five-part series.



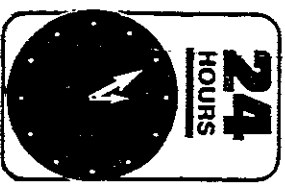
A roadside meeting in the north-west bushveld between Govie Jacobs and Frikkie van Staden who own farms more than 150 km apart but share all the same interests.

Photographs by Rebecca Hearfield

marketing charges totaling R79,00.

Extra soft loans will also be needed to establish large feedlots near Pletersburg to fatten bushveld cattle marketed there. They should include quarantine feedlots to assist farmers in the

cases. The scheme would depend on the willingness of the SATS to charge special feed fall-burg and Pretoria. As the SATS had far socio-economic reasons already accepted slashed prices for wheat



The military have been interested in the task force's deployment but are keeping a low profile. General Constand Viljoen actually set the

are keeping a low profile. General Constand Viljoen actually set the alarm ringing in a speech in Bloemfontein in 1978.

He said urban areas could not be defended without closely settled rural districts.

With some prodding by the SA Agricultural Union the inter-departmental Steyn Committee was set up, resulting in a 1979 Act to "promote the density of population in designated areas".

Its main provisions dealt with the granting of soft loans to farm buyers and making the white occupation of bushveld farms compulsory and so counter the trend towards absentee ownership.

It had been calculated that from Koppoetich in Zeerust district all the way to Messina, about 40 percent of farms, averaging about 4000 ha, were unoccupied.

Nagging doubts arose. The minimum size for a cattle farm capable of sustaining a farmer and his family had sharply in-

creased because of the fast increase in the number of hectares required to make a living out of cattle farming.

Agricultural economists said the increase in minimum farm size was the direct result of low beef prices and increased cattle marketing costs. So the spotlight shifted to controlled marketing of cattle and the region's irrigation potential.

Then this May, the second attempt to settle the settlement problem was launched by the Prime Minister.

The Density of Population Act would now be applied in a narrow strip averaging 10 km width along the Limpopo from Koppoetich to Messina.

Special financial packages would be available to all farmers and compulsory occupation of farms bought as from the date of the statement would be introduced.

The administrative team to do the job started off with the full support of the Defence State department.

Swartwaler and Alldays began as Government activities would be sited there.

The Department of Health set up mobile clinics to provide better health services.

The Transvaal Education Department did the unthinkable and adjusted its hitherto sacrosanct staff provision scales. It means fewer pupils to a teacher so some small schools will now survive.

Talks with the Railway Bus Service have begun and they bout for better public transportation.

Irrigation schemes are being re-examined by the Directorate of Water Affairs. The Haas Stridom dam on the Magoo River will be heightened for irrigation purposes.

However, serious snags have cropped up — one of the most obstinate being the farm tariff system applied by Escom.

Escom charges a unit price as well as a so-called extension fee. Prominent cost accountants have regularly ques-

tioned whether it will ever get rid of the bother and high cost of diesel power. Economists agree that without Escom power, any development will remain a pipe dream.

Another wagon-stuck-in-the-sand is beef marketing. Floor prices for slaughter cattle apply only in the large urban areas.

Bushveld producers must send their cattle long distances, losing condition on the way, and paying exorbitant slaughtering and abattoir charges.

For the third quarter of this year, an average ox weighing 200 kg on the hook and realising R488 gross, had to pay for

dropped. Despite the criticism, Escom has simply carried on.

Now power is being offered to Bushveld farms at a unit price plus R535 to R1 200 a month a farm.

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'A journey from life to death'

By Dirk Nel,
Northern Transvaal Bureau

An insurance agent once described a trip into the north-western Transvaal Bushveld as "a journey from life to death".

How right he was. From the lush meadows and overflying farm dams around Nykistroom, where 100 mm of rain has fallen in the last few weeks, one is confronted with stark drought and dry rivers within 50 minutes' travel towards the Botswana border.

Villages and farmhouses disappear, and the silence is unnerveing when you stop to quench your thirst.

But the heat and drought are not the only problems in this remote and wretched region.

Mr J W A Lewis (79) has trapped and disposed of 158 baboons during the last 12 months in trying to protect his precious maize and vegetable crops on the farm he has occupied for 41 years.

"Sit down, son — have some tea," he says, and describes the worst drought he can recall.

But I am not complaining, because my Airedale cattle are surviving on special fodder, and I can always send them to my cousin's place near Nykistroom if things get really bad," he adds.

Mr and Mrs Lewis live in an area where many farms are unoccupied. Their nearest neighbours are 8 km

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Agricultural economists said the increase in minimum farm size was the direct result of low beef prices and increased cattle marketing costs. So the spotlight shifted to controlled marketing of cattle and the region's irrigation potential.

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When Mr Faan de Koeck started farming near Swartwaler in 1924, there were no government subsidies, Land Bank loans or commercial bank overdrafts for farmers.

In fact, there were no roads, telephones, shops, schools or doctors.

"Going to town meant a two-day trip by trap and horse to Potgietersrus, almost 200 km away," says Oom Faan.

He is now one of the Bushveld's most prosperous farmers, but also had to trap wild animals to protect his crops and develop a decent herd of cattle.

New farmers from Oom Faan and other pioneers, but many have found the cost and stresses of living in isolation too much.

Terrorist incursions have not helped the situation and an exodus from border farms reached serious proportions in 1979.

In a remarkable rescue operation, the government stepped in and announced measures to counter the trend.

"The rescue operation is proving to be too costly," a dependent farmer told The Star. Others claim the exodus has exceeded the volume of new arrivals.

"We need people and ways will have to be found to attract them," says Mr Jack Kieff, chairman of the Messina District Development Association.

But a trip through the remote bushveld reveals poor telephone systems, inadequate housing for teachers and other essential staff and very few good commercial facilities.

Border farmers and their families are pioneer people.

They are tough, hardy folk with a determination to beat conditions which would test any people on earth.

And they are winning. Winning against drought which sears the earth into powder, against the eternal heat which burns exposed metal and which hangs oppressively day and night. And against the problems of ticks, the foot and mouth disease threat, transport costs — in short, the frustrations of isolation.

They are backed by a special breed of women who suffer the hardships with little complaint.

Late on this northern frontier is tougher for a woman than a man. For some women there may be no female company within 30 or 40 km. For many, power in their homes comes from diesel-powered generators which run only a few hours a day.

There are no electric

They should include quarantine feedlots to assist farmers in the Red Line area — an outdated quarantine line to guard South Africa's non-existing meat exports against a non-existing foot-and-mouth threat.

The Meat Board, with agricultural unions' support, has for years asked that Pietersburg should also be a controlled centre, where floor prices would apply.

Pietersburg Abattoir would possibly have to work two shifts, which it could do at an increased slaughtering fee which would be still much lower than City Deep.

Pietersburg's city treasurer Mr S Matthee said more cold storage facilities would have to be built.

Although uneconomic at present, the extra facilities should be considered.

The SA Agricultural Union said cattle would arrive fresher and realise higher prices, but railings would have to be paid on part of the cattle carcasses.

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They're a very special breed . . .

By Russell Gault.

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Farmer Frikkie van Staden, of Zenshoek, 50 km outside Ellisras, shows two of his prize-winning stud cattle. "It's a hard life for farmers in the bushveld", he says. "But it gets into your bones and finally there's nowhere to touch it".



A jubilant Gawie Jacobs stands on the banks of the Limpopo while the river flows at its hardest for over 12 years following heavy rains around Stockpoort and across the border in Botswana. Only a week earlier the river bed was parched.

Bushveld renewal stuck in the sand

By Hannes Ferguson, Farming Correspondent

Big changes are coming to the Bushveld as a Government task force grapples with the problems which have kept the region in the doldrums for many years.

Pretoria's interest could be the most significant development in its history. The aim is to get more people into the border areas and establish a communications, farm and business infrastructure.

The task force will deal with farming and infrastructure problems separately, but stumbling blocks still have to be removed — namely the provision of power at economical rates, and the slashing of cattle marketing and railway costs.



The military have been interested in the task force's deployment but are keeping a low profile.

General Constand Viljoen actually set the alarm ringing in a speech in Bloemfontein in 1978.

He said urban areas could not be defended without closely settled rural districts.

With some prodding by the SA Agricultural Union the inter-departmental Steyn Committee was set up, resulting in a 1979 Act to "promote the density of population in designated areas".

Its main provisions dealt with the granting of soft loans to farm buyers and making the white occupation of bushveld farms compulsory and so counter the trend towards absentee ownership.

It had been calculated that from Kopfontein in Zeerust district all the way to Messina, about 40 percent of farms, averaging about 4000 ha, were unoccupied.

Nagging doubts arose. The minimum size for a cattle farm capable of sustaining a farmer and his family had sharply in-

creased since the 1950s. Many deserted farms were not large enough to be farmed economically.

The State departments providing the physical and social infrastructure — the SA Transport Services, Escom, the Post Office, Water Affairs, Health and Education — were willing to help, but brought policy problems of their own.

The Bushveld redemption plan became stuck in the sand. Uncertain what to do next, the then Minister of Agriculture, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, said the new Act would not be implemented.

Softer than usual loans to new farmers were to be given, but the consolidation of the debts of existing farmers would have priority.

Farmer indebtedness, caused by high land prices brought on by a bushveld buying spree by city people, had reached danger proportions.

Land prices had reduced the yield on cattle farming investments to about three percent, so that even Mr Schoeman's soft loans at eight percent made it impossible for the few new settlers to make the grade.

The agricultural policy standing committee, chaired by Dr A S Jacobs of the Reserve Bank, was called in. It stressed the limitations to resettlement because of the fast increase in the number of hectares required to make a living out of cattle farming.

Agricultural economists said the increase in minimum farm size was the direct result of low beef prices and increased cattle marketing costs. So the spotlight shifted to controlled marketing of cattle and the region's irrigation potential.

Then this May, the second attempt to settle the settlement problem was launched by the Prime Minister.

The Density of Population Act would now be applied in a narrow strip averaging 10 km width along the Limpopo from Kopfontein to Messina. Special financial packages would be available to all farmers and compulsory occupation of farms bought as from the date of the statement would be introduced.

The administrative team to do the job started off with the full support of the Defence Force, State depart-

Flight from the farm to the city lights have been reversed — on South Africa's north and eastern borders at least. One of the new pioneers says: "I see this territory as a boom place, a new frontier in South Africa's history." The 24 Hours team visited South Africa's border country, the east, the north and the west. Only in the west, on the empty Botswana boundary, is the country still being depopulated. But even in the west, the "Weekend Bushvelders" are moving in. Terrorism is the least of the worries. The issues are water, roads, electricity. Here is the last in our five-part series.



ments, the agricultural unions and the various local development associations.

The new loan conditions seemed adequate and more applications were received.

Service towns were actively promoted.

Development work at Swartwater and Alldays began as Government activities would be sited there.

The Department of Health set up mobile clinics to provide better health services.

The Transvaal Education Department did the unthinkable and adjusted its hitherto sacrosanct staff provision scales. It means fewer pupils to a teacher so some small schools will now survive.

Talks with the Railway Bus Service have begun and they bode for better public transportation.

Irrigation schemes are being re-examined by the Directorate of Water Affairs. The Hans Strydom dam on the Magol River will be heightened for irrigation purposes.

However serious snags have cropped up — one of the most obstinate being the farm tariff system applied by Escom.

Escom charges a unit price as well as a so-called extension fee. Prominent cost account-

tioned the system. In a Green Paper on Electricity Supply, the Transvaal Agricultural Union said in 1978 that on accepted cost accounting rules, the extension fee represented profit, not cost.

As Escom is by law bound to sell power by cost, the TAU asked that the extension fees be dropped. Despite the criticism, Escom has simply carried on.

Now power is being offered to Bushveld farms at a unit price plus R535 to R1 200 a month a farm.

The Bushveld now doubts whether it will ever get rid of the bother and high cost of diesel power. Economists agree that without Escom power, any development will remain a pipe dream.

Another wagon-stuck-in-the-sand is beef marketing.

Floor prices for slaughter cattle apply only in the large urban areas.

Bushveld producers must send their cattle long distances, losing condition on the way, and paying exorbitant slaughtering and abattoir charges.

For the third quarter of this year, an average ox weighing 208 kg on the hook and realising R488



A roadside meeting in the north-west bushveld between Gawie Jacobs and Frikkie van Staden who run farms more than 150 km apart but share all the same interests.

Photographs by Rebecca Hearfield

marketing charges totalling R79.40.

Extra soft loans will also be needed to establish large feedlots near Pietersburg to fatten bushveld cattle marketed there. They should include quarantine feedlots to assist farmers in the Red Line area — an outdated quarantine line to guard South Africa's non-existing meat exports against a non-existing foot-and-mouth threat.

The Meat Board, with agricultural unions' support, has for years asked that Pietersburg should also be a controlled centre, where floor prices would apply.

Pietersburg Abattoir would possibly have to work two shifts, which it could do at an increased slaughtering fee which would be still much lower than City Deep.

Pietersburg's city treasurer Mr S Matthee said more cold storage facilities would have to be built.

Although uneconomic at present, the extra facilities should be considered.

The SA Agricultural Union said cattle would arrive fresher and realise higher prices, but railage would have to be paid on

casses. The scheme would depend on the willingness of the SATS to charge special beef railage tariffs to Johannesburg and Pretoria.

As the SATS had for socio-economic reasons already accepted slashed rates for Witwatersrand commuters, it might consider slashed beef carcass rates for the same reasons.

What is the use of having a policy if you shrink from its implications, Bushveld farmers ask. As proposals for extending controlled meat marketing areas have bogged down at the National Marketing Council in the Department of Agriculture, they want a high-level study of the whole issue.

The task force is already mooting the possibility of making the occupation rules applicable to farms bought before the May 1983 deadline.

The Prime Minister also said the narrow strip where the measures now apply could be widened. The agricultural unions support that and it could be the only direction for the task force to take. Progress can only happen when the Gordian knots of Escom tariffs and

'A journey from life to death'

By Dirk Nel,
Northern Transvaal Bureau

An insurance agent once described a trip into the north-western Transvaal Bushveld as "a journey from life to death".

How right he was. From the lush meadows and overflowing farm dams around Nylstroom, where 100 mm of rain has fallen in the last few weeks, one is confronted with stark drought and dry riverbeds within 90 minutes' travel towards the Botswana border.

Villages and farmhouses disappear, and the silence is unnerving when you stop to quench your thirst.

But the heat and drought are not the only problems in this remote and wretched region.

Mr JWA Lewies (70) has trapped and disposed of 158 baboons during the last 12 months in trying to protect his precious maize and vegetable crops on the farm he has occupied for 41 years.

"Sit down, son — have some tea," he says and describes the worst drought he can recall.

"But I am not complaining, because my Africander cattle are surviving on special fodder, and I can always send them to my cousin's place near Nylstroom if things get really bad," he adds.

Mr and Mrs Lewies live in an area where many farms are unoccupied. Their nearest neighbours are 8 km away.

When Mr Faan de Kock started farming near Swartwater in 1924, there were no government subsidies, Land Bank loans or commercial bank overdrafts for farmers.

In fact, there were no roads, telephones, shops, schools or doctors.

"Going to town meant a two-day trip by trap and horse to Potgietersrus, almost 200 km away," says Oom Faan.

He is now one of the Bushveld's most prosperous farmers, but also had to trap wild animals to protect his crops and develop a decent herd of cattle.

New farmers learnt from Oom Faan and other pioneers, but many have found the cost and stresses of living in isolation too much.

Terrorist incursions have not helped the situation and an exodus from border farms reached serious proportions in 1979.

In a remarkable rescue operation, the Government stepped in and announced measures to counter the trend.

"The rescue operation is proving to be too costly" a despondent farmer told The Star. Others claim the exodus has exceeded the volume of new arrivals.

"We need people and ways will have to be found to attract them," says Mr Jack Klaff, chairman of the Messina District Development Association.

But a trip through the remote bushveld reveals poor telephone systems, inadequate housing for teachers and other essential staff and very few good commercial facilities.

They're a very special breed . . .

By Russell Gault.

Border farmers and their families are pioneer people.

They are tough, hardy folk with a determination to beat conditions which would test any people on earth.

And they are winning. Winning against drought which sears the earth into powder, against the eternal heat which burns exposed metal and which hangs oppressively day and night. And against the problems of ticks, the foot and mouth disease threat, transport costs — in short, the frustrations of isolation.

They are backed by a special breed of women who suffer the hardships with little complaint.

Life on this northern frontier is tougher for a woman than a man. For some women there may be no female company within 30 or 40 km. For many, power in their homes comes from diesel-powered generators which run only a few hours a day.

There are no electric



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— fatalistic about security and terrorists.

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It is the difficulty of keeping makeup on, the need to wash her hair every day, the absence of her older boy at boarding school five nights a week that test her courage in being a frontier wife.

"But I would hate to leave here. This is my life now. We have put so much into this place," she said.

Mrs Schneider said life for children was hard because of the lack of facilities of any kind in Messina — no coffee shops, restaurants or any leisure facilities.

"And Messina is an expensive town, far dearer than Pietersburg which is nearly three hours away. Many Zimbabweans go there to do shopping and prices seem to be affected."

fans to relieve the heat, no swimming pools to escape from the sun temperatures which soar to 60 deg C in the summer.

Mrs Babsie Schneider lives with her husband and two children, aged seven and four, on a 2 000 ha property 25 km along the road from Messina to Pontdrift on the border with Botswana.

They are building up game on their farm be-

Ribn turnaround in farm product trading

Drought costs millions in foreign currency

General RDM 8/12/83

By HOWARD PREECE

THE drought turned South Africa from being a huge net agricultural exporter into a net importer this year.

That meant a loss of hundreds of millions of rands in foreign currency.

A steep drop in the value of oil imports, however, was a big compensation for the overall balance of payments.

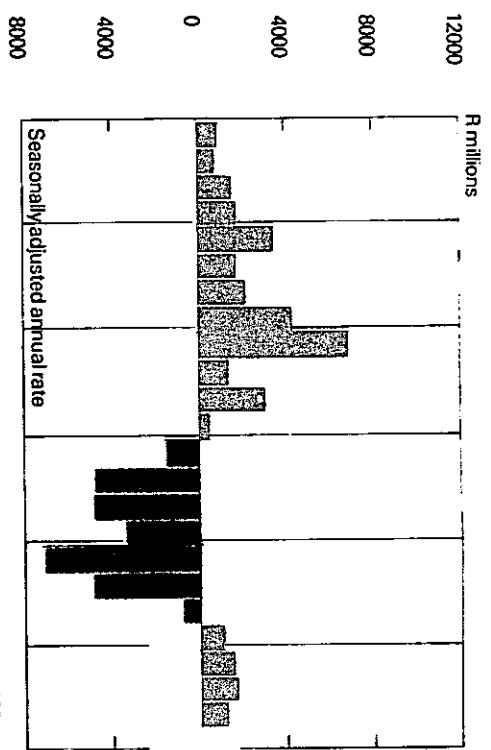
The drought also caused agricultural output to drop to its lowest in 15 years in the third quarter of 1983.

Overall, however, the Reserve Bank thinks that the downsizing in the economy "may have begun to level out".

These points emerge from the bank's December quarterly bulletin published last night. It says that in the first quarter of this year agricultural exports were running at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of R1,25bn and agricultural imports were only R299bn on the same basis.

By the second quarter exports were down to an annual rate of R890m and imports were up to R390m. In the third quarter agricultural exports slumped to a seasonally adjusted R600m and imports were up at R710m a year.

That means that the overall agricultural trading position worsened by more than Ribn on a seasonally



adjusted annual basis from the first to the third quarters.

The Reserve Bank reports that in the first quarter of 1983 South Africa had an actual surplus on the current account of the balance of payments of R879m. That shrank to R360m in the second quarter and to R148m for July to September.

The decline in the gold price was a factor although the effect on rand earnings was offset to a large extent by the fall in the value of the rand against the dollar. The value of gold output was higher in the third quarter than in the second.

Agriculture was certainly critical to the general balance of payments position. The Reserve Bank

says: "Although the drought resulted in larger agricultural imports, the volume increase was also evident in virtually all the remaining categories of imports."

"The effect of the drought was more pronounced in the case of exports. A substantial decline in agricultural exports was mainly responsible for the static value of exports in the second quarter and the actual decrease in the third quarter."

Total non-gold exports in the first three quarters of this year were R2 568m, R2 531m and R2 525m respectively. Imports were R3 560m, R3 713m and R3 930m.

In addition, South Africa ran a

large net deficit on services.

The Reserve Bank reports that there was a "substantial decline" in imports of mineral products (oil) over 1983. In the first quarter the seasonally adjusted annual rate was running at R3 450m and by the third quarter it was down to R2 140m.

Reviewing the general economic position the bank says: "Information for the second and third quarters of 1983 indicates that the economic downsizing in South Africa may have begun to level out."

"Non-agricultural real output and employment, for example, showed moderate recoveries as from the second quarter. However, without further confirmation, it is still uncertain whether this change should be diagnosed as a lower turning point of the business cycle."

"But irrespective of any cyclical change, the average level of real gross domestic product in 1983 will probably be about 3% lower than in 1982."

On an encouraging note the bank says: "The rate of inflation, and presumably also inflationary expectations, moderated significantly during the third quarter of 1983. This must be attributed in large measure to the reduced rate of increase of monetary demand."

"It appears ... that the official policy aim of reducing the high rate of inflation is now beginning to show positive results."

Immediate power rationing ruled out

JOHANNESBURG. — There will be no electricity or water rationing in South Africa at present.

This has been disclosed by Dr Rudolph Fockema, chairman of the ad hoc emergency committee on water and electricity supplies, who said the recent rains had brought a great improvement in the level of the dams.

"We no longer have the immediate necessity to implement water rationing and electricity rationing will certainly not come about in 1984," he told a Press conference held at Escom's Megawatt Park.

Dr Fockema said the water situation would be reviewed at the end of January and he could not say what the electricity position would be like in 1985.

Mr Ian McRae explained that electricity rationing was another form of water conservation — one of the options to be considered when water stocks run out.

In spite of the recent rains the situation was still critical, according to Dr Fockema.

Mr W J R Alexander, manager of scientific services at the Department of Environment Affairs, said there had been twice as much rainfall in the past two

months than there had been the whole of last year.

"In spite of the encouraging rainfall and river flows this season, we are not out of the woods yet and the department is not considering the lifting of the present restrictions at this stage," he said.

Mr Alexander said there had been a dramatic improvement in the level of the dams. The Vaal, for example, had risen from 28 percent to 36 percent in a week.

However, he stressed that the level of the dam at present was far lower than last December when the Vaal was 49 percent full.

Rain saves SA industry

ARGUS 8/12/83

36% full

120

Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Rain worth R2-billion has saved South African industry from disaster.

That's the rands and cents value of the rain that has drenched the country in recent days culminating in the non-stop downpour earlier this week.

Industry leaders had predicted damage to the economy of at least R2-billion in the first six months of 1984 if power rationing and cuts had to be implemented.

Other huge savings will be made in the agriculture sector where bumper crops are anticipated because of the uniform rainfall.

In contrast with the past two seasons substantial agricultural exports are on the cards which will mean significant foreign exchange earnings.

Maize planting is going on around the clock throughout the Transvaal and in many parts it is growing vigorously.

In some districts maize is already a metre high and according to farmers will soon be "as high as an elephant's eye".

But it is on the industrial front that the news is so welcome. Escom has said that power rationing for 1984 and at least the foreseeable part of 1985 are out.

Water reserves in the Eastern Transvaal where 80 percent of the nation's power is generated have improved so much that power for next year is guaranteed, said Escom spokesman, Mrs Laetitia van Staaden.

The Argus correspondents in the Transvaal and Natal examine the recent welcome rains in the provinces and outline the effects on the water supply and the economy.

In May stock-taking of potential damage to the economy listed exports, commuter transport, manufacturing, food production and mining as casualties of electricity cuts.

The unspoken threats were those of civil unrest caused by numerous workers — white and black — out of work.

Industry and Government leaders were extremely concerned about the power threat.

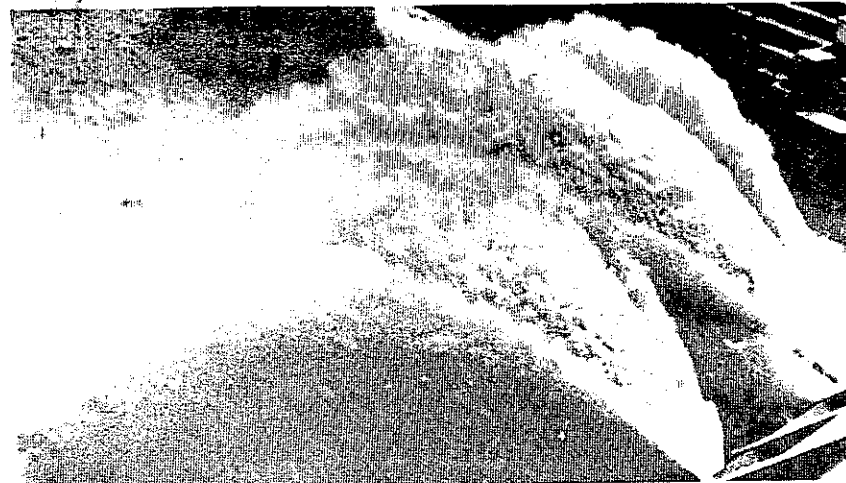
A special committee was formed after an Escom-organised conference to examine the effects of cuts and make recommendations to the Government.

The president of the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce, Mr SK Ash, said he was very happy about the improvement of the water position and the implications for South Africa's economy.

Chamber of Mines technical adviser, Mr Gordon Grange, who had warned of losses in the gold-mining industry of R90-million a month if power was cut back by even 10 percent, said the news "is just great, very great for the country".

Credit had to go to the authorities who insisted on water conservation early in the drought.

"Without that water saving we would be in trouble today — but now we have another year of grace."



Flow into Vaaldam doubles

Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The flow of water into the Vaaldam over the last two months was twice the amount for the whole of last year.

This was said by Mr W J R Alexander, manager of scientific services at the Department of Environment Affairs, at a Press conference.

A spokesman for the Weather Bureau in Pretoria said the flow of water into the dam in October and November was 200 percent above the average for those two months.

In contrast, the flow into the Vaaldam in 1982 was 60 percent of the yearly average.

"This flow of water to a certain extent reflects the rainfall position," the spokesman said.

Natal could face more restrictions

Argus Correspondent

DURBAN. — Natal could face tougher water restrictions, hydrologists have warned, because the worst

drought in 200 years is by no means broken.

An alarming computerised prediction, based on historical records and mathemat-

ical calculations by staff of the Department of Water Affairs in Pretoria, shows that in spite of the good rains, the province is still in the grip of the drought.

Figures show that in November 120,7mm was recorded in central Johannesburg, more than double the amount recorded last November.

Pretoria has had its wettest November in three years.

With soft soaking rain falling in many areas around the country the figures for December appear to be heading for a substantial increase over last year's.

In central Johannesburg the amount of rain recorded so far this month is half of the rain for the whole of last December.

Business Report

Y, DECEMBER 8, 1983

SA agricultural output lowest in 15 years

CAPE TOWN 8/12/83
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By HOWARD PREECE
JOHANNESBURG. — The drought turned South Africa this year from a huge net agricultural exporter into a net importer.

That meant a loss of hundreds of millions of rands in foreign exchange.

A steep drop in the value of oil imports, however, was a big compensation for the overall balance of payments.

The drought also caused the country's agricultural output to drop to its lowest level in 15 years in the third quarter of 1983.

Overall, however, the Reserve Bank thinks that the downswing in the economy "may have begun to level out".

These points all emerge from the December quarterly bulletin from the bank published last night.

The bulletin says that in the first quarter of this year, agricultural exports were running at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of R1.25 billion while agricultural imports were, on the same basis, only R290m.

By the second quarter exports were down to an annual rate of R890m and imports up to R390m.

In the third quarter of 1983, agricultural exports slumped to a seasonally adjusted R600m, while imports were up a level of R710m a year.

That means that the overall agricultural trading position had worsened by over R1 billion on a seasonally adjusted annual basis from the first to the third quarters.

The Reserve Bank reports that in the first quarter of 1983 South Africa had an actual surplus on the current account of the balance of payments of R879m.

That shrank to R360m in the second quarter and to R148m for July to September.

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Gold output

The value of gold output was, in fact, higher in the third quarter than in the second.

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"However, without further confirmation, it is still uncertain whether this change should be diagnosed as a lower turning point of the business cycle."

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Professor Werner Breitschwerdt has been appointed chairman of the board of management of Daimler-Benz AG.

Professor Breitschwerdt was born in

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A plan and a purpose about the way development takes place appear to be the weapons that are winning respect and recognition for Bophuthatswana, one of South Africa's "pariah creations".

The key to this development success are the people President Lucas Mangope has gathered about him in his determined bid to create a viable community with a lifestyle very much different from that of racial South Africa.

The genesis of Bophuthatswana's development drive goes back about five years to when the territory was taking its first steps as a controversial independent State and needed to establish some focus for growth.

Resisting the temptation to go for glamour, President Mangope established his priority: Feed the people by developing the land and its natural resources. This led to the creation of an agricultural development corporation (Agricor) with the aims of producing food and building up a viable, commercial farming class.

Over the past five years Agricor has built up farming projects all over Bophuthatswana, expanding the amount of land under production from 3 500 ha in 1977 to 45 000 ha today.

The secret of this success in an area not unusually well-endowed from an agricultural viewpoint is the professional staff Agricor has attracted and its method of binding farmers into contracting units.

A major hurdle which Agricor faces is the large number of subsistence farmers who are finding it increasingly difficult to exist on their small patches of land, but who, nonetheless, have traditional rights to farming land.

"The only way to make these individual plots viable was to bind the farmers into groups," said Mr Steve Worth of Agricor. "In this way the farmers in one unit share the tractor and implements required for the production. One of the farmers in the unit is appointed the contractor and performs, for a fee, the bulk of the cultivating operations for the farmers in his unit."

But at the same time the farmer is kept very involved in the work on his particular plot because the ultimate responsibility for his farm's production is still his.

The next step was to build on the



President Mangope . . . got his priorities right

already established co-operative system of farming by treating a large number of plots as a single unit and seconding professional management to the projects which combined thousands of farmers.

The applied expertise paid off in enormous increases in the productivity of basic foodstuffs like maize, which showed a 10-fold increase in the few years up to 1981 when drought began its ravages in South Africa.

These yields brought in unprecedented incomes for farmers. On one scheme, Ditsobotla, just over 2 000 farmers received nearly R3 million for their 1980/81 maize crop.

"Having proved we could feed ourselves we have been returning to the concept of community development as being a prime objective of our efforts," said Mr Worth.

The physical planning of community service centres with full facilities for farming areas became an integral part of agricultural projects. "Our objective has become the establishment of sound rural communities which offer a life comparable with that in urban areas," he added.

"In this way we're using agricul-

ture as a vehicle for community development and to further develop our resources."

This approach to farming was given the Tswana name "Temisano" (literally meaning farming together). Defined, this concept encompasses the setting up of communities based on viable agricultural production, community development, training and secondary agro-industries.

The latter is becoming of particular importance because Bophuthatswana has recognised that it can support at most 100 000 of its people — fewer than one in 10 — directly from the land.

The current drought has helped this focus. Says Agricor managing

director, Mr Dawid Beuster: "Are we finally growing up and facing the realities of our existence? Perhaps the most difficult conclusion to draw from this drought is the fact that the ability of Bophuthatswana's agricultural lands to offer gainful employment to the people of this nation is limited.

"The creation of agro-industries and related enterprises must be given greater attention."

In relatively few years the concept of agricultural development has evolved from simple farming to one of integrated rural development — with a team of dedicated professionals who are helping to make barren lands bloom.

"We hope to supply the boots and the laces for the people," says Mr Beuster. It is the people who are pulling themselves up by these bootstraps.

A pragmatic president's determination to feed his people and develop the country's natural resources is paying off in this homeland State, reports ANTHONY DUGGAN.

8/12/83
Stu
Bophuthatswana's once barren lands are now blooming

Pensioners' 'no' to penalties

Angry crowd rejects water fines as unfair

General
RDM 14/12/83

Mail Correspondent

DURBAN. — About 200 people, mainly women, carrying placards hitting out at the high water fines in Chatsworth, staged a demonstration at the city treasurer's branch in Chatsworth yesterday.

The protesters — shouting "No to water fines" — confronted officials and demanded a meeting with Mr Neil McLennan, chairman of Durban's management committee, and Mr Peter Corbett, chairman of the health and housing committee.

They were angry because some people, including several pensioners who received a grant of R93 a month, had been fined up to R500 for exceeding their water ration.

Mr R Racher, head of the Chatsworth branch office, agreed to meet representatives of the group, but the crowd refused. They insisted on either Mr McLennan or Mr Corbett addressing them, but they were later informed that neither was available.

Mr M Manthey, assistant city treasurer, and Mr E Morton, deputy town clerk, later arrived and after hearing their grievances, promised to bring it to the notice of the management committee.

The demonstrators demanded the immediate withdrawal of all water surcharges for people living in flats fitted with a communal meter, installation of separate water meters for all council flats, and the removal of tricklers.

Among the group were many pensioners who gave first hand accounts of how they had been hit by the high water surcharges. There was further drama when an elderly man in the group collapsed during the height of the

demonstration and had to be given medical attention.

Many people said they could not afford the fines and argued that there was no justification for the penalty because the council was unable to locate the offenders in a multi-family block of flats fitted with a communal meter.

They maintained that until each unit was metered it was unfair to surcharge all families — including those people who went to great lengths to conserve water.

● The Durban Corporation is to launch a probe as to whether the recent surge in water use is due to year-end production boost by industry, or whether people have been using too much, reports Sapa.

Durban's city engineer, Mr Don Macleod, said yesterday he hoped the reason for the extra use of water was raised production by industry and not complacency induced by the rains.

"If industry has been using more, then consumption will drop as more firms close down for the year. If, however, people are less careful in their use of water, then we will have to persuade them once again that our troubles are far from over."

Heavy rains have again boosted the Midmar and Albert Falls Dam levels. The combined level now stands at 16,5% of capacity.

But downpours continue to bypass the catchment area of the six dams of the Dundee-Glencoe Regional Water Services Corporation.

Residents of those towns and in Hattingspruit and Wasbank must still fetch their drinking and cooking water from tankers.

ICS hit by recession and drought

ARCUS
14/12/83
36 anal

THE Imperial Cold Storage and Supply Company has been badly hit by the recession and drought.

After-tax profit for the year to September was R12,7-million compared with R22-million for the 12 months to February 1982 and R7-million for the seven months to September 1982.

The chairman, Mr W H Neate, says in his annual report the pre-tax operating profit of R20,6-million represents a return of 2 percent on turnover.

"This margin is very modest having regard to the capital involved in modern food handling and it is only large volumes that make it possible for the company to operate under such a small margin."

NEW FACILITIES

The group's prospects for the coming year "depend to a large extent not only on whether sufficient rains fall this summer to provide adequate relief to the drought but also on whether the expected upturn in the economy and resultant increase in consumer demand materialise."

Meanwhile the group has spent R48,7-million on providing new facilities and improving existing ones, including a new ice cream factory and pork packing plant, a new distribution cold store and two distribution depots.

The cold store in Dock Road, Cape Town, which has operated since the end of the last century, has been decommissioned and it is intended to dispose of it.

RESTRAIN PRICES

Discussing the effects of the recession and the drought, Mr Neate says that the oversupply of red meat combined with low demand made it impossible to recover increased operating costs.

Heavy rains and improved grazing might cause a temporary shortage of fresh meat in the current year but "feedlots in the country are well stocked and this, with the Meat Board stocks, could restrain any undue rise in market prices."

Milk sales were static and fruit juice sales declined but there was a growth in sales of milk products such as soft cheeses and yoghurt.

Audrey d'Angelo

'Cold war' on homeland borders — farmers

105
 3 General
 E. Post
 10/12/83



Newly-appointed office were (from the left) Mr guest speaker Mr GERRIT GRAAFF



By Louis Beckerling
 Business Editor

CERTAIN South African farmers are attempting to hawk their land to the Ciskeian Government.

Their approaches coincide with growing tensions over borders with Transkei and Ciskei which are taking on the appearances of a "cold war".

These claims are made in a blueprint for the development of agriculture in the Eastern Cape — a document which roundly denounces the "inappropriate" behaviour of the farmers and reiterates organised agriculture's firm rejection of moves to enlarge the territories of either Transkei or Ciskei.

The observations, and detailed recommendations aimed at boosting a shrinking contribution to the country's national agricultural output, are contained in a memorandum to the Regional Development Advisory Committee (RDAC) for Region D — which embraces Border, Ciskei, the Eastern Cape and a large part of Transkei.

The memorandum was prepared by the Eastern Cape Agricultural Union and accepted as a policy document by the RDAC at its latest meeting, held in King William's Town last week.

President of the union, Mr Tobie Meyer, presented a copy of the memorandum

to BUSINESS POST this week.

"We don't believe we are asking for a lot of money for the area — just for a well-planned approach to development," explained Mr Meyer.

"Now we would like to see these proposals going to all branches of 'agro-industry' so that they all have a working document covering the current situation plus the recommendations we have made for changes to that system."

Apart from underlining "rumours" that certain farmers with land bordering on Ciskei had visited Ciskei and "indicated their willingness to surrender their land for consolidation into Ciskei, there is little

startling in the memorandum.

Top priority, following brief introductory observations on the role of agriculture in the national economy, is given to problems experienced on borders with black homelands.

"Stability is a prerequisite of a viable agricultural sector in the Eastern Cape," notes the report. "Region D includes two independent states and various negative factors affect this region.

"It is absolutely essential that urgent attention be given to introducing border fences in those areas where the greatest problems are experienced and regarding additional land for consolidation it is proposed that no further ground be made available for this purpose," says the memorandum.

The uncertainties surrounding certain borders, says the memorandum, "leads to unending problems with straying across the border and cattle theft and in some areas friction is increasing".

Among the worst-afflicted areas, say farmers in the memorandum, is the Kidd's Beach area where a "cold war" is developing and one incident leads to another.

Furthermore, borders not regularly patrolled "will not remain permanent".

"An effective defence element for the safety of border inhabitants should be established and if cattle

thieving is to be contained there will have to be the closest co-operation between the SA Police and the forces of the independent states."

The memorandum urges that Government maintain and develop social-infrastructure services and institutions in remote areas and voices a strong objection to the cancellation of rail services in these areas.

Attention is focussed on Graaff-Reinet's repeated shortages of water and the memorandum urges that the scheme to tunnel through the Wapadsberg in order to lead water from the Orange River to the town be realised.

The water problem facing the town, says the memorandum, "is so alarming that it could mean the eventual depopulation of Graaf-Reinet into a ghost town".

The poor quality and quantity of water available to citrus farmers in the Sundays River Valley is also closely examined in the memorandum, which urges that the proposals to extend the Wellington Grove weir also be translated into urgent action.

"An additional 2 500 hectares of land can be irrigated in the Sundays River Valley if the weir for the diversion of Orange River water to the Mentz Dam is completed. It is estimated that the output in the area can be boosted by some R5 million if this is done."

Gold by pr

JOHANNESBURG — Diagonal Street's gold bulls were clearly encouraged by bullion's performance over most of the week.

As the price of gold bobbed within a narrow trading range above the \$400 mark, gold shares started a strong advance on Monday, taking the JSE Actuaries gold index to 818,8 from 771,7 a week ago.

The wave of optimism of the gold board has apparently been prompted largely by overseas buying interest from both British and American investors.

Locally, small buyers have been showing interest but local institutions have displayed caution in past weeks, preferring to watch the market activity from the sidelines.

Among the top moves this week were Elandsran Venterspost, Doornfontein and East Daggas.

In other metals and minerals, Cons Murchison which has shown particular strength in past weeks, holding steady at its high

Major drive to attract development finance

By Anthony Duigan

One of South Africa's most successful rural development agencies, African Co-operative Action Trust, has embarked on a major drive to focus attention on the rural areas and attract finance for projects throughout Southern Africa.

The four-year-old Action Trust (Acat) began in a small way in kwaZulu after a group of Natal farmers and businessmen decided that development of the people and potential of rural areas was gravely neglected.

Acat has spread from kwaZulu into Ciskei, Transkei, Swaziland and Zimbabwe with more invitations to start projects than it can handle, said a spokesman for the organisation.

The origins of Acat go back to the months after the 1976 riots when many people began reflecting deeply on the national future and the enormous needs of so many of the population.

Trust has great rural record

~~30~~ (3) General
RPM 14/12/83

A Natal businessman, Mr Von van der Linde, believed that some form of organisational structure that could help poverty-stricken rural people feed themselves was an urgent priority. He got together with a group of business and professional people who decided to use the savings club as a nucleus for development action.

This concept had already been tried in Zimbabwe and appeared to have potential so a pilot scheme was started in kwaZulu in March 1979 with cash assistance from the kwaZulu Development Corporation.

"The demand for savings clubs to be formed has now far exceeded our ability to provide the manpower needed to ensure that the clubs operate successfully," the spokesman added.

In 1980 Acat was invited to start clubs in Transkei. The following year the invitation came from Zimbabwe and this year a start was made in Ciskei and Swaziland. It now has more than 20 000 members in 820 clubs throughout Southern Africa.

"Acat starts by forming savings clubs among rural communities on a voluntary basis," said the spokesman. "The local

chiefs are involved and the clubs consist of anything from 20 to 60 members.

"They are encouraged to save towards a goal which they choose and it is club members, not Acat, who bank money, do withdrawals and elect leaders.

"Acat goes only where it is invited and neither gives money to the clubs nor takes any from them. In this way suspicion is overcome."

The Acat Rural Development Trust is in the process of being registered and its huge development effort is financed entirely by grants and donations. The trustees of Acat South Africa are Dr Lawrence McCrystal (chairman), Mr Von van der Linde (executive director), Mr Robert Mazibuko, Mr John Schroeder and Bishop Lawrence Zulu.

Further details may be obtained from Dr McCrystal at 802-5373.

Farm machines warning

ROOM 15/12/83

Financial Reporter

AGRICULTURE has welcomed the scrapping of price control on farm machinery, implements, equipment and spare parts.

Dr Dawie de Villiers, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, warned in a statement at the same time that a careful watch would be kept on prices.

The abolition was announced in Pretoria yesterday on the recommendation of the Competition Board.

Dr De Villiers said the position would be closely watched to ensure that manufacturers, suppliers and distributors adjusted prices responsibly.

Prices would be determined mainly by market forces but he would "introduce suitable measures" if there were abuses.

Dr De Villiers also said restrictive practices and abuse of economic power could bring action under the Maintenance and Promotion of

Competition Act.

The deputy director of the SA Agricultural Union, Mr J F van der Merwe, said his organisation broadly welcomed the abolition of price control. There had to be, however, enough competition to ensure prices were kept down to reasonable levels.

A National Association of Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo) spokesman, Dr J P F du Toit, also welcomed the announcement.

Scrapping price control was in line with the Nampo's view that prices of all agricultural requisites should be market-related. He welcomed, too, the Minister's undertaking that a close watch would be kept on possible abuses.

SIMON WILLSON reports that Mr Bill Pascoe, chairman of the SA Tractor Manufacturers' Association, said the lifting of price control would have no effect on retail prices of agricultural machinery until 1985.

"From a convenience point of view the Government's move is

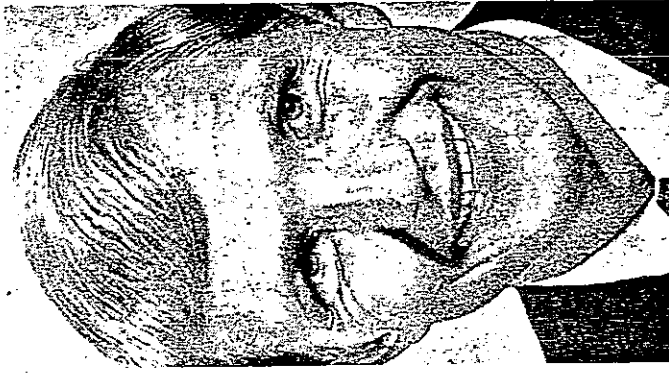
welcome, because it removes the need for bureaucratic processing of pricing applications, but the effect on prices will be effectively zero.

"The agricultural machinery market has been so depressed for the past three years that manufacturers have not been in a position to mark up anything like their permitted margins.

"There has been price war, over-trading and price-cutting for so long that nobody thinks any more of increasing prices to see what the market will bear."

Mr Pascoe said the market was unlikely to improve before the third quarter of next year with its performance depending largely on the next maize crop.

"With the harvest starting in April the farming community should start receiving cash from July or August. If the present climatic conditions persist everything should be wonderful. Farmers are so deeply in debt that there will be little difference in spending power until 1985."



DR DE VILLIERS

Fund

gives 202

boreholes

~~1/11/83~~

(3) General

15/12/83

Mercury

African Affairs Correspondent

ALMOST R700 000 has been collected so far for the Water Development Fund of the South African Sugar Association.

But there is a shortfall of 1 000 boreholes to cater for the needs of the region. KwaZulu needs about 2 000 boreholes, says the annual progress report of the fund.

To date the KwaZulu Government has either drilled or contracted to drill about 700 boreholes.

The fund has provided

an additional 202.

The Mayor of Durban, Councillor Mrs Sybil Hotz, will hand over a cheque for R100 000 to drill more boreholes in KwaZulu to the KwaZulu Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Chief Langaletu Dhlamini, in Durban on Monday.

This means that R300 000 has now been handed to the KwaZulu Government by the Durban City Council for water purposes during the last three years.

Since the first borehole

was opened two-and-a-half years ago, the Water Development Fund of the South African Sugar Association has commissioned more than 200 boreholes.

Spread

According to the annual progress report of the fund, the boreholes are spread from the Ingwavuma area in the north of KwaZulu to the Umtwalume area in the south and the Madadeni and Ladysmith areas in the west.

The operations of the fund, according to the progress report, are closely co-ordinated with the KwaZulu Government's own water development programme.

The report says the fund's drilling contractors have achieved a success rate of about 70 percent.

Of all the holes drilled, 70 percent are fitted with pumps and are capable of supplying water to the communities in which they are placed.

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Drought could set country back R2 000m

③ General Sfar
29/12/83

By Hannes Ferguson, Farming Correspondent

As hopes for a good season are rising, farmers are counting the staggering losses they have suffered during the drought. The total could be R2 000 million.

Maize production was down by six million tons from a 10 million target — a loss of R1 020 million.

And as maize exports could have earned the country about R600 million in foreign exchange, South Africa's balance of trade was badly affected. To add to the losses the country had to spend more than R400 million on maize imports to meet local consumption demands.

Sugar cane production was down by 6,4 million tons, worth R140 million.

During the drought, stock farmers in the grassveld regions had to spend a total of about R250 million on feed for slaughter cattle.

About 400 000 head of cattle were lost to the national herd through enforced reduction — worth about R160 million.

Other crop losses have exceeded a further R300 million for a total agriculture loss of almost R2 000 million.

The forestry industry has also been hard hit.

Pine and gum tree losses have not yet been established but wattle growers have calculated their loss at more than R80 million.

The Wattle Research Institute believes half of South Africa's wattle trees showed no growth at all during the past year.

A spokesman for the institute said half of South Africa's one million hectares of wattle plantations were hit by the drought.

As much as eight million cubic metres of wood could have been lost during the drought. To this should be added the loss of 105 000 tons of wattle bark valued at R4 million.

Although the present rainy season holds the prospect of restoring production levels to previous marks, a number of good seasons will be needed to regain lost ground.

Even with a bumper crop of 12 million tons at the end of this season, the present artificially low maize price means the best farmers can hope for is to break even.

FR

(3) General RDM 31/12/83

Drought may last for years, warns journal

THE current drought in South Africa is 50% worse than any experienced in 60 years and might not break until the early 1990's, according to an article in the South African Journal of Science.

However, statistics from previous periods of drought indicate relief might come in 1988, the article adds.

It says comparisons of 60 years of the accumulated flow of the Vaal River show that the present trend of below-average flow, which began in 1979, will revert to normal by the early 1990's.

"However, below average flow has not persisted for more than 10 years in the past, in which case the present drought might break (that is, the average runoff might be restored) as early as 1988," the article says.

In the past five years, the flow of the Vaal River has been six billion cubic metres below average, compared with the previous worst deficits of 4.2 billion cubic metres between 1969 and 1973, and seven billion cubic metres in the 10 years from 1944 to 1954, the journal says.

Statistics also showed it was possible

to have abnormally wet years in a drought period and there was thus a good chance of above average runoff during one of the next eight years of expected drought.

The journal adds that it took one exceptionally poor rainy season in Natal to critically deplete water supply systems planned to withstand even dry conditions until the 1990s.

The province's water supply system, designed in 1963 to withstand up to a once in 50-years drought, has had to contend with a once in 100 to 200-years drought, says the article.

It adds the failure of the 1982/83 rainy season caused a critical supply shortfall despite the fact that, up to a few months ago, planning predictions made in the 1960s had proved accurate.

However, criticism of Natal's water planners was not justified as the 1963 system had only a 2% chance of failure and more stringent design criteria, designed to take into account a once in 200-years drought, would rapidly increase costs, the journal says.

Meanwhile, the pace of black urbanisation would overtake Government cal-

culations, unless a rural development programme to provide a basic infrastructure and major water development schemes was instituted in KwaZulu, a separate article in the journal claims.

Dr J M Erskine, co-ordinator of rural development at the University of Natal's Institute of Natural Resources, says scant attention has been paid to water development planning in KwaZulu.

The result is unplanned and poorly coordinated crisis management during the winter months, Dr Erskine says.

"What is required in KwaZulu is a detailed survey of natural resources as an integral part of a comprehensive land capability analysis, followed by an integrated rural development programme which places emphasis on providing basic services and infrastructure with water development as a major component."

"Ironically, in the absence of such development, the pace of black urbanisation will accelerate and overtake all the Government's calculations in this regard," Dr Erskine says. — Sapa.

Drought: Critical period looming

CAPC Tour 3/1/85

36000

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — A worse drought than last year's crippling dry season is staring South Africa in the face.

Yesterday, weather and environmental experts warned that the scorching heatwave of the past week and below-average rainfall across the nation are threatening South Africans with a bleak start to 1985.

Dams across the country were losing millions of litres of water as temperatures soared to above 40 deg C in some places.

These are some of the gloomy indicators:

- Yesterday the Vaal Dam lost 35-million litres by evaporation due to extreme heat. Johannesburg uses an average of 450-million litres a day.

- Last week Johannesburg exceeded its water-supply quota by 5,6 percent compared with only one percent the week before.

- Last month Johannesburg recorded only 52mm of rain compared with 258mm in December of 1983 while Pretoria recorded 67mm compared with 137mm in 1983.

Sinking fast

Mr Anton Steyn, a spokesman for the Department of Water Affairs, said there had been no inflow into any dams in the country last month and even dam levels that were promising in November were now sinking fast.

Less than a month is

left for the drought to be broken.

"If we don't get rain before the end of this rainy season then next year will be grimmer than ever before," Mr Steyn said.

"We are living on 1983's water and if the drought persists we will get through the winter but next summer will be disastrous."

The rainy season officially ends in March but February is known to be a dry month and farmers are counting on good rain this month or their crops will fail.

Gold price

The average level of the country's dams in 1983 was 41 percent compared with 43 percent last year but without taking Natal into consideration, dams last year were only 38 percent full compared with 45 percent in 1983.

Yesterday the level of the Vaal Dam dropped to 18 percent compared with 42 percent at the same time last year, while the average level of dams in the Western Transvaal dropped to 25 percent last month compared with 36 percent in 1983.

The worsening environmental conditions come at a time when South Africans face a gloomy economic year highlighted by the plum-

meting gold price, increased interest rates, a declining rand, tighter tax regulations and the prospect of a huge petrol-price increase.

'All poorer'

Yesterday Volkskas economist Mr Adam Jacobs said that if South Africa were subject to another agricultural disaster, the entire country would be affected.

"If the country is poorer we will all be poorer," he said.

"The farmers will bear the brunt but if we have to continue importing maize and we cannot export, the interest rates will remain high and the balance of payments will be seriously affected."

Meanwhile, farmers in the maize belts of the Western Transvaal and Northern Free State watch the skies every day hoping for rain. The recent extreme temperatures have drained the soil moisture and vital maize crops are beginning to burn up.

Substantial rain is needed in these areas within the next week, according to the Maize Board, or crops will be severely damaged. If it doesn't rain, South Africa can expect a crop of only three million tons or less — more than one million tons less than last season's drought-reduced 4 400 000 tons.

Plans provide for water until year 2020

Race against time to beat next drought

5. Times
15/1/84
3 news

WATER schemes being built and on the drawing board will ensure adequate supplies in normal years until 2020 — but another drought such as last summer's could again throw South Africa into crisis.

This emerges from interviews with the Directorate of Water Affairs and the Water Research Commission. Spokesmen maintain that the situation is under control. Planned schemes — some in conjunction with neighbouring nations — will be sufficient to meet SA's needs for industry, household and irrigation well into the next century.

Johan du Plessis, deputy director-general of the Directorate of Water Affairs, says funds being received enable his department to keep up with demand. To meet emergencies, money is needed to complete projects at least five years ahead of requirement.

Real expenditure will have to increase by an annual 7% if demand for water is to be met. Current expenditure is about R300-million a year. Demand for water is increasing by about 5% a year based on current population growth estimates.

A White Paper is being prepared on the current water supply position and should be presented to Parliament in the first half of this year. "We are seeking more funds to complete the dams at least five years ahead of their requirement," says Mr du Plessis.

One of the benefits of the drought has

By Don Robertson

been the realisation by various industries that their water requirements can be reduced considerably. Legislation to be presented to Parliament this session requires an industry using a certain amount of water a month to apply for a permit. Previously, this requirement related to companies using 250m³ a day, but it is intended to reduce the figure to 150m³ even if the water comes from a private borehole.

The Water Research Commission is conducting a survey to establish water consumption by different industries. It aims to insist that averages shown by this survey be used nationally.

This move has the Government's support. Sarel Hayward, Minister of Environment Affairs and Fisheries, has warned that allocations of additional water to industry will be considered only on evidence that optimal use of it is being made.

Piet Odendaal, senior adviser to the Water Research Commission, warns that pricing could be used to force industry to reduce its water consumption.

In an attempt to overcome political obstacles to developing the water resources of Southern Africa, the directorate has established technical links with Swaziland, Mozambique, Lesotho and Botswana. Schemes included in these talks involve the Komati-Crocodile project with Swaziland, the R1 500-million Le-

sotho Highlands project and a proposal to use the run-off from the Okavango swamps in Botswana.

Other projects aimed at boosting supplies include the Amatolo scheme near East London, the Inanada dam near Durban, the first phase of the Palmiet scheme, the Caledon project and extensions and development of the Orange River system for Port Elizabeth, diversions of the Umkomaas River and the Usutu-Vaal scheme for the Eastern Transvaal coalfields.

The Water Research Commission is also active. Projects include high-risk cloud seeding, treatment of industrial effluent, research on groundwater, water reclamation and desalination.

Mr Odendaal says the high mineral content of water below the Barrage on the Vaal is rising and salt contained in this water could have adverse economic effects.

At present, there is 300mg a litre of salt in this water. Should this rise to about 500mg/l, it would be unsuitable for irrigation and this could cost SA about R78-million a year. Should salinity rise to 800mg/l, the cost could be R139-million.

The commission is also looking at the development of groundwater resources. In some countries in Europe, 80% of water supplies come from this source but in South Africa, it is only 10% because of inadequate aquifers.

The Water Research Commission is doing pioneering work in the use of biological methods for reducing phosphates in effluent.

Government to promote exports of farm produce

General Star
18/1/84

Farming Correspondent

The Government would take measures to facilitate agricultural exports, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, said when opening the 1984 Agricultural Outlook Conference (AOC) in Silverton, Pretoria, today.

Mr Wentzel said the South African economy was being weakened by the failure of agriculture to compete efficiently in international markets.

The increase in the world prices of farm products was much larger than the benefits South Africa received from them in terms of rands.

The Department of Agriculture would commission an extensive investigation into the possibility of applying export promotion measures on agricultural products.

Another investigation would be instituted into the basic export potential of South Africa's main crops, Mr Wentzel said. Structural adjustments would be necessary and appropriate measures would be taken.

Effective measures would also be considered to curb the sharp increases in the prices of farming requisites.

The competitiveness of agricultural exports could thus be restored to an acceptable level.

Mr Wentzel said the effects of the recent drought would be felt for several years and everything should be done to restore natural grazing which had been extensively damaged.

Inflation had hit farmers hard and although, in the fight against inflation, sacrifices and adaptations would be required from everyone, demands on farmers' management skills would be particularly exacting.

ts profit

home: overall being a four-day pit the family holidays have and the appeal instant result proved detri- ie traditional me. 00 seats have sold for the one-day inter- he Wanderers aturday — and ats still avail- epted to be idgeting for a wd. and I'm :one," said Dr it I'm afraid not going to

help us make a profit. We were depending on the four-day Test."

The SACU last year lost R520 612 in staging tours by the West Indies XI and the Arosa Sri Lanka XI. Of this net loss, R493 816 was attributed to the Sri Lan- kan visit, and R26 795 to the first phase of the two-sea- son West Indian exercise.

It is unlikely that any team will tour South Africa next season — but the SACU certainly has plans for the long-term future of international cricket in this country.

● Match report, back page



WHAT do you think of the changes in the Springbok cricket team? If you would like to comment on this or any other issue phone Teleletters 24-2233 between 9am and 12 noon. Please keep your comments brief and be prepared to give your name and address if you would like to be quoted.

● Today's Telelet- ters, page 9

3 held after farm fires

CAPE Times
18/1/84

3 - General

Crime Reporter

TWO MEN and a woman have been arrested in connection with a fire which swept through 11 farms in Piketberg and destroyed at least 600ha of veld, fruit orchards and protea plantations.

The fire started on Saturday night and the local farmers and about 150 fire-fighters have been fighting the blaze for three days.

Major Nico Slabber, a Boland police spokes- man, said the people had been arrested yesterday on a charge of arson. He said that the fire was now "reason- ably under control".

Those fighting the blaze worked through Monday night when the fire, fanned by a strong wind, flared up again.

Yesterday morning the fire had spread to the farm Kaffirskloof, owned by Mr Kobus Lambrecht. His sister, Mrs A Smit, said yester- day the farm had not been seriously affected.

She said the water pipes on another farm, Riebokfontein, owned by Mr Frank Smith, had burst when the fire blazed through his land.

By late yesterday afternoon Mrs Smit said the fire had been con- trolled, but said the farmers and firefighters were still fighting sec- tions of the blaze on a mountainside. She said a westerly wind was blowing.

Some of the other farms affected by the fire are Diepkloof, Ex- celsior, Waterval, Ak- kerdal, De Hoek, Tier- hoek and Somerlus.

● Boland police are investigating two sepa- rate cases of arson after a fire in a public toilet in a Wellington hotel and another at a timber concern in Paarl.

On Monday a fire in the public toilets of the Station Hotel, Weiling- ton, caused R5 000 dam- age and completely gut- ted the building, police said paint had been stored in the toilet.

A pile of wood at the firm Timber City, Main Road, Paarl caught fire on Monday morning. The flames were doused and about R1 000 dam- age was caused.

No arrests have been made.

● Fire at Hout Bay Bar



Latest betting

BETTING at Cape Tatter- sall's yester- day:

J & B MET STAKES (Kenilworth, 2 000 m, Sat)

- 18-10 Wolf Power
- 6-1 Devon Air
- 7-1 Stella Maris
- 8-1 Spanish Pool
- 12-1 Hawkins
- 20-1 Count Du Barry, Versailles, Mr Fabulous
- 33-1 Grey Sun, Chief-Of-Staff
- 50-1 Mystery Me, Big Charles
- 66-1 Denizen, Lawn, Alpine Home
- 100-1 Happy Heracles, Libran

day's gallops at Kenilworth in preparation for the straight so he certainly has something to own to 18-10 yesterday. RIGHT: Spanish Pool put up a good performance in yesterday's Met anion, Charlie's Place. Pictures: Stewart Colman

e fettle for Met

own way," he said.

He said she had a good chance of doing well in the big race if she recovered her Durban form.

"She is bred to stay and has run Wolf Power to a half-a-length second place, so she should be in at the finish," he said.

One man who likes horses of the female kind is current South African champion trainer, Ter- rance Millard, who saddles the filly Devon Air in Sat- urday's race.

"I train a lot of fillies but I always pick the strong ones with big girths.

and I've had a lot of suc- cess with them," he said. "I won last year's Durban July with Tecla Bluff and I feel a good filly is every bit as valuable as a good colt."

Mr Millard described Devon Air, currently second in the betting, as "a very big, strong horse with a sensible, pleasant tem- perament".

"I think she's got a very good chance with the weight she's carrying," he said.

● The Met winner should be a grey — but which one?, page 20

Economy hit by foreign cash loss

Drought

cost to SA is R1 500m

General
ROOM- 19/1/84

By GERALD REILLY

THE devastating financial effects of last summer's severe drought cost the country R1 500-million in foreign exchange, and loaded farmers with record debt burdens.

Opening yesterday's Agricultural Outlook Conference in Pretoria the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, said although generally speaking the drought was over, the consequences of it would be felt for years.

The grazing in a great part of the country was so badly damaged it would take years to recover, even with years of good rains and conservative stocking.

The drought had also caused a steep increase in the debt burden of farmers.

"The Government was compelled last year to introduce drought assistance schemes to save agriculture from a catastrophe, and to ensure that a minimum number of farmers were forced off their lands."

Part of the short and medium term debt of farmers with agricultural co-ops and other financial institutions amounting to more than R500-million was consolidated by the Land Bank and the Agricultural Credit Board and made payable over 22 years.

Crop farmers' debts in the summer rainfall areas amounted to more than F800-million.

Mr Wentzel stressed the Government had for long been aware of the gravity of the inflation problem.

To combat inflation successfully would demand big sacrifices and adjustments.

Referring to the effect of inflation on the farming industry he said the price index for farming requisites had risen much faster than consumer prices and the gap was widening.

The senior deputy governor of the SA Reserve Bank, Dr Chris Stals, said the effects of the adverse international economic situation on the economy were exacerbated by drought.

The drought in terms of imports and exports had cost South Africa about R1 500-



Soviets, US meet for talks

STOCKHOLM. — The focus of the Conference on Disarmament in Europe shifted to Stockholm's Soviet Embassy yesterday as the United States and the Soviet Union renewed high-level contact after a four-month hiatus.

US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, who earlier criticised the "artificially imposed division" of Europe that he blamed on the Soviet bloc, said he would try to convince his Soviet counterpart, Mr Andrei Gromyko, the United States wanted better relations.

Mr Shultz repeated however, he would be offering no concessions at their meeting to lure Kremlin negotiators back to arms talks they have abandoned in protest of the introduction of US missiles in Western Europe.

In an address to the conference before his meeting with Mr Schultz, Mr Gromyko lashed the US for deploying Cruise and Pershing II missiles in Europe, saying negotiations were no longer possible.

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YEAR-OLD pensioner was
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rnoon.

de Mail

and Cuba tense

NS between the United
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uban missile crisis.

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etable bargains

OMERS in search of first-
vegetables at bargain prices
pick their own from the hydro-
beds on the Fahn smallhold-
near Benoni.

AGE 8

orts Mail

rie's first defence

RIE COETZEE will defend his
d Boxing Association heavy-

The grazing in a great part of the country was so
badly damaged it would take years to recover, even
with years of good rains and conservative stocking.

Soviets, US meet for talks

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ble.

Jackpot run off today

By PETER DUFFIELD

AFTER a torrential down-
pour lasting about 30 min-
utes, yesterday's race meet-
ing at Newmarket was called
off.

The first five races had
been completed.

Newmarket Turf Club stew-
ards have decided to stage
the remaining four races,
which comprise the jackpot,
today at 3.10pm.

With a R1-million bet on
the jackpot, the decision to
run the jackpot races today
was a certainty.

Were this not done, the
club would have had to re-
fund all the jackpot money
and lose commission
amounting to thousands.

The condition of the track,
which had become very
heavy, could still prevent the
remaining races being run.

Course officials will in-
spect the track this morning,
when a final decision on whether
or not to race will be
made.

EVE checks mum at work

ARE working mothers liber-
ated or doubly oppressed?
Today EVE launches a new
series to explore this topic.

Find out all about bottle
refunds in Bread and Butter
Brief and enjoy some new,
quick and easy recipes.

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caused a steep increase in the
debt burden of farmers.

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nor of the SA Reserve Bank,
Dr Chris Stals, said the ef-
fects of the adverse interna-
tional economic situation on
the economy were exacer-
bated by drought.

The drought in terms of
imports and exports had cost
South Africa about R1 500-
million.

But for this the balance of
payments would now be
much less vulnerable.

Because of South Africa's
vulnerable balance of pay-
ments, domestic spending
could not be allowed to in-
crease too fast before ex-
ports of gold and other com-
modities had risen
substantially.

The prospects for such an
increase in 1984 were very
good he added.

On the SA economy he said
real economic activity
showed a distinct upward
movement in the middle of
last year.

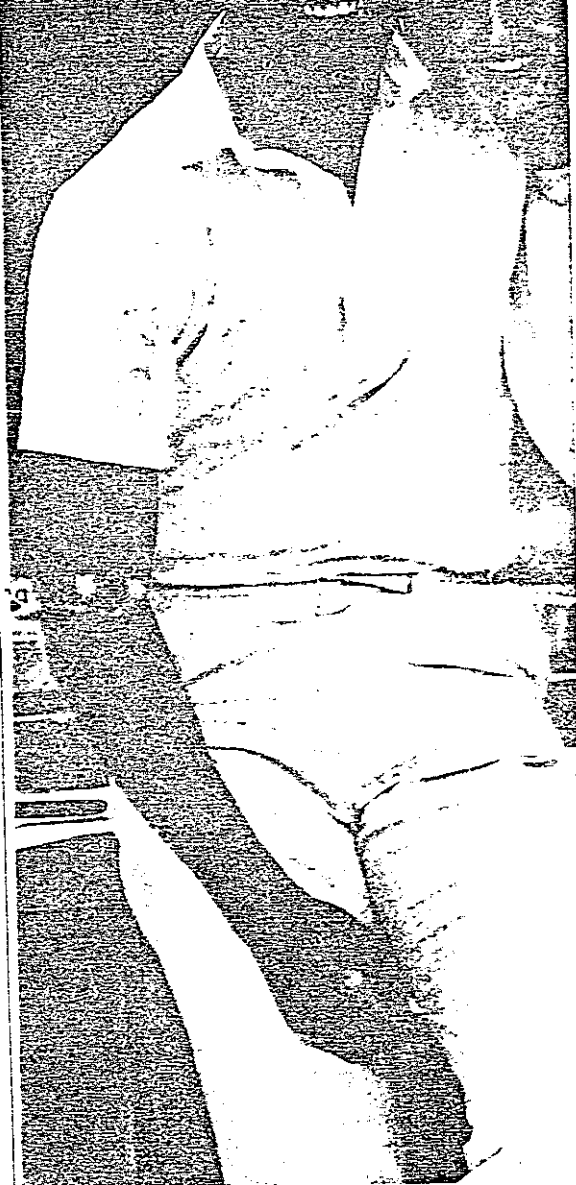
However, this momentum
seemed to have been lost
again towards the end of last
year "and the economy is ap-
parently moving back into a
more subdued situation".

South Africa, he empha-
sised, could hardly afford a
strong upswing without an
accompanying increase in
either the gold price or other
exports.

At the conference a former
United States Secretary of
Agriculture, Mr Earl Butz,
said food was the language of
peace and without it it would
be impossible to build a basis
for a peaceful world.

Diplomats would fail in
their efforts towards peace
unless the hunger problem
was solved.

Mr Butz said the world
population was expected to
grow to 6 500-million by the
end of the century.



A break from cricket... West Indian bowler Franklyn Stephenson and several other players, including model Miss Mandy James and several other women, are seen in a relaxed setting.

Tour stopped by elephants

NEW DELHI — An Indian
Air Force helicopter plucked
state officials from a village
surrounded by wild elephants
that injured 40 people, the
Press Trust of India news
agency said yesterday.

Mr Gegong Apang, Chief
Minister of north-eastern
Arunachal Pradesh state,
was on a walking tour of his
state with other officials
when the herd attacked last
Sunday.

Breakfast Quip



"I've no doubt the grass is
greener on the other side,
Mrs McCartney!"

Windi Mand

By CHRIS STEYN

THE Windies know how to re-
unconventional way.

Unimpressed by their s-
ings and unaffected by the g-
other holidaymakers, they
Sun City their way yesterd-

About nine of the cricket
few friends and girlfriends,
by bus at noon yesterday. T-

They immediately headed
casino to make their fortun-
they hoped.

Despite vivacious compe-
bowler Franklyn Stephens
peared slightly bored and t-

After having lost R20 gara-
fore lunch, he opted for te-
golf after the meal.

"I am scared of gambling
clared. "I only like playin
when I stand a change to wi-
poker."

The Director of Tourism,
ford L M Letlhaku, repres-
Bophuthatswana Governme-

Only he never had an op-
to get properly acquainted
cricketers as his lunch part

D. Dispatch
3 General

Jackie's mate late for first date

EAST LONDON — Jackie the bear has been stood up. His mate, who was expected to arrive yesterday, did not turn up.

Jackie's mate, who has not yet been named, was obtained from the Har-tebeespoort Zoo, in an exchange of animals, earlier this year.

Mr Bob Odell, the director of parks and amenities, said the curator of the Queen's Park Zoo, Mr Bill van den Doel, who went to fetch Jackie's mate, had left Bloemfontein early yesterday morning and was expected to arrive yesterday afternoon.

"We expected them at about four o'clock but there was still no sign of them by late yesterday evening," he said.

"I don't think there was any trouble. If there was anything wrong, they would have phoned by now," Mr Odell said.

"They were probably taking things very slowly." — DDR

D Village shack burns

EAST LONDON — Two fire engines were called out yesterday evening when a shack in Duncan Village caught alight.

A spokesman for the fire department said by the time the engines had arrived, the occupants of the shack had partially extinguished the fire.

She said the fire department put the rest of the fire out "quite quickly." She described the damage as not serious. — DDR

Transkei drought loss about R100m

UMTATA — Transkei is emerging from the grip of the worst drought in living memory with a loss of an estimated R100 million.

Agricultural authorities interviewed yesterday were optimistic that the back of the drought had been broken and good returns may be yielded when the reaping season starts in May.

But the chairman of the drought relief committee, Mr I. D. Sawula, said although good rains had fallen, they were still saddled with some of the effects of the drought.

Mr M. Shaker, of the Department of Agriculture's engineering division, said the drought was over as far as water was concerned but the major dams still had to be topped up.

"We still need more rains. There are still water restrictions in the Libode area.

Crops from Nqamakwe to Umzimkulu are reported to be in good

shape while more rain is needed for the inland areas.

The planning and development manager of the Transkei Agricultural Corporation, Mr Jim Ellis-Jones, said should the good rains persist, especially in February, bumper crops could be expected for the more than 10 000 farmers the corporation was helping.

"Of concern, however, is the low level of the Lubisi Dam serving the Qamata irrigation scheme. The amount of water stored has increased from eight per cent in December to 16 per cent, but more rain is required for the scheme."

He said the drought had unfortunately coincided with major development activities to promote increased production.

"As with other countries, this has had serious financial implications which will take a number of years to overcome," he said.

The director of veterinary sciences, Dr Carlos Santos, said the livestock situation had improved dramatically.

A total of 330 000 cattle had died during the drought. The drought was directly responsible for about 75 per cent of the deaths.

"The livestock will take some time to recover and their condition can be described as satisfactory to weak."

Dr Santos added that tick-borne diseases such as red water, gall sickness and heart water were more common than was expected.

"The animals were not challenged much by ticks during the drought. They have lost some of their natural immunity as their need to produce anti-bodies was reduced.

"All of our dipping tanks are functional because of the good rains and farmers are advised to dip regularly to counter the tick threat." — DDR.



Mrs B. Preston unveils a yesterday, on behalf of her major contributions to the headmaster of Selborne Co

Black le PFP in

CAPE TOWN — The Progressive Federal Party and leaders of non-independent black states are considering regular meetings after discussions here yesterday.

Three of the five black leaders who had earlier had talks with the Prime Minister, Mr P. W. Botha, had an hour-long discussion with 16 members of the PFP parliamentary caucus.

Mr Colin Eglin, who led the PFP delegation as caucus chairman, said afterwards that the meeting was very useful. While the possibility of regular formal meetings was being explored, the PFP and the black leaders had agreed to improve communications immediately on a personal basis.

The black leaders at the meeting yesterday were Prof Hudson Ntsanwisi of Gazankulu, Mr Kenneth Mopeli of

Dallas drops a slot

PORT ELIZABETH — Dallas lost its top rating in the television popularity poll for the last week of December.

After being voted the most popular programme on TV1 in every poll since it started last October, the American soap opera was ousted by the dubbed French serial *Alleen op die Wêreld*.

Dallas took second place, followed by the Afrikaans serial *Fynbos*, the movie "Thoroughly Modern Millie", the science fiction series *Star Trek*, the detective serial *Quincy*, the movie "The Bishop's Wife" and the variety show "Gentle on my Mind."

Harare heart baby still critical

CAPE TOWN — Hours after the arrival of a Harare baby with a heart defect at the Red Cross Children's Hospital here, surgeons were working through the night to complete an emergency cardiac operation on the child.

A hospital spokesman last night said that seven-month-old Wadzanayi Mhunduru was still "very sick", but he was "fairly happy" with her condition.

He said the first 72 hours after the operation was "the crucial period" and a doctor and a sister were constantly at the baby's bedside in

the intensive care ward. The spokesman said this was standard procedure for an operation of this type.

A team of four surgeons, led by Mr Dimitri Novitzky, began operating two-and-a-half hours after the baby's arrival on Thursday.

As a result of the 7½ hour operation, the flow of blood to the child's lungs had been increased and she is now receiving more oxygen.

Wadzanayi had been suffering from the "blue baby" condition caused by a decrease in the amount of blood flowing to her heart. — DDC

Cars must give way

HARARE — Zimbabwe's Government Gazette published regulations yesterday ordering all traffic to pull over and stop to make way for offi-

Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, travel in motorcades in which their cars are preceded by motorcycle outriders and followed by a truck

Man gets 2 years for theft

PROOF
INDABA gets through to people

149 000

adult readers read all or most of Indaba*

RURAL POVERTY ^{(3) beer} Learning self-help

It is one thing to be concerned about the lack of jobs — but quite another to do something about it. The Africa Co-operative Action Trust (Acat), a non-profit making organisation, is making the effort in rural areas.

A brainchild of former agricultural equipment marketer "Von" van der Linde, Acat is supported by a number of business and professional men. They are helping people in the rural areas by teaching them the concepts of saving and how to make the transition from subsistence living to the cash economy.

Today Acat, which was launched in Kwa-Zulu in 1979, operates in the Transkei, Swaziland, Ciskei and Zimbabwe. It has established a board of trustees in each territory drawn from the local communities. Activities are co-ordinated by Acat South Africa, the parent body. Acat believes the problem is not primarily one of shortages

Financial Mail January 20 1984

^{(3) general 2/1/84}
of land, water and other resources, but rather in learning to apply knowledge and expertise.

Says Acat's chairman, economist Lawrence McCrystal: "The less developed rural areas of SA carry a population of some 11,8m people. This is growing at the rate of 3,1% each year. The four major urban concentrations — the PWV area, the Western Cape, the Port Elizabeth-Uitenhage area and the Durban-Pinetown-Maritzburg area — have an estimated 4,9m black population, with an annual increase of about 3,4%."

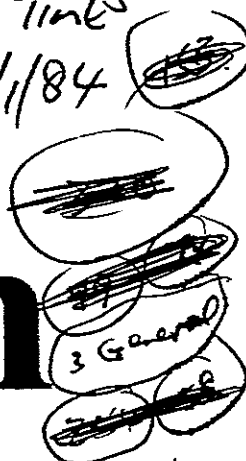
He stresses that because enough jobs cannot be generated for the natural increase in the urban black areas, other than in boom years, there is little chance of absorbing people moving to the cities from the rural areas. This situation results in a rapidly growing urban or semi-urban population of unemployed or under-employed people living in squalid, congested conditions who, because they are barely literate, are virtually unemployable.

Acat therefore embarked on a rural development programme involving people in structures with which they can cope. It operates within the existing norms and values of the affected communities in teaching people how to make the best use of limited resources. There's no merit, says Acat, in trying to force the pace of change as rural people are, by nature, conservative and therefore have a strong resistance to change. Moreover, the cultures of people and their attitude are, generally, among the most difficult things to change, even among those who are modern in their outlook.

GST to rise 1pc next month

Cape Times

28/1/84



Staff Reporter

THE government would increase the general sales tax by one percent to seven percent from February 1, the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, announced last night.

Mr Horwood put the blame for the increase on the world-wide economic downswing, the inability of South Africa's trading partners to register an early and meaningful economic recovery, and the recent drought in South Africa.

He said the rapidly-declining gold price and a consequent weakening of the rand-dollar exchange rate, and the

higher-than-budgeted expenditure on essential services, also contributed to the need for the increase in GST.

"No tax increase is without sacrifice, and in view of price and cost increases evident elsewhere in the economy, the government would have preferred to avoid any increase in taxation, especially at this point in time. Unfortu-

nately this is just not possible," Mr Horwood said.

An advantage of general sales tax, however, was that it was levied on almost all final purchases.

"As a consequence, the community as a whole contributes to the financing of public expenditure, which in turn is incurred for the benefit of the whole community," he said.

The government's most important and unavoidable expenses were on drought relief, defence and the servicing of the public debt. Other expenses were on food and transport subsidies.

"On the other hand, the growth of the country's sources of income is limited by the present economic downswing and is insufficient to cover a growing deficit, due primarily to declining profits in the business sector and a decrease in net customs and excise revenue," Mr Horwood said.

Pointing out positive steps, Mr Horwood said significant progress had been made in the fight against inflation. A positive turn-about in the balance of payment had been continued and consolidated. South Africa's credit-worthiness internationally stood at a very high level.

"In addition, it seems as if the economic downswing has reached its lowest ebb, or very nearly so.

"All in all, I am optimistic that South Africa will soon benefit from the long-awaited improved international economic climate and during 1984 experience the commencement of a prolonged and healthy export-led economic upswing."

● Poor people hardest hit, page 6

FINANCIAL BRIEF

Crucial ^{crop 1964} ^{24/1/84} 14 days ³⁶⁰⁰⁰ for maize ^{3.40000}

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. — South Africa is on the fringe of yet another big maize crisis.

In Pretoria yesterday, the general manager of the National Maize Producers' Organization (Nampo), Dr Pieter Gous, said the next 14 days would be crucial for the crop.

He said there was good reason for serious concern.

If current weather continued — intense heat and only isolated thunderstorms — over large parts of the maize-growing areas of the Transvaal, it could cost the country tens of millions of rands.

Even with good rains in the next critical 14 days, the crop was not likely to exceed nine million tons, against a potential under favourable conditions of more than 12 million tons.

"But if the dry conditions persist, the harvest could be slashed to six million tons — barely enough for our own requirements."

Maize imports?

Conditions were becoming progressively worse, and the unhappy prospect of South Africa once again having to import maize was looming.

Dr Gous said that in some areas it was already too late. In isolated parts, farmers had abandoned their crops and were turning their cattle into maize lands.

Last season's crop was reduced by drought to less than four million tons.

This meant the importation of more than two million tons to meet the local need of six and a half million tons.

The cost was enormous — about R400 million. Not only was this a heavy drain on the country's foreign exchange reserves, but the fact that there was no surplus for export was an additional substantial loss of foreign earnings.

Levels fall

Meanwhile a spokesman for the Department of Environment Affairs, Mr Anton Steyn, said the water situation in the Transvaal remained critical. Some dam levels had started to fall because of hot, dry conditions so far this month.

In Natal, restrictions had been eased.

The Midmar and Albert Falls dams — main water source for Durban and Maritzburg — averaged 31 percent full yesterday.

In the Vaal system, the Bloemhof Dam had dropped from 13,09 percent full on Friday to 12,4 percent yesterday morning. Vaal Dam was just maintaining its level at slightly in excess of 50 percent. The dam at Douglas had dropped over the weekend from 31,29 percent to 27 percent, and Spitskop from 6,54 to 5,08 percent.

"The situation remains critical in the Transvaal as a whole, and we are running out of rainy season," Mr Steyn said.

'You cannot build basis for peace if people go hungry'

AP/6/15 24/1/84
Staff Reporter

STELLENBOSCH — Agriculture's role in peace initiatives dominated opening addresses today at a two-day regional agricultural conference here.

A former American Secretary for Agriculture, Dr Earl Butz, said: "The truth is that you cannot build a basis for peace on hungry people."

"In the next 35 years the world population will increase by about 3,5-billion and, in order to feed all these people just a little better than now, we'll have to double our total food production."

INCENTIVE

"We'll have fewer resources to do this with, but with the help of scientific research, more capital and incentive, we will achieve our goals."

"The most important challenge facing mankind now is the need for a basis for living together peacefully, and I am convinced that the answer lies in food production."

Dr Fred du Plessis, head of Sanlam, said: "If we want to be able to stay on in this part of the world, we will have to impart something towards the well-being of our neighbours and ensure that we take the lead in the production of food."

PLANNING

"But we must recognise the need for planning. If we want to continue reducing surpluses and have a role as peace-makers, we will have to look closely at how effectively we can increase food production."

"If we do not expand, we will not even be able to feed our own market."

Dr du Plessis said that with the emphasis on industrial development in other parts of South Africa, the Western Cape farming community would have to "make sure you keep this part of the economy going."

"Agriculture here is more than the backbone; it is the driving force behind the development of the region."

Threat to maize crop

Cape Times 26/1/84 36 cols 3 lines
Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The next four days are crucial for maize belt farmers — crops are likely to fail for the second year in a row if there is insufficient rain over the Transvaal and Free State by Sunday night.

The bad news is that the scorching temperatures of the past few days look set to continue, and dam levels have started to drop.

According to a spokesman for the weather bureau there has been an overall 45 percent drop in average rainfall in the Reef and eastern Highveld while the Western Transvaal and Free State have had a recorded rainfall of only 35 percent of the mean average for January.

A spokesman for the Transvaal Agricultural Union said the situation was most desperate for western Transvaal farmers, some of whom have had no rain this season.

If they had no rain by the weekend their crops would fail for the second year running, he said.

Tough challenges facing agriculture

32nd
CAPE TOWN 25/11/84

By ALEX PETERSEN
Deputy Financial Editor

AGRICULTURE in the Western Cape provided the backbone of the economy of the region, and faced major challenges in the tasks that it had to achieve, the chairman of Sanlam, Dr Fred du Plessis, told the Western Cape Agricultural Conference in Stellenbosch yesterday.

Dr Du Plessis said there was a higher degree of inter-dependence between agriculture and industry in the Western Cape than elsewhere in the country.

Although in relative terms agriculture was producing a declining proportion of the gross national product, the statistic belied the crucial role that agriculture played in the region.

"Agriculture is much more important than it would seem from the national accounts."

Surplus

A large part of South Africa's agricultural surplus was produced in the Western Cape, and production levels for the area were generally more stable than in other parts of the country.

Not only was the industry an important employer, but 35 percent of other industry in the region used agricultural inputs, which led to a high degree of inter-dependence between agriculture and industry in the region.

The challenge that agriculture faced was to continue to increase productivity. With South Africa's population set to increase by 50 percent by 1990, it was crucial for agriculture to meet the challenge.

While in other Western countries expenditure on food averaged 20

agricultural machinery would become more costly. Another cost factor would be the continuing pressure to improve the situation of farm labour.

Domestic demand was likely to remain on a low level, restricting the ability of producers to increase prices, so the profit position of farmers would be under pressure.

Interest rates were likely to remain high, and with agricultural debt still on the increase, the rates would squeeze the financial position of the farmer.

"Everything points to the fact that in the agricultural industry, especially in the intensive sector, a lot more attention will have to be given to planning in the future than has been the case up to now."

Structural change

Mr De Vries said that an important structural change in agriculture had been the degree to which it became more capital intensive. While in 1960 for each worker employed there had been a capital investment of R2 600, by 1980 this had risen to R5 300, with the bulk of the change occurring in the last decade.

This had been a faster change than in the economy as a whole, and could in part be ascribed to changes in the tax laws. It had occurred at a higher rate in the Western Cape than in other regions, particularly because of the type of agriculture practised in the region.

Reflected in employment opportunities, the percentage of the workforce employed in the agricultural sector had declined from 21.3 percent in 1960 to 9.3 percent in 1980.



Dr Fred du Plessis

percent of income, in South Africa for certain groups it was as high as 40 percent.

"The food question is much more sensitive in this country, and the challenges faced by agriculture are harder in this part of the world," Dr Du Plessis said.

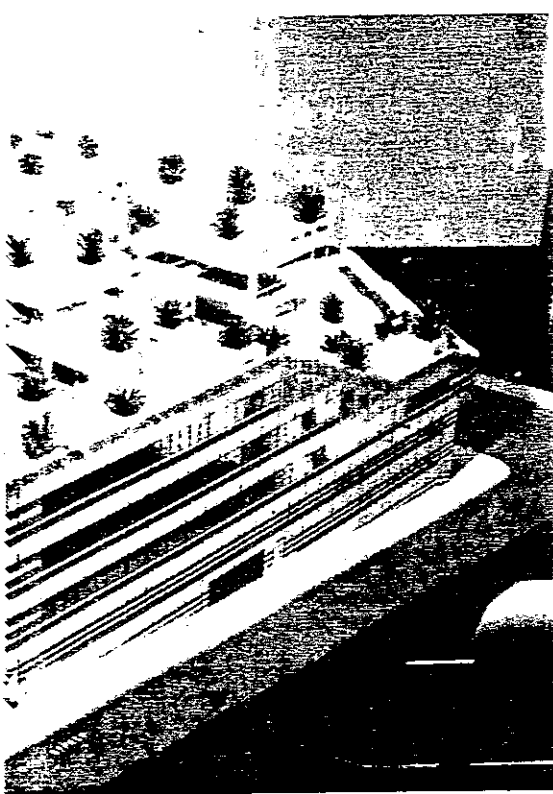
Mr Attie de Vries of the Bureau of Economic Research at the University of Stellenbosch warned farmers at the conference that the easier times of the last 15 years were now a thing of the past.

Subsidies

Because of the government's need to cut back on spending, agricultural subsidies would be an obvious area for cutting back. Such a move would be in line with the government's increased emphasis on a free market policy.

Looking at other economic factors, Mr De Vries said that while the weaker rand would favour exporters, its chief drop had been against the dollar. It had shown a smaller drop against the currencies of the traditional export markets of Western Cape agriculture.

The other side of the coin was that imported goods, in particular



ional title office complex to be built Town.

al title office Cape Town

the office space and 50 percent of the parking in the new building has already been sold. The development will consist of 9 000 m² of office space tiered above six levels of parking.

The architects: Douglas Roberts and Peter Loebenberg Incorporated, have designed the building to accommodate 380 cars on four levels of parking, of which two are below ground.

Open light wells penetrate the building and

planted terraces occur on all office floors. The design is such that all offices are naturally ventilated.

The facade of the building is in silver and white aluminium panels, with variously dark and mirrored windows, depending on the elevation. White and silver reflects the heat of the building on the north and west faces. The facing of the building at street level comprises white and light grey ceramic tiles.



y) Ltd has announced three main board appointments: Colin McClelland, general manager accounts and director, Mr Graham Barr, general manager government, and Mr Keith Brooke-Sumner, general manager acting, have been appointed alternate directors.

e higher taxes

udget

coloured people's elections have to be taken

Gold drops to \$365,25

LONDON. — Gold showed little change yesterday, holding in a narrow range after the lower opening yesterday morning. Bullion closed at \$365,00-\$365,50, compared with the opening \$365,60-\$366,10 and Monday's close of \$371,00-\$371,5.

Dealers reported a moderately active day

Closing gold prices

(In \$ an ounce)

LONDON:

365,00-365,50

Fixing am: 365,20

Fixing pm: 365,10

ZURICH:

major European currencies yesterday in what dealers described as featureless trading. But the dollar attraction for investors helped depress gold prices by more than five dollars an ounce.

The dollar remained strong on continued expectations of high United States interest rates

Village evacuated as flood waters threaten thousands

Argus Africa News Service

MAPUTO. — Mozambican authorities began evacuating thousands of people near the border with Natal amid fears that flood water released from the Pongolapoort Dam could flatten Catuane and drown hundreds of villagers.

Radio Mozambique warned people every 15 minutes to evacuate to higher ground.

The level of the Maputo River, which claimed at least 14 lives in the week, rose dramatically today after South African authorities opened the dam's sluice gates. Water was rushing into the river at the rate of 2 000 cubic metres a second.

The Domoina cyclone death toll has risen to at least 115 with reports from Kangwane that a child has died. Scores of people there are still missing.

The body of a boy, aged 8, was found in a pool nearly a kilometre from his home in the Pienaar Trust area near Kanyamazane yesterday.

The bodies of 28 people who drowned in the Ingwavuma River, Natal have been found on the banks of the river, according to a radio report.

HELP IN MOPPING-UP

Meanwhile, hundreds of national servicemen and air force personnel moved into northern Natal to help in mopping-up.

An air force helicopter today airlifted more than 70 holidaymakers and Natal Parks Board officials and their families stranded at a remote game reserve in the Lower Umfolosi Valley.

Another helicopter was due to monitor the controlled flooding of the Makatini Flats as the final sluice gates in the Pongolapoort Dam were opened during the night.

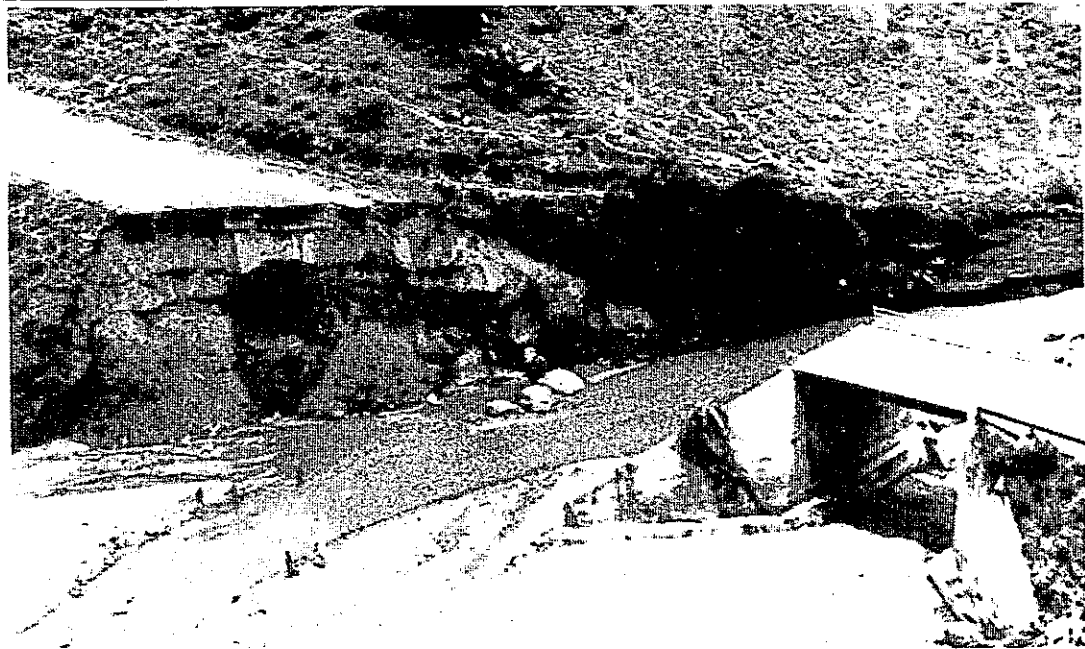
A Super Freilon helicopter fetched a woman and her two-day-old daughter after she gave birth in a remote farmhouse.

Mrs Elsie Marx and her husband, Gerhard, were making a desperate dash from the Mbazawane police post to the Empangeni Hospital when they were bogged down in a raging river.

The Government health services are to take im

(Turn to Page 3, col 3)

Feb. 1984



The normally serene and meandering Pongola River turned savage, laying low a bridge linking the towns of Piet Retief and Pongola.

Bodies found, but many still missing

(Contd from Page 1)

mediate steps to ensure protection against outbreaks of cholera, typhoid and malaria in the flood area.

The Minister of Health, Dr Nak van der Merwe, said during an inspection yesterday that malaria was the biggest threat.

The body of a Richard's Bay woman, swept away from the flood-damaged Blood River bridge in a car with her husband and year-old baby boy, have been identified and their vehicle recovered. The father and child are still missing.

Police said the couple left

their home in Richards Bay to go on holiday. Because the coast road was flooded, they apparently took the inland route through Vryheid and did not realise the bridge over the Blood River was holed.

At Kwambonambi, villagers have been without drinking water for three days and are hoping that a water-tanker will make it through to bring relief today.

In Newcastle, many residents fled their homes late last night when the Nkandu River broke its banks, flooding parts of Lennoxton, an Indian residential area, as well as busi-

ness and light industrial premises.

About 16 families were evacuated as floodwaters rose to about window height. The water receded early today.

In Zululand, roads to four Natal Parks Board reserves, cut off for three days, became passable again today.

Damage totalling hundreds of millions of rands is expected to become apparent in the next few days as flood waters begin to subside.

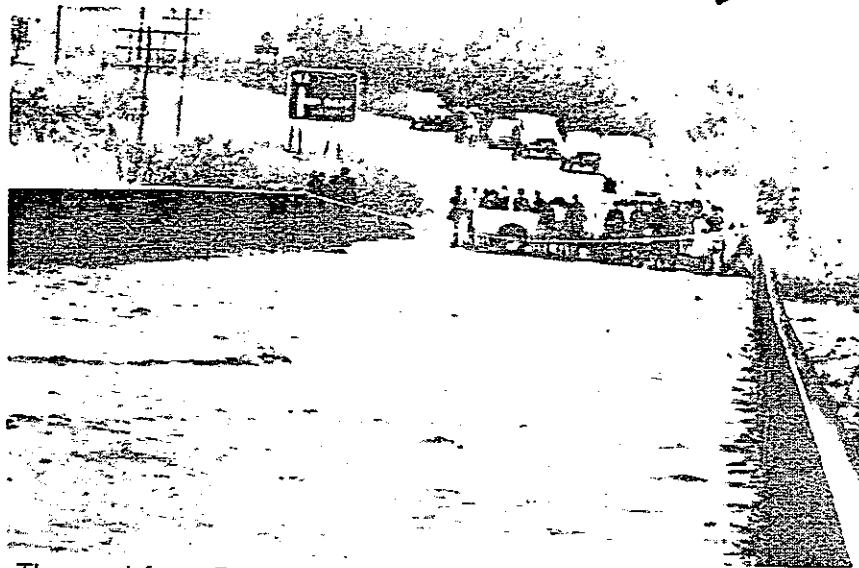
Floods have destroyed major road and rail bridges in Northern Natal and Zululand.

3-General

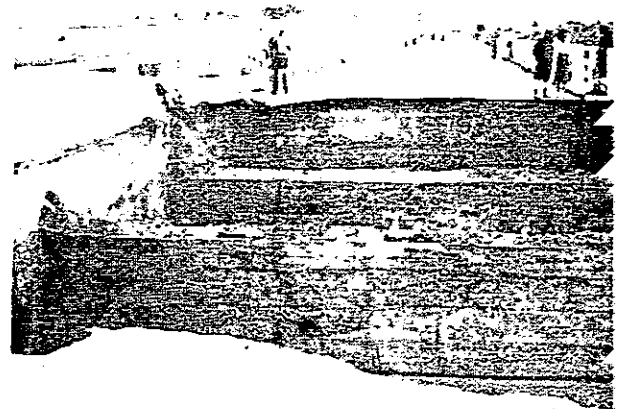
2/2/84

36

53 die, floodv



The road from Empangeni to Richards Bay was closed to traffic yesterday. Water rose to about a metre above the road and was still rising late in the afternoon.



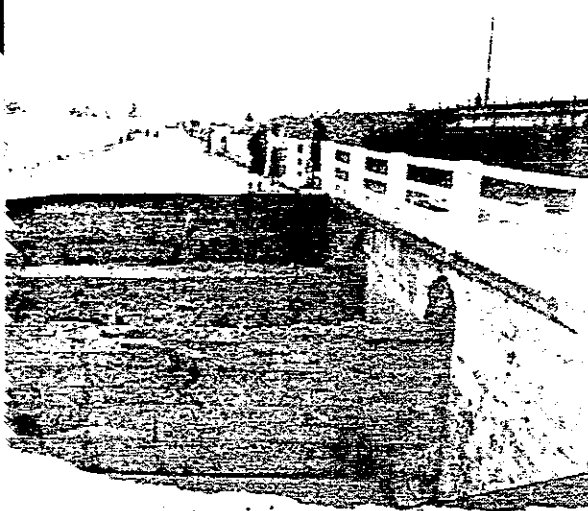
Four people are believed to have drowned after falling through this gaping hole in the Blood River Vryheid-Dundee road yesterday.



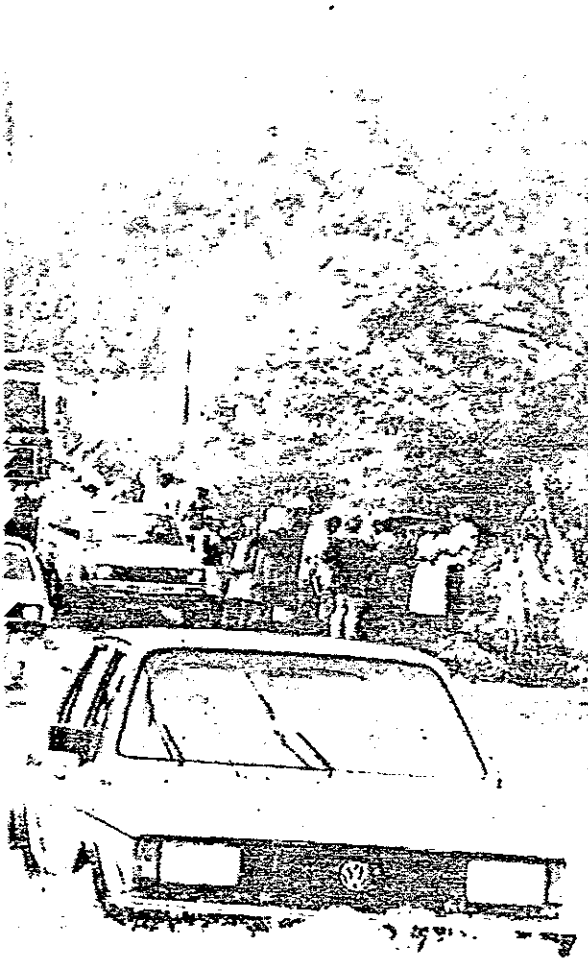
Motorists are guided through the raging Imbati River, near Mtunzini, which flooded a bridge on the national road

36 annual
CAPE Times 2/7/84

Floodwaters rise



...ved to have drowned after their car plunged
... hole in the Blood River bridge on the
...heid-Dundee road yesterday.



...bridge on the national road to Empangeni.

JOHANNESBURG. — At least 53 people have died in the aftermath of Cyclone Domoina, which has injured hundreds, left thousands homeless and caused damage running into millions of rands.

Twenty-seven people are reported to have died in Mozambique, 20 in Swaziland, where 12 people are also reported missing, and at least six are believed dead in Natal.

Rain generated by the cyclone, which struck the Southern African sub-continent late on Sunday, is still falling in northern Natal and Kwazulu, although Domoina was reported to be moving out over the sea.

The Weather Bureau in Pretoria said yesterday the eye of the cyclone was half-way between St Lucia and Maputo, off the coast.

Large areas of northern Natal have been cut off by floodwaters, and cabinet ministers met yesterday to discuss widescale damage and crop losses sustained in Natal, south-eastern Transvaal and Swaziland.

Swept away

Police in Vryheid, where over 600mm of rain has been measured since late on Sunday, reported yesterday that a car with four occupants had been swept off the Blood River bridge on the Vryheid-Dundee road on Tuesday night.

The body of an unidentified woman was later found some 20km downstream from the bridge, as was a baby's bottle, presumed to have belonged to an infant in the car.

Another Vryheid police spokesman later reported that two men had drowned in his area.

The Empangeni and Richards Bay regions are under threat of flooding from the swollen Goedertrouw Dam near Eshewe. A flooded river south of Mtunzini has further isolated Empangeni, where houses and streets are already partially submerged.

Water from the Goedertrouw Dam, whose volume almost doubled to 42 percent in 24 hours, may have to be released to prevent the dam from overflowing.

Carl 11/11/84 2/2/84

Govt aid for cyclone victims

Political Staff

A TOP-LEVEL team of government investigators will arrive in the flood-stricken areas of northern Natal and KwaZulu today to see what aid can be given to the victims of cyclone Domoina.

The Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, announced in Parliament yesterday that a special cabinet committee had been established to set up an aid programme.

The government had also decided to help the flood victims of Swaziland after requests for assistance from the Swazi Government.

The cabinet committee had already decided that a team headed by two ministers, Mr Carel Hayward (Water Affairs) and Dr Nak van der Merwe (Health), would visit the area as soon as possible.

It is expected they will fly into various parts of the cyclone-ravaged area accompanied by senior officials in an Air Force helicopter today.

The Richards Bay road is under half-a-metre of water, according to police in the area.

Water will have to be released from the Pongolapoort Dam, according to a spokesman for the Directorate of Water Affairs in Durban. The dam is almost full and residents of the area below the dam were warned yesterday afternoon to clear the area.

Only two of the six spans of the bridge over the Pongola River are still standing, and the bridge over the Umfolosi River on the main road along the North Coast has almost been washed away.

Traffic

Air traffic between Johannesburg and northern Natal has also been disrupted because of the flooding of runways, affecting Comair and Magnum services.

According to reports from the Eastern Transvaal yesterday, floods were starting to subside although it was still raining. However, it is thought that there are still people stranded in the area and a warning has been issued to motorists not to use dirt roads.

A police spokesman at

Ermelo said it was still impossible to send helicopters to rescue people trapped in the Piet Retief and Pongola areas because of heavy mist in the low-lying areas.

In Mbabane yesterday, it was announced that the Swaziland Defence Force would conduct reconnaissance flights and food drops in disaster areas, as part of the emergency measures called for by the Prime Minister, Prince Bhekimpi.

Swaziland's Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr Edgar Hillary, told the SABC that at least 20 bridges in the country had been washed away by floodwaters.

The Swaziland Red Cross Society is to approach the International Red Cross society in Geneva for aid and Mr Dlamini will coordinate appeals for international relief operations.

Yesterday the South African Red Cross had already sent 20 tents to Swaziland to house those left homeless by the cyclone.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, has expressed his government's sympathy to his counterparts in Swaziland and Mozambique. — Sapa

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2 saved after three days on roof

Cape Times 3/2/84 366mf

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — Two farm workers facing certain death from raging floodwaters swirling around their double-storey building, were plucked to safety in the nick of time by the crew of an SAAF Super Frelon helicopter in disaster-struck Northern Zululand.

They were some of the 39 people rescued on Wednesday and yesterday from the flood.

Lieutenant Mike Barrett, of Natal Medical Command, was winched down from a Super

Frelon helicopter late on Wednesday to rescue the two farm workers, who had been marooned on top of a compound building outside Mtubatuba since Monday.

The two men had been without food for three days and the swollen Umfolozi River was rapidly eroding the building on which they were perched.

Local farmer Brian Harrison had spotted them and had alerted the SAAF, who sent one of three Super Frelons conducting rescue missions in

the area.

Flying rescue missions over the vast area affected by flooding — nothing but a huge lake with a 15km radius spanned by the Umfolozi and Msundusi rivers and the St Lucia Estuary — was described by several SAAF pilots as making the Laingsburg flood disaster "look like child's play".

Victims were rescued by helicopters from the flooded Umfolozi valley, where more than 400mm of rain was recorded between Tuesday morning and

Wednesday night.

Farmers in the Mtubatuba area estimated damage caused to sugar cane alone at R15-million. Receding floodwaters disclosed great mudbanks that were once canefields.

A rescue mission to Jozini showed the dam — once described as a "white elephant" because it never filled — to be about 80 percent full and filling further.

Late on Wednesday, water was let out of the dam because it was feared that if it overflowed, even greater flooding

by the Pongola River — which had burst its banks — would occur.

A helicopter ferried people living downstream from the dam to higher ground to get them out of the way.

A tour of the far northern disaster area of Zululand showed most bridges had either been washed away or were impassable.

Roads throughout northern Zululand, especially dirt ones, were still in an appalling condition. Many were washed away.

Koeberg power in July, page 4

Woman stabs guard in bank

By MARIANNE THAMM
Crime Reporter

CLIENTS and staff of a large City bank watched in horror yesterday as a woman drew a knife from her bag and repeatedly stabbed a security guard standing in the foyer.

Moments later, a bleeding Mr Paul Rootman, 43, a guard at Barclays Bank in Adderley Street, collapsed from a stab wound in the right arm and one just below the heart.

Mr Rootman was talking to a colleague in the foyer about 9.15am when the woman, who is in her late 40s, entered clutching a bag.

An eye-witness, Miss Amanda Botha, said she was sitting in the foyer and noticed the woman because she "kept look-



Crocker — talks 'useful'

Own Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG. —

The United States Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, Mr Chester Crocker, said last night that his talks in Maputo with President Samora Machel of Mozambique had been "very positive and very useful".

Speaking at Maputo Airport before leaving for Johannesburg, Mr Crocker said the discussions had covered "a whole series of developments and trends in Southern Africa, including Mozambique's relationships with South Africa, bilateral relations between the United States and Mozambique, and Namibian independence".

He said he thought



Discount Supermarkets

EGG
PRICES
STAY
DOWN

LATEST BETTING

BETTING at Cape Tattersall's yesterday:

- RICHELIEU GUINEAS (Milnerton, 1 600 m, tomorrow)
- 18—10 Man Of Property
- 4—1 Expertise
- 5—1 Turncoat
- 7—1 Bodrum
- 20—1 Lotus Land, Moccasin, Uncut
- 33—1 Holyrood
- 40—1 Shoot Straight, West Of The Sun
- 50—1 Counter Punch, Beat 'Em Boy
- 66—1 Sun Palace.

ARGUS 3/2/84 (36 annual)

Operation Hunger



Picture: CHRIS MATUSZEK, The Argus.

Hillary Morris, voluntary co-ordinator of Operation Hunger.

GILL TURNBULL

THE long-distant line crackled and the dominee's voice sounded far away.

"What do we have to do to qualify for help from Operation Hunger," he asked.

"Is there malnutrition in your area?"

"Oh yes. Yesterday we buried a young girl who died of hunger."

The caller was phoning Operation Hunger from somewhere in the northern Cape.

Hillary Morris, Cape co-ordinator of Operation Hunger (she works on a purely voluntary basis) stressed that, although the drought in parts of Natal had broken, malnutrition was still rife in vast areas of the Karoo and the Northern Cape and Bushmanland where there had been

ONE shower of rain does not mean instant food. Operation Hunger officials anticipate a crisis again this year as the stunted maize crop again dries up before reaching maturity.

no rain for eight years. In many parts, hunger was not only the result of the drought.

In some areas around Vredendal, farm workers, who are lucky enough to be living on productive farms are still on the infamous tot system and a head master told visiting Operation Hunger officials that out of 90 children, only seven had not been raised on wine.

In other areas, the copper mines are laying off workers who then have no alternative employment and nowhere to go — except down to Cape Town where they are expected to swell the already

poverty stricken population and contribute to the housing shortage.

As tuberculosis has reached epidemic proportions already among the poor in the Cape, authorities are concerned about the possible influx.

In some parts of Bushmanland, from Pofadder to Springbok, farms are being abandoned by their white owners, and the workers, who have lived there for generations, are left destitute.

Operation Hunger was formed in 1981 when the Red Cross and social workers became concerned about extreme poverty among the coloured and black population in South Africa.

Administered by the Institute of Race Relations, after the official drought hit the country, all activities were intensified.

Hillary said a supermarket chain responded to the call for help and a food bank was set up. Large quantities of non-perishibles were collected and trucked up to the stricken areas where they were distributed by community leaders.

The problem now is that in December when an end to the drought was announced, the supermarket stopped collecting food and yet the need is just as as desperate as ever.

After discovering widespread malnutri-

tion among school children in the country districts, Operation Hunger launched a school feeding programme.

Special protein soup powder was manufactured for the organisation by one of South Africa's giant corporations, which then subsidised the product.

Thousands of platteland children are now being fed at school and once again, head masters and church ministers, as well as the parents themselves, are involved in the programmes.

"People don't like to feel they are receiving charity so we have involved the communities themselves in the schemes," Hillary said.

Two well known South African comedians living overseas and now back on holiday to do a show, Maggie Soboil and Frank Lazarus, have responded to the call for funds for food in the poverty stricken areas and are donating the entire proceeds of their opening night at the Nico Malan Theatre to Operation Hunger.

Also starring in the show will be Sophie Mgcina who has been playing Poppie Nongena in New York.

The show opens on February 9 and tickets will cost R3, R5 and R7,50 and will be available from Computicket.

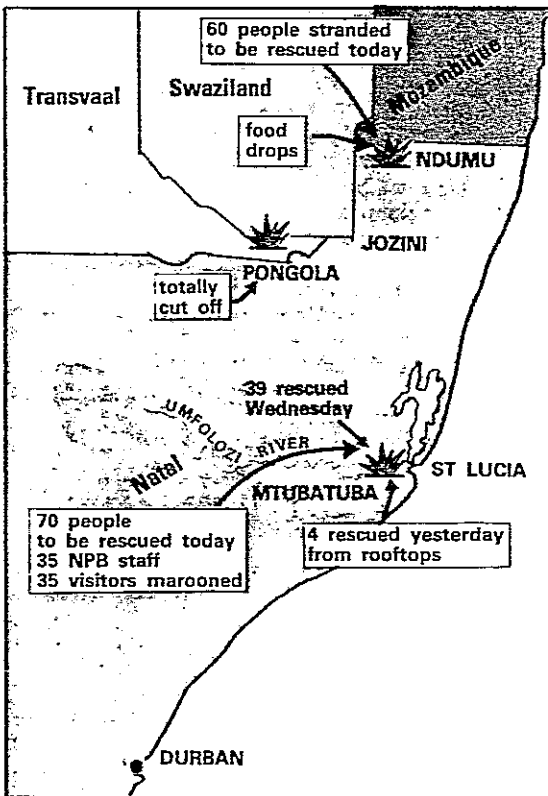
Air Force copters save 100

CARE TIMES
3/2/84
36 based

Cyclone damage mounts to

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — More than 100 marooned people in danger of being drowned by rising floodwaters have been airlifted to safety in the past three days by Air Force helicopters operating out of the St Lucia and Jozini military bases in northern Natal.



Colonel Philip Prinsloo, officer commanding the SAAF Base at Durban, said yesterday that five helicopters had dropped more than 3 000kg of food, blankets and medical supplies to farmers and others cut off by the floods who, although in no immediate danger, would be rescued in order of priority.

Sapa reports that 89 people are known to have died in three Southern African nations in the aftermath of Cyclone Domoina, and it is feared that many more are missing.

Latest reports put the death toll at 39 in Mozambique, 24 in Swaziland, 25 in Natal and one in the Kangwane area of the Transvaal.

Areas hit

A spokesman for police headquarters in Pretoria confirmed late yesterday that 24 people had died in the Vryheid area. The other known death in Natal had happened near Maritzburg.

The cyclone has left a trail of destruction in South Africa estimated

at more than R70-million, according to a police statement released in Pretoria yesterday.

The statement listed the parts of the country affected by the cyclone.

They are Newcastle, Vryheid, Paulpietersburg, Mbaswane, Gingindlovu, Melmoth, St Lucia Estuary, Mtubatuba, Mtunzini, Ntambanana, Nongoma, Nyoni, Kwamonambi, Hluluwe, Richards Bay, Hlabisa and Ndumo.

Town cut off

Supplies were dropped yesterday to about 60 people marooned by the floods in the Ndumo area near the Natal-Mozambique border, and to others cut off in the Mkuzi, Piet Retief and Pongola districts.

Colonel Prinsloo said the town of Pongola had been totally isolated by floodwaters.

No-one could get in or out by road. Seven bridges between Pongola and Piet Retief had been washed away and

R70-million

This map shows the extent of the flooding in northern Zululand. The three areas in which rescue missions are being focussed are marked by stars and are worst affected by the devastating floods this week.

all the railway bridges south of Pongola had also been destroyed. "But the people of Pongola are apparently safe. We have been told that they have enough food in the town to last about a week, but if they run out of food we will fly in supplies to them," Colonel Prinsloo said.

South of the Ulundi, all bridges are down and Jozini is cut off by road from the south.

At least 39 people were airlifted to safety yesterday in the Mtubatuba district, including two women and a man who had been on a rooftop at Mpalane, near the mouth of the Umfolozi River, for more than 20 hours.

"There are also 70 people marooned on an island in a sea of floodwater at Mpalane to whom we have dropped supplies of food, blankets and medicine. They are in no immediate danger and we will lift them off today," the colonel said.

Meanwhile, police divers were yesterday still searching for the occupants of a car which was washed off the badly damaged Blood River bridge on Tuesday night.

The body of a woman in her early 20s was found downstream of the bridge on Wednesday. She has not yet been identified.

Police in northern Natal have not been able to confirm reports that 11 people may have drowned in the Kwa-Zulu township of Mondlo between Vryheid and Dundee when the Blood River burst its banks.

About 500 huts are reported to have been destroyed by floods.

Teams of emergency workers from the roads, rail, communications and electricity supply departments moved into the flood-stricken areas of northern Natal and Zululand yesterday to begin mopping-up operations.

Domoina wreaked havoc in Natal Parks Board reserves and resorts in Zululand. About 80 percent of causeways in the Umfolozi have been washed away and all the bush-camps along the river have been carried off.

ARCUS
27/1/84
3 6 2000

Farmers plough crops in — prices rocket

Staff Reporters

WESTERN CAPE farmers are ploughing food crops into the ground, creating a shortage which has sent salad-vegetable prices rocketing in Cape Town.

Mr Emsie Carstens, manager of an agency at Epping Market, said low prices fetched on markets in recent weeks had not made harvesting worthwhile and had forced some farmers to plough crops into the ground.

In other cases, irrigation had been turned off and crops left to dry up in the fields.

The resulting shortage was forcing prices up again, he said.

A spokesman for the Department of Agriculture said this situation occurred often in the Peninsula, particularly among Philippi vegetable farmers.

UPSWING

"During the Christmas period there is an upswing in the demand for vegetables. All the farmers — each producing on his own scale — push through their produce at good prices.

"Vegetable produce is then in excess of the demand and the prices they can expect on the market do not allow them to make a profit.

"In these circumstances it is not worth their while to harvest. They might hold back supplies to create an artificial shortage and, when they are assured of better prices, they return to the market."

The spokesman said that because vegetables were a short-cycle product, fluctuations in supply and price did not have a lasting effect.

FLUCTUATIONS

He said he believed that many of the fluctuations which now occurred were a result of a lack of co-ordination of farmers' marketing policies.

An investigation into the prices of salad vegetables this week confirmed that lettuces in particular were in short supply and selling for R40 a case.

In supermarkets, small heads are selling for up to 79c each. Radishes are also scarce, if available at all, and are selling for 40c a bunch at the Epping market.

Fresh-produce buyers at supermarkets have denied that farmers from whom they buy were ploughing produce back into the ground.

Round-the-clock SAAF rescue operations continue

CYCLONE RISES TO

TOLL 226

N/K AR6WS
4/2/84
36 General

Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The cyclone death toll in South Africa, Mozambique and Swaziland has risen to 226 as rescue missions by the South African Air Force continue.

Fears that a new cyclone was forming off the Mozambique coast were dispelled today by the Durban Weather Bureau.

A bureau spokesman said a "tropical low" — a low-pressure area — 16 deg south and 42.5 deg east had been detected on the satellite pictures.

"It is definitely not a cyclone," the spokesman said.

In flood-ravaged northern Natal, where the death toll has reached 148, 440 people have been airlifted to safety in round-the-clock operations by helicopter teams. People in the Mtubatuba district have enough drinking water for only two days, and emergency supplies are to be flown in.

Washed away

Roads and pipelines have been washed away, and two farms were devastated as the Umfolosi River carved a gigantic new course.

In the Mlenwezi district, police reported that 25 people drowned.

At Blood River in northern Natal, where a family car was washed away, police divers have recovered the body of a white woman. Her husband and young son are still missing.

Near Vryheid, the bodies of three children were recovered from the raging floodwaters.

In the Ingwavuma district, three men have also been drowned, according to a spokesman for police headquarters in Pretoria.

Danger feared

In the same area, where the sluice gates of the huge Jozini Dam have been opened, police and rescue officials fear that hundreds of people will be in danger if the swollen Pongola River bursts its banks.

Police stations in northern Natal have been cut off by heavy rainfalls and officers have been unable to make their official reports on the death toll.

In the Eastern Transvaal lowveld, the cyclone aftermath has claimed four lives.

Several farm labourers are still reported missing after their huts along the banks of the Crocodile River were washed into the swirling water.

In Swaziland, the official death toll is now 24, and in Mozambique 50.

R25-m is needed by Swazis to recover

The Star's Foreign News Service

MBABANE — Business leaders meeting in Swaziland have estimated that the kingdom needs at least R25 million to repair the flood damage left in the wake of cyclone Domoina.

The businessmen met at the invitation of the Government yesterday and were asked to form a relief committee to liaise with the Government's Disaster Committee.

Large parts of Swaziland were still under water today and the towns of Pigg's Peak and Big Bend were inaccessible by roads which were being cleared by a South African Defence Force team.

The businessmen said their estimate was "initial and conservative".

According to a spokesman for Swaziland Railways at least R10 million is needed to repair the line to Maputo which carries Swazi sugar to Maputo for export.

At least 41 people have been killed in the kingdom, according to a police spokesman.

Major rivers in Mozambique were subsiding today as relief teams worked around the clock to restore water and electricity supplies to Maputo. More than 50 people lost their lives in Mozambique.

Buthelezi warns of flood famine — and backlash

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — The Chief Minister of kwaZulu, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, warned yesterday of widespread famine in the homeland because of the floods which followed the ravaging drought.

He gave the warning during the visit to Ulundi of members of the special Cabinet committee assessing relief for the disaster.

Chief Buthelezi said that already, because of the drought and the economy, the incidence of tuberculosis and malnutrition-related diseases was rising.

"The problems of poverty, hunger and malnutrition are not confined to rural areas," he added. "Around Durban we have hundreds of thousands of black people who have been forced by poverty in rural areas to move into squatter areas at cities."

Chief Buthelezi compared their situation with the plight of Afrikaner farmers driven off the land by drought and recession during the 1930s.

"The flood devastation will have an aftermath in the form of dismay turning to anger," he said. "I fear that the destitute and hungry hordes among my people could trigger off the kind of revolutionary action which will deeply prejudice the cause of those who believe in non-violent solutions."

"Not only have people had their homes damaged, but fields have been decimated, and they have suffered stock losses."

Chief Buthelezi thanked the Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, for his positive reaction.

Mr Sarel Hayward, chairman of the special Cabinet committee, said he could not talk about long-term needs because it was not his brief, but he gave the assurance that he would do everything to see to the immediate needs.

With the floodwaters now receding rapidly, it is becoming easier for officials to determine the extent of damage.

"What we can do is set you back on your feet so you can start producing again," said Mr Hayward, and appealed to everyone to get back to work, because "that is the best way to get back on your feet".

Domoina claims 6 more as death toll rises in E Tvl

Lowveld Bureau

NELSPRUIT — The bodies of six more people found in the Eastern Transvaal Lowveld last weekend bring to ten the number of people killed in the region as a result of the tropical cyclone Domoina.

Late yesterday, police divers were still searching for two bodies in the Komati River near Coopersdal.

Deluges and drought bring crop disaster

Pretoria Bureau

The floods caused by cyclone Domoina devastated the prime sugar-growing districts of Umfolozi and Pongola, causing R150 million damage.

According to the SA Cane Growers' Association, 420 000 tons of cane have been ruined in the Umfolozi Delta. More than 2 000 ha of sugar lands there have been ruined by a 2 m-thick deposit of river sand.

In the adjoining Transvaal district of Pongola about 1 600 ha of cane were washed away or covered by sand.

● In the Western Transvaal and the Western Free State the drought could destroy the last remnants of the region's four million tons of maize within the next three days, Maize Board members said.

Countdowns for the central maize belt and the maize areas of the Eastern Highveld and Natal begin soon.

Water in most of the region has dried up and the community is returning to normal.

All roads are open to traffic, telephone communications have been restored and farmers are repairing their homes and agricultural equipment which were damaged by the storm.

Many rivers are still in flood and the rain has transformed the region into a paradise.

Flood aftermath: escaped lions latest menace

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Zululand residents who were devastated by last week's floods now face a new threat — escaped lion from the Umfolozi Game Reserve.

Natal's MEC in charge of the parks board, Mr Dering Stainbank, said about 40 km of fencing at the reserve had been washed away.

Parks board officials said there are estimated to be about 200 lion in the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi area. It was impossible to monitor their movements because if they did stray they would do so at night.

"It's a serious problem because, being predators, if they stray out into the surrounding black areas they could pose a threat to the inhabitants and their livestock.

"We have to get that fencing up as soon as possible, but the

big problem is transporting it over the Umfolozi River.

"It's imperative that the Army comes in and installs some form of temporary structure before it is too late."

Mr Stainbank said that several of the province's other game reserves had also been hit by the floods and damage would exceed R1 million. Replacing the fencing at Umfolozi would cost more than R250 000. The damage to the St Lucia estuary was colossal and it would take at least three months to restore communication lines with Mapelane.

He said the damage to parks board bush camps would exceed R100 000 and it would cost more than R200 000 to restore damaged roads in game reserves. The total damage to roads and bridges in Natal was estimated at more than R15 million.

Argus Correspondent

DURBAN. — Thousands of blacks, cut off and isolated by the Domoina cyclone floods, are in dire circumstances without food, medical supplies and proper shelter.

While most people living in white areas are now out of physical danger, many white farmers have had devastating economic losses.

This became apparent yesterday during the second tour of the disaster area within five days by members of a special Cabinet committee appointed last week by the Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha.

White farmers warned yesterday that after the hardships of the recent ravaging droughts, the flood could drive some of them off the land if they did not receive proper aid.

Cut off

The chairman of the committee, the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Sarel Hayward, said it was quite clear that the biggest problem at the moment was the blacks who were still cut off.

The second priority would be to repair infrastructure, particularly roads.

Work has already started in numerous areas, with telephone and electricity links being restored to many of the towns which were totally cut off last week.

At Ulundi the Chief Minister of Kwazulu, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, told the committee members that many people there were in a hopeless situation.

He warned of widespread famine in Kwazulu as a result of the floods following on the drought.

Helicopters

Mr Hayward ordered two helicopters to be flown to Ulundi yesterday to enable Kwazulu officials to start assessing requirements in different areas.

The Argus correspondent in Pretoria reports that the floods devastated two prime sugar-growing districts, Umfolozi and Pongola, causing R150-million in damage.

According to the SA Cane Growers' Association, 420 000 tons of cane have been ruined in the Umfolozi Delta. The tramline transporting cane to the Umfolozi mill has disappeared, trolleys and equipment have been buried under the sand, compounds have been washed away, and bridges have been destroyed.

Over 2 000ha of fertile sugar lands owned by 25 farmers in the Umfolozi Delta has been ruined by a 2-m deposit of white river sand.

600 ha lost

In the adjoining Transvaal district of Pongola, about 600 ha of cane has been washed away. Almost 1 000 ha has been covered with sand. Tramlines, bridges and equipment were lost.

The Cane Growers' Association estimated the damage done by Domoina to the sugar industry at R112-million in the Umfolozi Valley and R38-million at Pongola.

As the floods caused by Domoina recede, the drought in the Western Transvaal and the Western Free State is nearing its climax, with only patches of maize still viable. In two or three days, all will be over and the whole of the region's four-million tons of maize will have been wiped out, Maize Board members said.

ARGUS 7/2/84
3 General
Cyclone leaves thousands of blacks without food, shelter

Cape Times

7/2/84

36 and

~~56~~

Floods: Fear of diseases

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — Thousands of people in Kwazulu are still stranded and homeless following last week's cyclone, and there are now fears of an outbreak of malaria, typhoid and cholera.

With floodwaters receding, stagnant pools provided breeding grounds for mosquitoes, said Kwazulu's acting Secretary for Health, Dr D Hackland.

"We desperately need medical supplies to prevent these diseases," he said.

He was speaking in Ulundi where a delegation of authorities yesterday met to discuss immediate steps to safeguard flood victims.

The party which toured the flood-stricken area yesterday included Mr Sarel Hayward, Minister of Water Affairs, and Dr Dawie de Villiers, Minister of Commerce, Trade and Tourism, and the Administrator of Natal, Mr Stoffel Botha.

They were told that thousands of black people could not be reached as they were stranded between damaged bridges.

Mr Hayward said the immediate priority was to ensure everybody's safety and then repair essential services such as roads, communication links and power.

"I'm prepared to stick my neck out and say that relief will be forthcoming from the government, but at this stage I cannot say how much or what form the relief will take." He said it could take as long as one year before the situation returned to normal.

During yesterday's tour he emphasized that the government would not leave victims in the lurch.

"It is impossible to satisfy everybody, but we are doing our best to see that most are satisfied. No stone will be left unturned," Mr Hayward said.

Meanwhile, many sugar-cane farmers will be forced to leave their lands — particularly in the Umfolozi Flats area, where farms have been completely washed away.

Govt ~~to~~
(3) General
to create
jobs ~~to~~
E. Post
after
2/2/04
floods

CAPE TOWN — The Government was ready to take as much positive relief action as possible in the flood-stricken areas of northern Natal and Kwazulu, the Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof, said today.

The object was to create employment and utilise labour intensive methods as much as possible in the aid programme, he said at his weekly Press conference in Cape Town.

The department also intended participating in the urgent provision of immediate relief measures such as re-establishing communications and ferrying in emergency supplies like tents, blankets and food.

The Deputy Minister of Development and Land Affairs, Mr Ben Wilkens, who toured the area recently, said one of the immediate objectives was to ensure at least one access road to every village in the disaster area.

The aid was available but a difficulty at this stage was a lack of information flowing to the department on the types of aid most needed at some of the more isolated places.

He appealed for information in this regard to be passed on wherever possible.

Dr Koornhof reviewed the "good progress" being made so far, saying: "Our hearts really go out to these people who suffered so much in the drought last year and now in these floods."

From a health point of view, the danger of typhoid, malaria and cholera outbreaks was under control, according to reports from officials in the area, he said. — Sapa

Government drought, flood talks tomorrow

RRGWS 9/12/84 3 92nd

By TOS WENTZEL
Political Correspondent

DROUGHT ravages and extensive flood damage and ways in which farmers can be assisted will be discussed at a meeting between the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, and chairmen of agricultural unions in Cape Town tomorrow.

The position in some summer rainfall areas is becoming desperate, with only a few weeks of the rainfall season left.

Assurances have been given that as many farmers as possible will be kept on the land.

Worse than floods

Mr Wentzel said it was too early yet to determine exactly what the effect of the drought and the flood damage would be on South Africa's food production potential.

As far as food production was concerned, the drought was doing much more harm than the floods, which mainly affected sugar production.

Answering a question in Parliament yesterday, Mr Wentzel said South Africa would again have to import mealies — possibly again from the US.

It was not possible to say how much would be needed at this stage.

A survey conducted by the Transvaal Agricultural Union shows that there are three disaster areas in the province.

Areas defined

A statement by the TAU today said one was a strip in the Western Transvaal where a crop failure was imminent.

The region included areas of Christiana, Wolmaransstad to Vereeniging, and arable land in the Northern Transvaal.

Another disaster area was the Eastern Transvaal Lowveld, where about 170 000 ha had been destroyed by hail, causing a R20-million loss.

However, certain parts promised a good harvest.

Millions of rands

Alongside this region, a strip in the Lowveld had been ravaged by cyclone Domoina.

The full extent of the damage was still being assessed, but it already amounted to millions of rands.

The position of stock farmers in extensive grazing areas was critical.



The tasks being carried out at present by the US astronauts could make space colonies, like this artist's impression, a reality.

Space 'crowded' as Reds put three aloft

CAPE CANAVERAL. — A record eight astronauts whirled around the world today — five from the United States planning a second space walk without lifelines, and three from the Soviet Union starting a mission expected to last several months.

"It's getting to be pretty populated up here," Vance Brand, commander of the US shuttle Challenger, said last night when he heard that the Soviet Union had launched the latest team of cosmonauts to man the cigar-shaped Salyut-7 space station.

The latest Soviet mission has taken on new significance in the light of President Reagan's call for a permanently manned US space station, a challenge to the Kremlin for new Soviet achievements in space.

The Americans scored a triumph on Tuesday when astronauts Bruce McCandless and Robert Stewart donned rocket-powered backpacks to become the first men to fly alone in space unattached to their mother-ship. A second six-hour test is planned today.

The two prototype backpacks, which look like uncomfortable arm-chairs and cost R50-million to develop, are aimed at adding a new dimension to the American space effort, and would be invaluable in constructing a space station.

Plea by squatters to erect more tents

Staff Reporter

NYANGA BUSH squatters, many of whom are living in crowded communal plastic shelters, often with an entire family sharing a single bed, have appealed to the Department of Co-operation and Development to allow them to erect more tents.

Two members of the Nyanga Bush committee, Mr Melford Yamile and Mr Enoch Madywabe, said they had gone to see the chief commissioner for the Department of Co-operation and Development, Mr Timo Bezuidenhoud, last week.

"We told him there was a terrible problem of overcrowding in the

Adventure in Nature No.1
Saving the Acinonyx jubatus



EARL BUTZ

Free-market farming



Earl Butz, US Secretary of Agriculture in the Nixon Administration, has been attending the Agrocon '84 congress in Pretoria. He was one of the main speakers.

FM: What are your impressions of the agricultural control board system in SA?

Butz: Because it is so deeply entrenched, I think you will find it difficult to move away from this system. As you don't have the marketing export infrastructure we have in the US, your boards fulfill a very useful function as a single seller for an industry.

So on the export side they are useful?

Yes, as is the case with your Wool and Deciduous Fruit Boards. But in the case of your maize and meat industries, where there is talk of moving towards quota systems, I think you might be buying trouble.

In the US, quotas take on a certain capital value and it becomes difficult to transfer production rights from one generation to another. It tends to freeze the pattern of production as in the case of our tobacco farmers who have to pay 60c to 75c "right off the top" for the right to market a pound of tobacco.

So this is not to the benefit of a free market?

I think it worked adversely in our case — I'd hesitate to pass judgment on what you're doing here. I see your Maize Board and Nampo want the quota system "temporarily" and then work away from this system. Our own experience shows that this is very difficult to accomplish once it is instituted.

What would then be a better alternative to the suggested quota and two-market systems?

My personal feeling, based on my US experience, is that farmers are better off with a more market-related system.

In the US, we have only one producer price level — both for the local and export markets. What one really needs is a price support system set at *lower* levels, as this will also minimise government interference.

③ General
 Could agriculture, in view of the fluctuating nature of climate and world market prices, function at all without government interference?

Any agricultural system needs some form of floor price support — but then at levels which do not interfere with the operations of the market. You need this to recover farmers' direct costs — but not more than that.

If not, a signal is sent to inefficient producers to produce at "inflated" prices. The price risk is needed to keep them on their toes.

What is the best way to handle surpluses?

Export them or eat them. Surpluses usually arise because there is a price inducement to produce more or a cost inducement to consume less. In a free market situation this will not occur so easily.

The ultimate solution to the maize surplus problem around the world is to use it to increase livestock and meat production. The world's hungry people need meat, eggs and milk.

But SA already has a beef surplus.

If you improve the *quality* of your beef by marketing "fed" beef, local consumption can be increased.

What role should organised agriculture play in any move towards a more market-related situation?

Agriculture needs to be organised and must play a strong role in the light of the growing consumer movement — not as a counter to it, but to approach government to change legislation and protect agriculture's interests. Agriculture should make its voice heard.

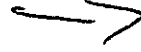
How can SA agriculture be placed on a more market-related footing?

Your vegetable and fruit prices are already formed daily in the marketplace. Other sectors, such as maize and meat, still have a long way to go.

One cannot change this situation abruptly — what you need is a *schedule* of gradual movement away from the existing price support situation, with a simultaneous expansion of your local and export markets. As you move away from fixed prices, you must also gradually increase the market mechanism.

An important thing is not to price yourself above the market.

(3) General Housard
Coloured/Indian farmers: loans
Q. Co 1 101 9/2/84
43. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the
Minister of Finance:



FEBRUARY 1984

102

How many loans were granted by the Land and Agricultural Bank to (a) Coloured and (b) Indian farmers in 1983?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(a) 11;

(b) 138.

Rinderpest

50. Mr M A TARR asked the Minister of Agriculture:

- (1) Whether his Department has received any reports of the incidence of rinderpest in countries bordering on the Republic; if so.
- (2) whether any steps are being taken to prevent the spread of rinderpest to game reserves in the Republic; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

(1) Yes.

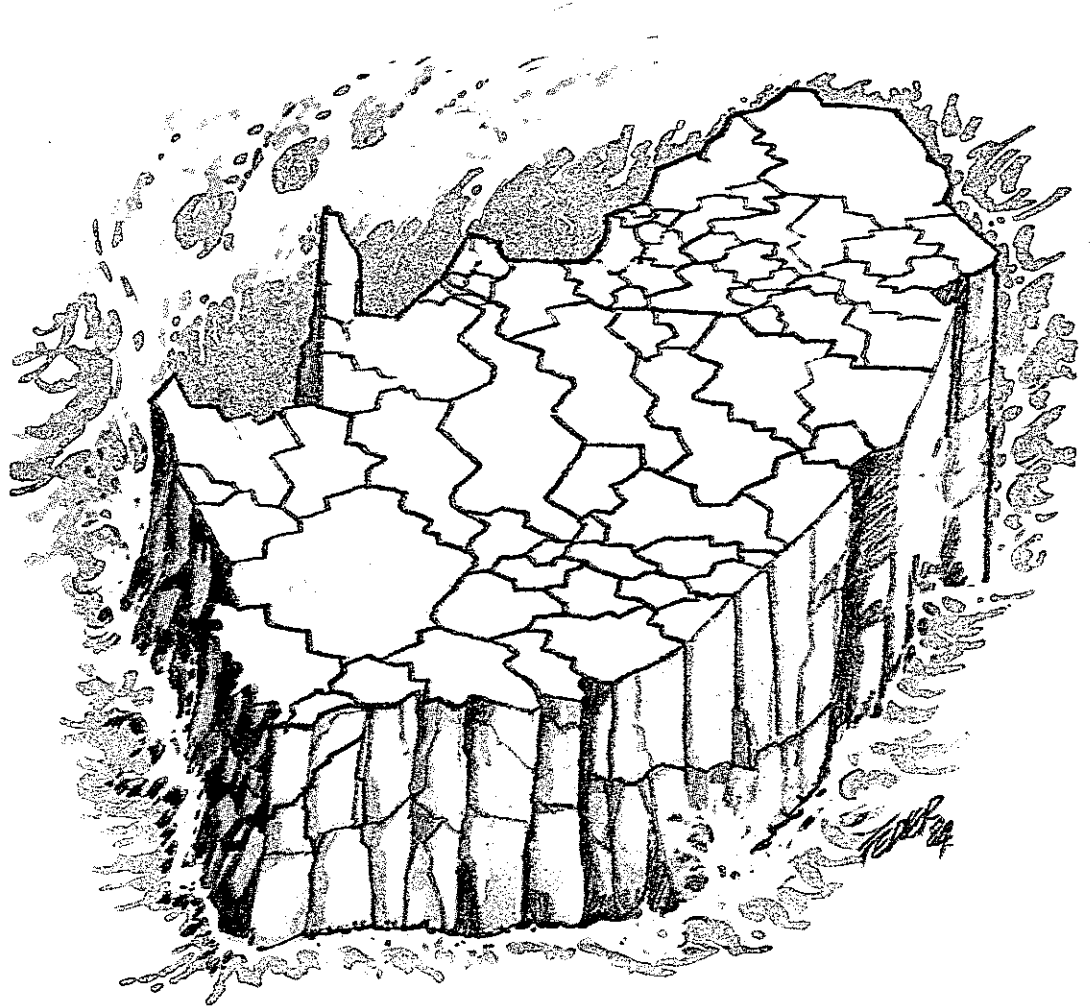
(2) Yes. Game reserves are fenced with game proof fencing.



The effects of this third drought go beyond maize and other crop losses. It is a people tragedy too. This statement goes some way toward summing up the ravages wrought on the South African economy by the recent drought and floods. Now the country begins to count the cost. And it would appear that the taxpayer will have little choice but to pay the piper. Russel Gault reports.

Now it's time to pay the piper

3 General
Star
11/2/84



DROUGHT and flooding — the twins of agricultural despair — are bringing destruction and death to large parts of South Africa.

In the north and west of the nation drought is destroying vital maize crops at the rate of R80 million a day.

Flooding in the east from Cyclone Domoina continues to cause misery and massive losses as waters slowly recede. Undetermined numbers of people have died, farms destroyed, crops lost, bridges, rail-lines and buildings swept away.

The effect on the economy of the country is reported to be catastrophic, with the first bills just starting to come in.

Hundreds of millions of rands will have to be spent to rebuild the infrastructure of the vast areas devastated by the cyclone. More than 3 000 railway trucks used for transporting sugar and valued at R70 million disappeared after being washed away.

More than 2 000 hectares of some of the most fertile land in South Africa, in the Umfolozi delta, was lost to sugar farmers when it was covered by two metres of river sand.

Another 1 000 hectares of top producing land at Pongola was also covered. Experts have reported the land is unreclaimable.

More than 70 000 tons of sugar was wiped out causing losses of R30 million.

But damage to the industry, including lost farms and equipment, is expected to climb to nearly R200 million.

The cost of the Government's rescue effort, which included assistance to Swaziland and involved the extensive personnel and equipment resources of the South African Defence Force, has still to be worked out.

But it will amount to many millions of rands.

The snow-balling effect on the country's economy and on the social structure of the rural areas of the effects of the drought are likely to result in a massive change in the agricultural industry.

Already farmers' groups are planning meetings with the Government about the need for rethinking subsidies, planting policies and farming principles in general, according to South African Agricultural Union chief economist, Mr Johan Willemse.

"This is the third successive drought farmers have had to endure. I don't think that has happened in South Africa before.

"In many cases farmers are ruined. They have borrowed to the limit of their assets and now they are walking off their land because

without money they can't buy new crops, fuel or pay wages," he said.

"It really is a catastrophic situation for many people.

"This also includes black workers. Many no longer have jobs because their employers are broke. The problem is many families are now without an income and are going hungry. This is happening everywhere the drought is hurting farmers.

"You see, the effects of this third drought go beyond maize and other crop losses. It is a people tragedy too.

"After two years of drought farmers need up to six years of average to above harvests to get out of debt. This three-year drought is ruin.

"In normal times the profitability of farming — which is low anyway — is eight percent on capital. Today it is three percent.

"Farming is at a crossroads. The question now is whether farming is worthwhile."

Mr Willemse said the basis of farming principles in South Africa had to be re-examined including the whole system of subsidies.

He said subsidies were given to farmers in every country in the world including the United States which claimed to be the bastion of the private enterprise system.

In 1983 American farmers produced agricultural products valued at \$27 billion. Subsidies amounted to \$24 billion, he added.

"South African agricultural policy has to change in line with other countries and to cope with the difficult conditions here. After all, there is no free agricultural economy in the world."

A few days ago — before the maize crop began collapsing because of the relentless searing heat — Volkskas Bank warned of the

"far-reaching economic and financial implications for the economy as a whole" if the harvest was much below 10 million tons.

By today the crop is expected to yield little more than four million tons — less in total than even last year.

Maize imports during 1984 as a result may cost up to R2 billion depending on the selling cost, the value of the rand and the value of gold.

Apart from the big money earner of maize the drought has severely hit deciduous fruits. Total production last year dropped by more than 10 percent.

This year may be worse. The Citrus Exchange fears export markets may not be able to be supplied in 1984 which may see them being lost to competitors.

Red meat production is also likely to be badly hit by the dry weather. Without adequate feed, herd numbers which have been falling since the drought began three years ago will fall even more dramatically in the coming weeks.

For the consumer the news could not be worse. Industry spokesmen have been warning of soaring red meat prices as supplies dwindle.

The most disturbing aspect of the cattle farmers' plight was their forced sale of virtually irreplaceable breeding stock, a member of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, Mr Joel Kotze, said.

In the coming weeks economists throughout South Africa will be gauging the combined effects of these natural disasters.

For the taxpayers there would seem little escape from having to pay the piper, because with Government spending substantially up, overseas receipts well down and massive drought and flood bills still to come in there is but one source of revenue... □ — Staff reporter.

A mounting bill

(3) *Read*

Until about three weeks ago, it seemed probable that this year's maize crop would be comfortably in excess of domestic requirements. Although the long drought, hanging on from last year, had still not been broken in the important western Transvaal region, or on the northern and western fringes of the old "mealie triangle," the crop was looking good elsewhere.

A record harvest to match the 14,7 Mt of 1981 was never a possibility — but no one was expecting a repeat of last year's 3,9 Mt disaster. But, in mid-January, it seemed reasonable to predict a crop slightly below the long-term rising trend. Perhaps 8,5 Mt or 9 Mt would have been a fair estimate.

A larger crop would, naturally, have been welcomed by the farmers — and by the co-ops and Land Bank, which have lent them too much money. It would, however, have generated a surplus which could only have been sold overseas at what the Maize Board calls an "export loss" (meaning an enormous profit to the local growers but a dreadful loss to the Maize Board, which habitually buys our surpluses at the wrong price).

From that angle, an 8,5 Mt to 9 Mt crop would have been ideal. Allowing 6,5 Mt for domestic consumption, and a million or so tons to be stockpiled as a strategic reserve, it would have left us with just over a million tons to export — half yellow and half white. Since Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana and Angola have all been afflicted by the same drought which has knocked the north-western Transvaal, we would have had no

The prospect exists that, for the second year in a row, SA will have to import maize. This could delay the hoped-for economic recovery.

difficulty in finding a profitable outlet for a surplus of that magnitude.

Indeed, since maize is grown almost entirely for stock-feed in the rest of the world, no one outside southern Africa plants the white varieties. We therefore stood to be the sole potential vendors for a whole year of the staple food of most countries in southern and central Africa.

Under these circumstances, we could have named almost any price we wanted, demanding payment in a mixture of hard currencies (from those who had them) and harder political adjustments (from those who had only those to offer). At, say, R250/t some R200m-R300m would have been added to our delicate balance-of-payments surplus while the cost of defending our borders would have shrunk. A combination of those two factors would have added impetus to the argument for a general export-led economic revival in the second half of the year.

During the last three weeks, that dream has gone. Along with the soil moisture in the Transvaal and Free State, it has simply evaporated. At the time of going to press this week, the Maize Board was mumbling about a 7 Mt provisional estimate, which

might still have to be reduced to as little as 5 Mt if it doesn't rain soon. The National Maize Producers' Organisation was even more pessimistic. Its general manager, Pieter Gous, was guessing a maximum of 7 Mt if we do get rains, with a threat of no more than 4,3 Mt if we don't.

Furthermore, he says that this year's drought has affected the plants differently from last year. Last year produced a tall crop with no grain, owing to early rains with a sharp cut-off. This year, the worst-affected areas have been drier than usual all the way through. In consequence, the withered plants, in the western Transvaal especially, are only hip-high. That means there won't be enough stover to feed the cattle in winter. This means that the farmers will be in far worse trouble than they were last year and that the demand for grain maize as a stock-feed substitute could rise sharply.

Unless we get very good rains throughout the Transvaal and Free State during the next week, we will certainly have to import maize for the second year in a row. How much we will need is still very much in the air. A 7 Mt crop is probably the bare minimum we need to regain self-sufficiency with room to manoeuvre.

Each million tons below that is likely to cost us between R220m and R250m. And that's just the foreign exchange. In all probability, it will also involve a six-month postponement of the long-expected economic recovery and a great deal of local hardship.

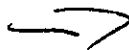
3 General Surpluses
10/2/84
Harmond Q. Col. 125

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

- (1) Whether any surpluses of agricultural products exist or are expected in 1984; if so, of which products;
- (2) what in each case are the (a) reasons for such surpluses and (b) price implications;
- (3) what steps have been taken or are contemplated in each case to (a) counter the effect of and (b) avoid such surpluses in future?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) Yes, potatoes and dairy products.
- (2) (a) Favourable production circumstances for potatoes and the



EBRUARY 1984

126

influence of other crop failures especially in the case of dairy products.

- (b) Market prices of potatoes declined to a relatively low level. In the case of dairy products, additional sales were effected locally as well as abroad by means of lower prices.
- (3) (a) and (b) It is customary that the marketing mechanism (supply and demand) also be taken into account in the marketing arrangements for agricultural products and this naturally has an influence on the price levels.

Mohair: Total export value—R103 million.
 Tobacco: 3 035 823 kg.
 Meat: 1 831 001 kg beef, 2 206 600 kg pork; 68 700 kg mutton
 Wool: Total export value—R262 million.
 Eggs: 294 259 cartons of 30 dozen each.

(2) Yes.

Deciduous fruit: Certain plum and grape farmers sustained losses.

Wheat: R17.5 million.

Potatoes: R700

Dairy products: R2 200 per ton on milk powder.

Tobacco: R8 928 963.

Meat: (i) Beef: R867 244.

(ii) Pork: R2 280 068.

Eggs: R5 250 000

(3) Yes, maize, bananas and skimmed milk.

(a) *Maize*

As the result of sea water damage, quantities of the imported maize had to be destroyed.

Bananas

Destroyed after fruit perished in the ripening rooms.

Skimmed milk

Surplus fresh milk could not be absorbed by the distributors or the industrial milk factories over the new year period, from 29 December 1983 to 4 January 1984

In order to ensure some income, the surplus milk was separated. Efforts to dispose of the skimmed milk either by selling it or giving it away to the needy, were not successful and it had to be destroyed.

(b) *Maize*

3.5 ton.

③ General Hansard

Q.61. Agricultural exports

215 16/2/84
 49. Mr M A TARR asked the Minister of Agriculture:

- (1) What were the total exports of each of the agricultural products falling under the jurisdiction of the various control boards during the latest period of 12 months for which figures are available;
- (2) whether any losses were sustained on the above exports; if so, what was the nature of such losses;
- (3) whether any agricultural products were destroyed by the control boards during the latest period of 12 months for which figures are available; if so, (a) why, and (b) what quantities, in each case?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) Citrus: 25 million cartons.
 Dried Fruit: 22 128 836 kg.
 Deciduous Fruit: Total export value—R270 million.
 Wheat: 157 000 ton.
 Rooibos Tea: 61 294 kg.
 Oilseeds: 3 ton groundnuts.
 Potatoes: 108 000 pockets.
 Dairy Products: 6 449 ton skimmed milk powder.

Bananas

13 700 kg

Skimmed milk

690 000 litre.

Parliament and Politics

CAPE TIMES 18/2/86 3 General

Natal floods formally declared 'a disaster'

Political Staff

THE State President yesterday formally declared the floods in Northern Natal and environment to be a disaster.

Responding in Cape Town to the announcement, the Minister of Health and Welfare, Dr C V van der Merwe, issued a "friendly request" to the public to contribute generously to the Disaster Relief Fund set up to deal with the aftermath of the floods.

Arrangements have been made with Volkskas Ltd so that contributions can be paid directly to the Fund under account number 000282928 at any branch of the Volkskas group or any other commercial bank throughout the

country. A request was made for cash donations only.

Dr Van der Merwe issued a reminder that no person or body may collect contributions unless authorized to do so in terms of the Fund-raising Act. Such authority can be obtained at the following telephone numbers: Pretoria (012) 21-5210, 21-5810, 28-3156.

Addresses

Special regional offices have been designated to deal with applications for assistance from those districts declared disaster areas.

In Natal, applications for assistance will be handled by the office of the Department and Welfare, room 1629, Commercial Road, Durban or PO Box 1503,

Durban, 4000 (telephone (031) 31-2859 extension 54).

Areas in Natal qualifying for disaster relief are: Babanago, Dundee, Dannhauser, Eshowe, Glencoe, Hlabisa, Ingwavuma, Lower Umfolozi, Mahlabatini, Msinga, Mtonjaneni, Mtunzini, Newcastle, Ngotshe, Nkandla, Nongoma, Nqutu, Paulpietersburg, Ubombo, Utrecht and Vryheid.

The central office for relief services in the Transvaal is room C215, Pensions Building, 34 Hamilton Street, Pretoria or Private Bag X63, Pretoria, 0001 (telephone (012) 21-5210).

Areas qualifying for disaster relief in the Transvaal are: Barberton, Carolina, Ermelo and Piet Retief.

DURBAN. — At least four people are dead in a second tropical cyclone which hit Natal today causing widespread destruction.

At least six bridges, some of which had been recently repaired after cyclone Domoina, are impassable. Houses were flooded, telephone lines to most towns blown down and in one of the worst hit towns, Richards Bay, the harbour and airport were closed.

Only four days after the flooded Umfolozi River was temporarily bridged with pontoons by the army the river has again swelled and the bridge was closed while workers bolstered the causeway with rocks.

Impassable

Other impassable bridges were at Pongola, two on the road between Gingindlovu and Empangeni, a bridge between Ulundi and Nongoma, a newly-completed railway bridge near Mtubatuba, and several smaller bridges in the Durban area.

In Durban, heavy seas have caused damage amounting to thousands of rands to beaches.

The seas also smashed plate-glass windows and damaged a South Beach restaurant, damaged the Brighton Beach tidal pool, tore beams off the West Street jetty, and damaged the pier at Country Club.

Lower Marine Parade was awash yesterday and closed to traffic.

Flooded

Durban's town clerk, Mr Gordon Haygarth, said the electricity department was the worst affected by storm damage. "They will be working around the clock to repair the damage."

Residents from many parts of Natal complained that houses were flooded, roads washed away and trees blown over.

One of several lives claimed by dangerously wet roads was that of a two-year-old child who was killed when the car driven by her mother was involved in a head-on collision after skidding in heavy rain on the Greytown road.

The child, Jayshentherree Pillay, was killed instantly. Her mother, Mrs I Pillay, of Northdale, was slightly injured.

Drowned

At La Mercy, three Indian women drowned while praying at a traditional Hindu seaside festival. The women who were washed out to sea have been identified as Mrs Kalawathy Sagram, 46, her sister Mrs Rajpathy Rajkumar, 58, and Mrs Rajkumar's unmarried daughter, Sheila, 37, all of Tongaat.

Mountainous seas pound Durban beachfront

NEW CYCLONE FOUR DEAD IN

is/c Argus

R/S/18/4

3 Grand

18/4

Office 711-8 20/2/84
 20/2/84
 20/2/84

Droughts knocks Kanhym profits

JOHANNESBURG. — Losses caused by the drought in Kanhym Investments' farming and meat processing divisions resulted in the group suffering a consolidated loss for the year ended December. A further misfortune was that the group burnt its fingers in its first venture into foreign borrowings. It took uncovered dollar loans totalling \$36.8m and as a

result of the unfavourable exchange rate incurred an unrealized exchange loss of R4 497 000 at year-end.

Higher interest rates further aggravated the position, pushing up the group's interest bill.

Against an operating income of R15.8m (1982: R24.4m), the interest bill was R16.3m (R13.7m) which put the group in a loss position to the tune of R596 000.

Taking into account the foreign exchange loss, the after-tax loss was R4 129 000 against a profit in the previous year of R15 781 000.

The attributable loss was R5 330 000, compared with 1982's net profit of R14 061 000.

Farming operations

The managing director, Mr Harold Kramer, however said that matters could only improve in 1984. Already in its farming operations the group has had its best ever potato and hay crops — while its maize crop remains threatened by the current drought — and it stands to make good profits out of its feedstocks this year.

The group's planned rights issue which is to be finalized soon, will raise further funds. Mr Kramer said it would probably take the form of convertible preference shares and would raise R40m to R50m. — Sapa

joins ng shippers

for these key areas of the world.

We therefore anticipate a boost to removals traffic between the four countries and plan to exploit additional business potential around the Pacific rim.

The formation of Swire Pickfords is in line with our policy of expanding internationally. Pickfords already have operations in South Africa, the UK and Australia

I am confident that the combination of Swires local knowledge and the introduction of Hong Kong of our specialist expertise will provide the ingredients for a highly successful partnership.

Brazil outlines economic targets

BRASILIA — Debt-ridden Brazil will once again outline economic targets to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to secure the release of billions of dollars in much needed loans, the finance ministry said.

"We have already given them the means and now we will define the numbers," the acting spokesman, Mr Andre Camargo, said.

Latin America's largest nation holds the biggest foreign debt in the developing world, now estimated at about \$96.5 billion. In 1982 the

would be released in March.

The IMF money should signal the release of \$3 billion from the private bankers, part of a recently signed \$6.5 billion jumbo loan to be paid back over eight years.

Debts

The money will be used to pay debts left over from 1983.

The Finance Minister, Mr Ernane Galveas, has already said Brazil will have to go back to the bankers for another loan before this year is finished.



Mr Pietie Theron, manager, quality control at KWW, has been appointed manager, technical services.

SA to issue

From NEIL BEHRMANN

LONDON. — The Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, has confirmed that South Africa intends issuing a dollar bond on the Euromarkets in the next few months.

"If that succeeds, then we've really got something behind us," he told AP-Down Jones News Service in an interview.

He said that the government had not made a decision yet.

The made bond cemb sche other Mr wire s Africa with lo ternat It h ternat Fund drawin 1 bill packa grante Nover

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What makes Scotland the Brave?



Imboa veers away to sea

Cape Times 20/2/84

3 General

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — Tropical cyclone Imboa veered away from the Natal coast yesterday after wreaking havoc in many centres at the weekend as another cyclonic weather system, cyclone Haja — the 10th this summer — started carving a path east of Madagascar.

Hardest hit by Imboa's whiplash at the weekend were the Westville, Pinetown, Hillcrest and Drummond areas.

At least 15 white families were isolated at Drummond and a pregnant woman, cut off by a swirling river, gave birth while being rescued by civil defence members on Saturday. The civil defence chief for the area, Mr Jan Ter Horst, reported 220mm of rain.

A Cowies Hill family was forced yesterday to evacuate their home, which was left teetering on the edge of a cliff after a large section of their steep garden had collapsed.

Many Zululand centres, still recovering from the devastation of cyclone Demoina, were also caught by Imboa's fury.

In Mtubatuba, where more than 200mm of rain fell on Saturday, the swollen White Umfolosi River severely damaged a recently-completed temporary rail causeway and tore a pontoon forming part of a road bridge from its moorings.

One person was reported drowned in the Richards Bay area — where 159mm fell — but details were not available yesterday.

Mountainous seas and torrential rain forced authorities to close the town's harbour and airport.

More than 102mm of rain lashed central Durban and surrounding areas at the weekend and 133,8mm fell at the airport.

(3) *General* Agricultural colleges *Hausend*
Q. 6120
228. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Agriculture:

Whether any applications for admission to agricultural colleges falling under his Department were turned down in 1983, if so, (a) how many and (b) for what reasons?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

Yes.

- (a) 328.
- (b) (1) Insufficient training facilities and personnel.
- (2) Applicants do not qualify
- (3) The agricultural colleges of the Department are not responsible for the training of Blacks, Coloureds and Indians.

Agricultural colleges

239. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Agriculture:

- (1) How many (a) White, (b) Coloured, (c) Black and (d) Indian students were enrolled in 1983 at each specified agricultural college falling under his Department:
- (2) whether any applications by suitably qualified persons for admission to

223

THURSDAY, 16

agricultural colleges were turned down in 1983; if so, (a) how many and (b) for what reasons in each case:

- (3) how many persons in each race group graduated from such colleges in 1983?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

- (1) (a) Elsenburg: 192
Grootfontein: 100
Glen: 130
Potchefstroom: 145
Cedara: 164

(b), (c) and (d): None.

(2) Yes.

(a) 311.

(b) Mainly due to insufficient facilities to accommodate all the applicants.

Applications of 17 Blacks and 5 Indians were turned down. Agricultural training for Blacks is the responsibility of the Department of Co-operation and Development while the training of Indians is the responsibility of the Directorate of Indian Affairs of the Department of Internal Affairs.

X (3) 263. X

ORCAS 22/2/84

Spotlight on farming woes

THE plight of farmers was spotlighted during the mini-budget debate in the Assembly, with opposition speakers warning that the agricultural community was being turned into "beggars".

Mr Errol Moorcroft (PFP Albany) said the total agricultural debt at the end of last year was close to R8,8-billion. The interest bill alone increased from R323-million in 1980 to R865-million in mid-83, while it was expected to top R1-billion by mid-1984.

In spite of this "financial crisis of frightening dimensions", the Government was reluctant to say what the real problem was.

WORSE OFF

Because the Government had failed to diagnose the problem, incorrect prescriptions had been advised.

"When the drought is over, and when tens of millions of rands from the State's coffers have been spent to bail the farmers out, then they will not be one whit better off than they are now," Mr Moorcroft said.

"In fact their position will be consider-

ably worse, because they will have even more debt to repay.

"This Government, by its apparent reluctance to come to grips with the basics in agricultural economy, is turning our farmers into a community of beggars; a community dependent on Government handouts for their continued existence.

Replying, Dr J P Grobler (NP Brits) said it was very easy for the Opposition to say that the number of farming units had to be reduced.

But South Africa was not a agricultural country like some European countries and the United States and farmers had to contend with "uncontrollable factors" such as the climate.

In addition, South Africa was suffering from sanctions and boycotts. The gold price was down and the agricultural sector was hit by one of the worst droughts in living memory.

He appealed to the Government to abolish taxes for farmers in times when they suffered hardship and to allow them to invest tax-free in co-operatives.

Nats gave R13-m to Soutpansberg farms

AKS
23/2/84
36200
Parliamentary Staff

THE National Party lost the Soutpansberg by-election in spite of more than R13-million poured into the constituency by the Government last year to help farmers.

This is clear from facts and figures disclosed in the Assembly yesterday by the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen Horwood, in his reply to the second-reading debate on the Part Appropriation Bill.

Mr Horwood gave full details of State aid to Soutpansberg farmers when he reacted to criticism from the newly elected Conservative Party MP for Soutpansberg, Mr Tom Langley, that drought relief measures in the area were inadequate.

The Minister said that in the nine months from April to December last year the State had provided a total of R13 436 000 to help Soutpansberg farmers.

This included R960 000 in long-term drought relief such as loans, subsidies, rebates and stock-withdrawal incentives involving 80 farmers. The average subsidy received by each farmer was about R6 300.

In addition, R8 534 000 was made available by the Land Bank and the Agricultural Credit Board for debt consolidation.

Other aid to farmers in the area included R3 839 000 in terms of legislation for the promotion of population density, and R103 000 for irrigation.

Opposition members showed astonishment by way of interjections and remarks across the floor.

Peace gains momentum

The remarkable thing about the frenzied diplomatic exchanges between SA and her most hostile neighbours is not that talks are taking place. It is that they are going so smoothly and that everyone is so optimistic.

Even Tanzania's Julius Nyerere has been driven to admit that there is now hope for peaceful settlements of southern African issues. This is a surprising turnaround for a politician who has previously used the security of his geographic remoteness from the region, and his tenuous claim to be a "frontline" leader, to preach a gospel of unremitting confrontation with SA.

In a curious use of language, of which probably only he is capable, former American Secretary of State Alexander Haig says the Namibian/Angolan negotiations have not yet reached an "exclamatory" phase — by which he seems to mean something capable of evoking exclamations of surprise or pleasure.

From the commanding heights of Haig's non-governmental position in Washington, southern African developments may not yet seem to call for the superlatives of Haig'speak. From a local perspective, they are little short of astounding.

There have been earlier diplomatic *démarches* on southern African issues — some of them seeming to involve many of the world's more meddlesome diplomats and governments. Always in the past, one or the other of the parties involved — be it Pretoria, Luanda, the UN, Namibia's internal parties, Swapo or Maputo — has discovered a need to place obstacles in the way of diplomatic settlements.

The enormous scale of intent of the regional peace initiatives in southern Africa is becoming ever more apparent. What appears to have occurred is a convergence of economic and military self-interest in these countries.

Among the issues that have blossomed, and then been forgotten, in the Namibian negotiations are the questions of UN partiality; the type of voting to be used in Namibian elections; the establishment of a demilitarised zone on the Namibian-Angolan border; and the composition of the UN Transitional Assistance Group (Untag). Even the issue of a Cuban withdrawal from Angola was a latecomer — it formed no part of SA's original negotiating position.

The talking, and the fighting, dragged on for years. Suddenly, within little more than two months, there is not just a new Namibian initiative but a subcontinent-spanning series of moves involving, in particular, Pretoria and southern Africa's two avowedly Marxist states, Angola and Mozambique. Although they are not directly involved, Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana and Zimbabwe, plus peripherally involved Zambia, are bound to be affected (for the better) by the diplomatic sea change sweeping the area.

What has changed? Certainly not black African hostility to the white-ruled south or Pretoria's distrust of the black Marxist states and their Soviet underwriters.

The answer seems to lie in a fortunate

concentration of events. Some have been brought about by deliberate strategy; others have resulted from natural disasters, international economic conditions, and seemingly remote political needs that nonetheless have an impact on regional affairs.

Pretoria, in particular, can take pride in having followed a policy that, however savagely it was attacked, played a major part in creating a climate in which successful diplomatic initiatives were possible. That policy has been variously described as "acting as the regional power," "destabilisation" and "brutal aggression." It consisted of making plain that active hostility to SA, and in particular the harbouring of ANC and Swapo terrorists, carried an economic and military price. And that price would be exacted when it was judged to be necessary.

Thus military strikes — and alleged support for domestic insurgents in Angola and Mozambique — raised the price of active hostility to unacceptable levels. Where Maputo was concerned, there was, too, the ever-present threat of economic pressures.

Lesotho also suffered from military and economic action. And Zimbabwe was seemingly brought to heel, in short order, by measures such as cancellation and renegotiation of a trade agreement, the withdrawal of locomotives previously lent to Zimbabwe Railways, and the expulsion of Zimbabweans working in SA. In addition, Mozambique National Resistance movement attacks on transport links to Beira and on the Beira-Umtali oil pipeline made Zimbabwe even more dependent on SA transport links — and thus more subject to pressure. It is notable that the Department of Foreign Affairs says relations with Zimbabwe have been "realistic."

SA's tough policy might not, of itself, have been sufficient to change the diplomatic climate. But as war and insurgency swept their territories, both Angola and Mozambique were faced with natural and economic disasters. Where their economies were concerned, their troubles were at least partly due to the Marxist economic policies they insisted on following.

The drought, however, was not due to anyone's policies. It affected all countries in the region equally. But only SA, and to a lesser extent Zimbabwe and Botswana, had the infrastructure and the finances to cope with its worst consequences.

In Mozambique, scores of thousands are reported to be starving. From arming to "resist" SA and its own insurgents, the Maputo government has been reduced to begging international aid to feed its starving masses. Angola, with its agricultural sector in ruins as the result of war, indiscipline and the flight of the Portuguese, would



Malan, Crocker and Pik Botha . . . peace talk

THE ELOFF REPORT

Criticism and crime

304

Reactions to the report of the Commission of Inquiry into the SA Council of Churches (SACC) have been mixed. For those who view the council with suspicion, as a confrontationalist, even revolutionary, organisation, there is quite enough evidence to support charges of fairly consistent chicanery and subterfuge over the years.

The Eloff Commission found that "the civil disobedience campaign of the SACC has a potential for destabilisation." Furthermore, the "covert encouragement of disinvestment by certain SACC officials" and support for those who "resist participation in compulsory military service" are not in the national interest.

However, having gone that far, the commission did not recommend that the SACC be proscribed as an affected organisation — which would cut off its sources of foreign funds. Indeed, it remarks, "innocent people will suffer if the SACC were to be rendered largely ineffective."

Nonetheless, statutory control should, Eloff argues, be imposed on the finances of the SACC — meaning that, in terms of the Fundraising Act, the Minister can prohibit the collection of contributions if they are felt to be not in the "public interest."

Perhaps the strongest recommendation is that government should give consideration to the creation of a new offence in terms of the Internal Security Act — that of "economic sabotage" for the advocacy of disinvestment.

All things considered — the follies of the John Rees era, the tensions and emotions generated whenever a Church-State conflict bedevils society — the commission, given its view of affairs, has reacted moderately to what it regards as provocation by the council. But it has, nonetheless, fallen into a mire of confusion on the issue of disinvestment — not dissimilar to the lack of clear economic thinking displayed by those SACC members who believe in financial, and other, boycotts of SA as a penalty for apartheid.

Important black leaders in SA have always had to balance two components of disinvestment against each other in order to arrive at anything like a measured assessment of its "value." The one is the emotional sting that any substantial withdrawal of foreign investment would deal to Pretoria — reinforcing the detested image of SA as a pariah state.

The other is the practical effect of such withdrawals. Disinvestment, in practice, means a sale of assets: factories and jobs do not simply evaporate into thin air when such transfers take place. On the other hand, such factors as the breaking of managerial continuity and the potential — to put it at its most basic — for asset stripping, could mean turbulence in the affected industries.

Transfers of concerns to local control are unlikely to deflect Pretoria from its ideological course by one degree. But problems could arise when expansion is contemplated. That is when a financial drought would damage job-crea-

tion prospects, the burden of which would fall upon the poorest sections of our community.

Those who advocate disinvestment appear to accept such a prospect with equanimity. Revolutionary consciousness, it is tacitly argued, would be heightened; the system of capitalism would be discredited in the eyes of those now locked out of its benefits; and SA's felt isolation could become painful to the point where essential changes would be forced on government.

What the commission does not address itself to — and which is therefore one of its major shortcomings — is the SACC's self-delusion in this matter. What evidence there is suggests that poverty in itself does not heighten revolutionary consciousness. Energies are channelled into finding work of any nature, at any wage, simply in order to survive. It is among the rising middle class, if anywhere, that frustrated expectations produce radicalism.

And the SA State has proved itself remarkably resilient over the past decade — to widespread social upheavals, intensified revolutionary terrorism, and even the rapid and, it seems, unpredictable fluctuations of the gold price.

The SACC's attitude to disinvestment is puerile; but the commission shows no greater insight. The recommendation that a crime of "economic sabotage" be written into the draconian Internal Security Act is simply nonsense.

Economic sabotage is, in fact, a crime in Marxist Mozambique, generally relating to currency offences. That, at least, gives the term a fairly precise focus. To suggest that anyone who recommends disinvestment from SA — the enforced sale of foreign-owned assets — should be charged as a criminal, is a slippery and unsound idea.

Economic circumstances change all the time. Given certain conditions, a multinational is surly within its rights to withdraw from any country for any number of reasons — of which political ones are probably the least weighty. And while there may be no such thing as a perfect market, there can be no sale without a buyer unless shareholders (say, in the US) are prepared to write off their investment in a company for the sake of a fine moral point.

As for the SACC — from 1975 to 1981 it was 97% funded from overseas. If those funds were withdrawn, that is to say disinvested, it would collapse. The council would argue, of course, that it is doing "good work" by biblical injunction. But the creation of jobs is also, surely, good work — even if no theological grounds are advanced for sound business practice.

Perhaps the SACC should reconsider its perception of capitalism as a prop of apartheid. The opposite is true — barriers to work and social advancement are broken down, and new wealth created for productive investments which take the process further. And perhaps the commission should have distinguished between stern criticism of apartheid and an "offence" of intolerable vagueness.

Land and Agricultural Bank ^{27/2/84}
369. Mr P A MYBURGH asked the Minister of Finance:
General Hansard Q. 61. 367

- (a) What was the total amount of loans granted to farmers by the Land and Agricultural Bank as at 31 December 1983 and (b) to how many farmers had these loans been granted?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (a) R1 302 929 506.
(b) 25 694.

Farmers scoff at govt offers

Cape Times 1/3/84
36 and

Chief Reporter

"SHOCKED" farmers near Riversdale, whose lands are in the area earmarked for a nuclear-research centre on the southern Cape coast, have rejected what they have described as "laughable" and "totally unrealistic" government offers for the purchase of their farms.

It was stated from Mossel Bay yesterday that the farmers were arranging independent valuations of their farms and intended fighting for "fair compensation" for their lands.

The Atomic Energy Corporation has chosen a 2500-ha site at Yster-vark Point, in the Riversdale district 45km west of Mossel Bay, for the research centre.

Last year the AEC chairman, Dr J W L de Villiers, said the project, part of a nuclear-research expansion programme, would fit in with the government's decentralization policy.

He gave an assurance that the environmental impact of the proposed development had been studied and approved by the Department of Environmental Affairs.

Mr Jannie Pienaar, one of the four farmers directly affected by the project, has said the prices offered by the Department of Community Development for

farmlands including his 1070-ha coastal farm Buffelshoek were "laughable".

Buffelshoek is almost at the centre of the area required by the AEC.

Current values

Mr Pienaar's wife, speaking from their other farm, Schoongezicht at Mossel Bay, said yesterday she and her husband had been shocked at the price offered for Buffelshoek — R355 a morgen, which the department had told them was "as high as we can go".

"At current market values we could never, at a price as low as this, hope to buy a farm on the coast comparable to Buffelshoek," she said.

"We are not out to enrich ourselves at the State's expense; all we are asking for is the farm's replacement value."

● A spokesman for the Department of Community Development, Mr Anton Fuchs, said in Cape Town yesterday that the department was "still in the process of negotiating" with the farmers concerned, and that no finality had been reached about prices.

Offers of compensation made by the department, he added, were based on current market values, and the valuers used by the department were experts in their field.

Kuruman
 Laingsburg
 Middelburg (C.P.)
 Molteno
 Namakwaland (portion)
 Noupoort
 Philipstown
 Pofadder
 Postmashburg
 Prieska
 Prince Albert
 Queenstown
 Richmond (C.P.)
 Sterkstroom
 Sutherland (portion)
 Tarkastad
 Vanrhynsdorp (portion)
 Victoria-West
 Vryburg
 Warrenton
 Williston
 Willowmore
 Wodehouse

Bloemfontein
 Bethulie
 Boshof
 Brandfort
 Bultfontein
 Clocolan
 Dealesville
 Edenburg
 Edenville
 Excelsior
 Fauresmith
 Ficksburg
 Frankfort (O.F.S.)
 Heilbron
 Hennenman
 Hertzogville
 Hobhouse
 Hopetown
 Jacobsdal (portion)
 Jagersfontein
 Koffiefontein (portion)
 Koppies
 Kroonstad
 Ladybrand
 Marquard
 Parys
 Petrusburg
 Phillipolis
 Rouxville
 Smithfield
 Springfontein

3) General Howard
 Drought-stricken areas
 Q. Col. 427 29/2/84
 371. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the
 Minister of Agriculture:

Whether any districts in the Republic
 are officially listed as drought-stricken
 areas; if so, which districts?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

Yes.

Adelaide
 Barkley-West
 Beaufort-West
 Bedford
 Britstown
 Calvinia (portion)
 Carnarvon
 Ceres (portion)
 Colesberg
 De Aar
 Fort Beaufort
 Fraserburg
 Gordonia
 Hanover
 Hartswater
 Hay
 Herbert
 Hopetown
 Indwe
 Kenhardt
 Kimberley

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

1 January 1983 to 31 December 1983

R165 million, by the Division of Financial Assistance of my Department

Agricultural production

380. Mr P A MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agriculture:

What percentage of South Africa's total agricultural production in the 1983 calendar year was not under the control of any board established under the Marketing Act?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

Information with regard to the 1983 calendar year is not available yet.

✓ 1982/83 production seasons: 32.04

Theunissen
 Trompsburg
 Ventersburg
 Viljoenskroon
 Virginia
 Vredefort
 Wepener
 Wesselsbron
 Winburg

Amersfoort
 Barberton
 Bethal
 Bloemhof
 Brits
 Christiana
 Cullinan (portion)
 Delareyville (portion)
 Delmas (portion)
 Ermelo
 Groblersdal (portion)
 Highveld Ridge
 Klerksdorp (portion)
 Nelspruit
 Nigel
 Potchefstroom
 Rustenburg
 Schweizer Reneke
 Vanrhynsdorp
 Volksrust
 Vereeniging
 Wakkerstroom
 Withank
 Wolmaransstad

Messina
 Soutpansberg
 Pietersburg (portion)
 Phalaborwa
 Potgietersrus (portion)
 Thabazimbi
 Ellisras
 Marico (portion)

Drought-stricken areas

372. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Agriculture:

What is the total amount of financial aid that was made available to farmers in drought-stricken areas during the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available?

CARE TIMES 2/3/84
36
Drought-relief jobs

Political Correspondent

NEARLY 50 000 emergency jobs have been created in black areas as part of a R20-million drought relief scheme in recent months.

The Minister of Co-operation and Development, Dr Piet Koornhof, told a press conference yesterday that the job-creation project was a heartening scheme designed to help the most needy.

It had been restricted to one breadwinner per family and to unemployed people who did not qualify for unemployment benefits.

Some 22 560 jobs had been created in one scheme and 27 542 in the second.

The schemes had been co-ordinated by the homelands and all posts had been filled.

Work provided include repairing

public buildings, repairing roads, dams and canals, filling in dongas, eradication of weeds and exotic vegetation and assisting community self-help projects.

The minimum wage paid was R2.50 a day but would not exceed the ruling wage rate in any area.

Most of the work created in the second scheme had gone to Lebowa, with 11 937 jobs.

Positions created in other homelands were Kwazulu (6 183), Gazankulu (4 606), Kangwane (2 440), Kwandebele (1 816) and Qwa Qwa (560).

Job creation had taken R8.15-million of the R20-million drought relief to black areas.

Other allocations were R8.55-million for water provision, R2-million in support for black farmers and R1.3-million in stock fodder, Dr Koornhof said.

3) General
244

THE RURAL SECTOR

Farmers out of peasants

Rural South Africa is a vast and depressed area. As far as the commercial sector is concerned, urgent plans are being laid for drought and disaster relief (*FM* February 24). For the black rural communities, food schemes are being implemented to stave off the ravages of hunger and outright starvation. Yet the longer-term problems of land degradation — of which the current drought is only one component — hardly seem to have been addressed.

Over time, any country's agricultural sector is at the mercy of political planning. This is particularly so in SA. Under the policy of separate development, the following have had profoundly negative effects:

- The fact that blacks may not own land in "white" areas;
- The creation of homelands as theoretically self-sufficient entities, which has served to destroy any real prospect of genuinely national strategies;
- The failure of decentralisation, meaning the consistent migration of young black males to the industrial regions, with a corresponding neglect of the farmlands;
- Removals — in the ideological interests of homeland consolidation and the eradication of "black spots" — have disrupted traditional ties to particular areas; and
- Because of all the above factors, overcrowding has further diminished the productive potential of the areas in which blacks without city residence rights are largely compelled to live.

The drought, therefore, cannot be blamed for the continuing shortages of basic foodstuffs, coupled to a lack of sound agricultural planning, which afflict the rural areas. The most it has done is to exacerbate existing inequities of land apportionment

Government is paying considerable attention to alleviating the plight of the urban blacks. But what of those in the rural subsistence sector? They have been at the receiving end of ideology for many years — and the results are there in land degradation and starvation. New policy directions are needed.

and usage.

This is a fact widely recognised among people concerned with food relief for blacks. Ina Perlman, national manager of Operation Hunger, a relief organisation, states categorically that Pretoria, by forcibly shifting communities into ethnic reserves, is simply "sweeping the problem under the carpet." Villages which previously had to cope with inhospitable soil and drastic water shortages are today so overcrowded by the "resettled" newcomers that the task of eking out a living has become virtually impossible.

Though there are food problems in the

major urban areas, the main burden falls on the countryside.

"We feed 620 000 people every day," Perlman notes, "of whom only 20 000 live in the PWV area. The rest are scattered throughout the country and the homelands. Our statistics, backed by the researches of such bodies as the Bureau for Economic Research (BER), as well as by our own experience, indicate that 2.9m people below the age of 15 are below the international standard of height and weight and have clinically diagnosed malnutrition. Of these, 1.5m already show second-degree symptoms of the disease."

According to the Medical Association of South Africa (MASA), up to 66% of all black children in SA suffer from protein deficiency of one kind or another. Of all deaths among blacks in this country, 55% are of children below the age of five and, among coloureds, the figure is 45%. By contrast, among whites it is 7%.

Lack of protein leads to mental inadequacy, slowness and an inability to absorb elementary education. Thousands of black children are victims of this vicious



Operation Hunger's Perlman ... the problem is being 'swept away'

syndrome which can mean early death or retardation

Can the process be reversed by the efforts of the people themselves, as many of them suggest? It is impossible, say the experts. Even if rational changes were made to the regulations affecting blacks — concessions on freehold and influx control, for example — the effects of past discrimination would reverberate for years to come. There are cases of self-help, where communities have organised themselves on planning and produce marketing — but the twin handicaps of water shortages and overcrowding are ultimately too daunting.

Subsistence farming in SA, according to Perlman, is "a joke." Without water, these farmers have no hope of surviving. In the Ciskei, only 8% of the inhabitants can actually be called subsistence farmers, and their case is typical. Water sources are few and scattered: there is little or no agricultural instruction; and the Lennox Sebe government shows scant concern for their plight.

Overcrowding, for its part, is very largely a man-made phenomenon in SA. Perlman cites the example of Onverwacht, near Thaba Nchu in Bophuthatswana but within the borders of SA. Here, thanks to the influx of displaced persons shifted by government edict, the population, since 1978, has been estimated at 300 000. The

only possible source of income is employment in Bloemfontein, 70 km away. The drought has added to the problems of deprivation through the axing of many farm labourers from their jobs on white farms, which used to provide at least seasonal employment.

Wolter Wolthers, corporate director of the Premier Group, is adamant that there is still sufficient food to feed everyone in SA — despite the drought. With the importation of maize — while the wheat, meat and poultry situation remains largely unaffected — the main reason for the mass hunger being experienced in various regions is lack of money.

In such a situation, the development of anything like a free market in food production and distribution is radically hampered. Wolthers says: "Without State supervision, without co-operative marketing and without the necessary legislation to regularise distribution, the entire agricultural sector would be in chaos. This is true for the whole world."

Nonetheless, part of the answer to endemic rural deprivation must lie in the scrapping of those restrictions on the use of land which apply solely to blacks.

There is massive starvation in black Africa — where there is also corruption, tyranny, instability and, in many cases, the pursuit of "African socialism," which cre-

ates its own deficiencies. But this cannot excuse local inequalities of opportunity.

The problem of mass hunger in SA has yet to be tackled in a serious and effective way. Organisations like Operation Hunger are no substitute, worthy though they are. Over 70% of Operation Hunger's total income is derived from donations of under R20. Other relief organisations are under similar financial constraints.

The issue of famine cannot be left to relief bodies, since it is a long-term one which deserves to be elevated to national status. Government's concern for the plight of the poorest must be realistically demonstrated. In plain terms, that means that enforced removals should be halted; that blacks should be allowed to occupy and work land for their own benefit; that much more money must be allocated for water development, which takes agricultural as much as industrial needs into consideration; and that training in land utilisation for blacks has to be vastly extended.

While inefficient white farmers will eventually be forced to leave the land, many rural blacks have no other option than to remain where they are and to try to scrape out a living.

The issue is really one of admitting black farmers into the nation's agricultural economy as active contributors — and not merely as peasant labour.

HOME-BUYERS' COSTS

Losing out to red tape



Speak to anyone who has bought a house recently. It's 10 to one that their rendition of the experience will be a long and embittered litany of complaint.

The trouble is that the road to home own-

ership is full of pitfalls and unexpected costs — for the buyer, at least. For everyone else (leaving aside the seller for the moment), the transaction holds out the promise of windfalls and easy profits. Certainly, with prices at their current levels, many buyers are finding it increasingly difficult to stretch their pockets to cover the plethora of additional administration costs.

The list is a long one. But the more obvious are transfer duties, conveyancing fees, bond registration costs and stamp duties. The list runs on to cover raising fees, forfeited interest on deposits, building society valuation costs and estate agents' commissions, many of which are questionable, to say the least.

On a typical house price of R100 000 today, the obligatory transfer and bond registration costs for the buyer — and the estate agent's commission for the seller —

The cost of buying a house is never really reflected in the advertised price tag. Additional costs always push it up by thousands of rands — largely thanks to what amounts to closed-shop practices by the professions involved in the housing market. People are tired of being ripped off.

amount to a steep R7 935. That's just under 8% of the purchase price (see table).

On an agreed purchase price of R100 000, an individual buyer pays a total of R3 100 for registration of transfer. This is made up of R2 400 for duty levied by the government and R700 for the conveyancer's fee. Assuming the buyer obtains a maximum 80% bond, his bond registration costs work out at R635 — R160 for government stamp duty and R475 for the conveyancer's fee. The cost of the agent's commission on this purchase amounts to R4 200. Since this is paid by the seller (that is, deducted from his sale proceeds), the sum is invariably accounted for in the purchase price.

The real problem is not so much that buyers are not prepared for the various

contingency costs, but that many of these costs are set at fixed rates, which could be brought down to manageable levels if they were not the preserve of closed-shop professions.

Elsewhere in the world, home-buyers can go to the market and get administration and legal costs wrapped up for a negotiable fee. In the UK, notably, a proposed change to the law will stop conveyancing from being the monopoly of attorneys (see page 37). But in SA, the lump-sum fees and taxes added on to home prices are fixed by law, while the estate agency profession sets its own tariffs.

Breaking down the administration costs on a R100 000 property — of the total R7 935, R1 175 represents conveyancer's bond and transfer fees; R2 560 is government transfer and stamp duty; and more than 50% is the agent's R4 200 fee.

Conveyancers' fees are calculated on a sliding scale against price by attorneys and government. Although the rates are staggered to reduce as prices increase, actual fees mount progressively. And the tariff is fixed in a way which bears no ascertainable relationship to the work actually done for a client. For example, is the work put into processing documents for transfer on a

Govt urged to buy out farmers

...ministers realized National Party and rt an attempt to con- African situation in be all the facts." members y the Foreign Minis- bers of opposition ferences would have e informed former uests of recent and region. ent that the failure to parties was not only istributed to the Aus- of visas for Mr Durr e unambiguously op- erment policies can South Africa abroad d supporters."

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. — The government and all South Africans should be prepared to help the country's farmers out of the crisis arising from the drought and increased costs, Mr Casper Uys (CP Barberton) said yesterday. Introducing a private motion calling for special measures to keep the largest possible number of farmers in production, Mr Uys said the government should not hesitate to interfere in the economy. Many farmers were struggling and could be forced to sell out, causing land prices to drop catastrophically. The government should prevent these forced sales by buying farms for resale to other farmers who could run them profitably. ● South Africa was witnessing the creation of its own "dust bowl", similar to that which hit North America in the 1930-40 era, Mr Errol Moorcroft (PFP Albany) said to the motion. ● Unless urgent steps were taken to help the

country's maize farmers, a total collapse of the industry and a new depression was at hand, said Dr Ferdi Hartzenberg (CP Lichtenburg). He estimated that maize farmers would owe a total of about R5 100-million by the time they had planted their new crop next year, and that such a debt could not be repaid at current interest rates. ● Food queues and an economy reduced by the drought to the same plight as those of other African countries were not out of the question in South Africa, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, said yesterday. Accepting the CP motion, the minister said South Africa had a well-developed agricultural system and strong back-up facilities. "But does this country realize that this situation can change," he said. It had become apparent that present drought aid schemes were insufficient, and the government would have to investigate new measures. — Sapa

Controls for employers of 'alien' blacks

ng to be placed on employers to ensure that illegal "aliens", in- cluding those from the dependent homelands, given work in South Africa. This is really a ques- : of making a core of ormers out of the body employers." Mr Tian der Merwe (PFP en Point) said yester- he controversial mea- e is contained in use 4 of the Aliens

and Immigration Bill which was read a first time in Parliament this week. Mr Van der Merwe said clause 4 would have particular relevance to black workers who had been made aliens because of the independence of Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei. "If the information is incorrect or incomplete, this will qualify as an offence.

"Many employers will be forced to supply information which is self-incriminating." Because this provision would apply to people who were formerly South Africans who had lost their citizenship, which had been taken away against their will, this provision was "far too onerous". Although the PFP had yet to take a formal stand on this provision, Mr Van der Merwe said he

would strongly recom- mend that the party tried to exempt people from Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei from these provisions. In terms of the pro- posed clause, which still has to be debated in Parliament, the onus of proof will shift to the employer if the informa- tion contained in the re- turns is incorrect. Both he and Mrs Helen Suzman (PFP Houghton)

pointed out that the provisions of the new bill, if adopted by Parliament, could apply only to people from the independ- ent homelands and not those from the non-inde- pendent homelands. For this reason, it could not replace the provisions of the Orderly Movement and Settlement Bill which is being considered by the Select Committee on the Con- stitution.

ter property. — Sapa-H 2 000 golf balls they s containing more t a dozen grocery b- developer and propu club and the propu They sued the g- mon near here. dream home at San- thought would be th- R155 000 for what t- his wife Margaret p- Mr Emilio Punzo : five-year legal battle the golf course after new house away fr hit golf balls have wo by thousands of bac couple whose home : SAN FRANCISCO. — golf-ball we Couple win

Supreme Court Reporter by several men outside a shop and banded into a kombi. One of the girls said her attacker had ap- proached her while she was buying groceries and had given her 10 cents to buy herself a lolipop. She had done so and had wanted to give him his change, but he had refused this. He had then offered to take her to a house where toffee-apples were sold. The girl said

Mr Noren submitted that Catherine had died after a sexual assault and that Mr Losper could be found guilty only of the robbery charge. Mr Justice De Kock will deliver judgment on Tuesday. ● In yesterday's Cape Times it was incorrectly reported that a witness as to three charges of rape charges, as well as to the rape and attempt- has pleaded not guilty. Mr Isaac Gesswindt, 38, their attacker. between 11 and 14 — as four of the girls — aged in the Supreme Court by day positively identified two others, was yester- and attempting to rape Mitchell's Plain girls caused of raping man ac- A LENTGEBUR man ac- Supreme Court Reporter

with whom he had had a Miss Johanna Neels — crime by the evidence of had been linked to the He said Mr Losper her again. hammer and attacked assault, picked up the rived at the scene of the someone else had ar- the probability that there was "no room" for Mr Pretorius said another person. gation that she could had discounted the sug- after the attack. This longer than 10 minutes could not have lived least five times, and ertine had been struck at medical evidence, Cath- However, according to "No room" Pretorius told the court. head with the hammer Catherine twice on the the incident and had offered to help her find her attacker. Catherine could find have passed out and Cu- pido had removed her clothes. "This would ex- plain why her clothes Noren said. "If the accused was lying, he could have said that Yusuf had as- saulted the girl."

Parachutist Collin Beard glides to a perfect landing on the Rugby field yesterday, in a jump organized to promote the Rag place next Saturday.



Mr Losper has plead- ed not guilty to charges of murder, robbery with aggravating circum- stances and attempted rape. It is alleged that he battered the girl to death with a hammer on the night of December 6, 1975, outside the Vine- ward Cupido, who had been a suspect in the case according to police evidence last week, had claimed that he had hit Catherine twice on the head with the hammer on Yusuf's orders, Mr Pretorius told the court. Mr Losper had arrived at the scene of the incident and had offered to help her find her attacker. Catherine could find have passed out and Cu- pido had removed her clothes. "This would ex- plain why her clothes Noren said. "If the accused was lying, he could have said that Yusuf had as- saulted the girl."

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Minister of Agriculture:

What amount was allocated by the 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:

1 January 1983 to 31 December 1983.

- (a) R167 334.
- (b) R343 462.
- (c) R5 313 134 (Includes additions to houses as well as the erection of ablution facilities).

Land and Agricultural Bank

423. Mr J H VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Finance:†

- (a) How many loans were granted by the Land and Agricultural Bank to farmers in each electoral division of the Republic in each of the latest specified three years for which figures are available, (b) how many farmers per electoral division were involved in each of these years and (c) what average amount in loans was granted per farmer in each electoral division in each of these years?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

The required figures are not readily available in view of the fact that the Land Bank's computerized system in regard to its statistical records is programmed on an agro-economic basis.

It will take considerable time, possibly even months, to obtain the necessary information by hand, which will seriously disrupt the administration of the Land Bank's drought relief programme.

X
 (3) General Husband X
 Agricultural Credit Board
 Q. Col. 604
 401. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the

13/3/84 → X X

Parched SA may queue for food

36 em
w/lt ARGWS 10/3/84

Parliamentary Staff

IF the drought continues South Africans might have to queue for food, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, has warned.

The desperate financial plight of farmers came under the spotlight in the Assembly yesterday when the Conservative Party introduced a motion calling for special measures to keep farmers in production.

Mr Wentzel, who accepted the motion, said it was clear that drought relief measures were not sufficient.



Mr Greyling
Wentzel

Forced off

Reports from agricultural unions showed that some farmers would be forced off the land, and the Government would now take another look at drought relief measures.

Introducing the motion, Mr Casper Uys (CP Barberton) said the Government had to step in and help farmers.

If farmers were forced to sell their land, it would have a "catastrophic" effect on the price of land.

Take over

He appealed to the Government not to allow this, and to take over the farms in the short term.

"I know it is a radical suggestion but it may be necessary in the circumstances," he said.

Mr Errol Moorcroft (PFP Albany) said a "dust bowl" — similar to that which hit the United States in the 1930s — was being created in parts of South Africa.

Maize-growing areas were facing a crisis and whole communities of

farmers were staring bankruptcy in the face.

There were alarming reports of white farmers leaving the land in large numbers and of hundreds of unemployed black labourers.

Dr Ferdie Hartzenburg (CP Lichtenburg) warned that the infrastructure of the platteland would collapse if farmers were forced off their land.

If the maize industry of the Western Transvaal collapsed, businesses would close down.

He had calculated that maize farmers were about R4 000-million in the red, and by the time they had planted their next crop they would owe about R5 100-million.

With no interest rate, it would take the farmers eight years to pay their debts, and even if the interest rates were brought down to eight percent, it would take them 20 years to pay their debts.

● See Page 9.

Increased taxes will help farmers

220
3 General staff
16/3/54

Pretoria Correspondent

Increased taxes are necessary to support farmers who have incurred losses and debts in the drought and face bankruptcy.

This emerged at the annual meeting between the South African Co-ordinating Consumer Council and the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU), this week.

At the meeting the SAAU pointed out that many farmers no longer had produce to sell, and faced enormous debts and interest obligations.

Both the union and council agreed that it was better to have a tax increase to subsidise these farmers than to have a product price in-

crease, which hardly ever reached farmers.

Farmers only received 48 percent of the consumer price, and increases were often absorbed in distribution costs, packaging and other marketing aspects, said a spokesman for the SAAU.

It was imperative that farmers were prevented from going into liquidation at present, as they would receive less than the value of their property, said the spokesman.

If this happened now it could cause panic in money lending institutions, and thereby risk the credibility of other farmers who might need credit to plant in the coming season.

The union was hoping for a more normal "ball

game" next year or the year after, said the spokesman.

There was also the possibility that the consumer faced further maize price increases if the government removed its import subsidy.

In the past it was policy for government to subsidise maize imports to keep the consumer price down. This subsidy was the value between the high import costs and the low consumer price, said the spokesman.

However, if this subsidy was removed then the consumer would have to bear the full price of the imported maize. This could be as much as R100 million to R200 million, he said.

Spectrum

WATER

Drought costs SA more than R200-m

Argus 21/3/84
36 and

Argus Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG — South Africa will soon have spent more than R200-million since the drought began on ambitious projects to ensure reliable and regular supplies of water and electricity.

Amid the inspiration, excitement and frustration of plans to reverse the flows of rivers, fire up old power stations, build pipelines, and transfer water hundreds of kilometres, the bills have mounted.

Escom calculates that the drought has cost it about R100-million.

Electricity bosses prepared an elaborate R80-million plan to ensure an extra five weeks of uninterrupted power supply last winter when dams serving water-dependent stations dropped to crisis levels.

Escom shifted electricity generation from hi-tech, cheap-to-run modern power stations to older expensive-to-run plants which had access to better water supplies. Some were on the coast.

Much of the cash spent was for transporting coal from fields in the Eastern Transvaal to older power stations.

The stations, which are usually fired up during peak periods only, were used continuously.

The Drakensberg Pumped Storage generating plant was used "above its economic cycle", and millions were spent on modifying power stations to use cooling water of lower quality from the Vaal River, instead of from the Komati and Usutu systems.

Escom says electricity sales also fell as consumers tried to conserve power.

The commission spent about

R9-million on a joint project to reverse the flow of the Vaal River to resupply power stations in the Eastern Transvaal, critically short of water for cooling.

Water was transferred to the stations, which generate about 80 percent of the country's electricity, through seven weirs over the 208km from Vaaldam to Grootdraai Dam.

Spokesmen for the Directorate of Water Affairs say the weir scheme cost F132,3-million, of which Escom and Sasol paid R24,3-million.

The directorate then paid

R24-million to build a large-capacity pipeline from Grootdraai Dam to Trichardtsfontein — the key distribution point for the power stations.

The bigger pipeline was planned by the directorate, but construction was brought forward because of the drought.

Government engineers are planning to spend R20-million on an urgent extension to the Tugela-Vaal water system to ensure that Sterkfontein Dam — the Reef's emergency reserve — can be resupplied quickly from dams in Natal.

Mr Theo van Robbroeck, managing engineer of water resources for the directorate, said it was not an emergency scheme, though it was brought on by the drought.

A 32km pipeline was built to feed water from the Buffalo River to Newcastle's purification works at a cost of R9,5million.

The Umgeni Water Board paid R16-million for a scheme to pump water through a 12km pipeline from Mooi River to the town of Mooi River to feed water to Midmar Dam which serves Durban and Maritzburg.

APPEAL

Hundreds of firms collapse

Nurserymen lose R50-m in drought

(3) General Star
22/3/84



The merciless drought cost nurserymen R50 million in the past year.

Hundreds of firms collapsed and thousands of workers were made redundant as the R200 million industry reeled under the severe water restrictions.

And nurserymen believe the next 12 months will be even worse.

The chairman of the South African Nurserymen's Association, Mr Keith Kirsten, said 10 to 15 percent of the 2 700 nurseries in South Africa had folded, and another 10 to 15 percent are expected to go the same way after this winter.

In the Transvaal alone, 5 000 workers have been made redundant.

Mr Kirsten said the workforce had been halved at the 350 biggest nurseries in the 17 000 sq km Rand Water Board area. They had contributed R100 million to the industry's R200 million turnover before the drought.

Least affected

Some firms have diversified to survive. Many are concentrating on pot plants, landscaping and other areas which are least affected by the drought.

"We have advised members to diversify and concentrate on the most profitable markets," said Mr Kirsten. "People won't buy for their gardens because they have been destroyed. But more and more are buying for their flat or balcony gardens, or for inside the home."

He said nurserymen generally, especially the 400 bigger organisations which are members of the South African Nurserymen's Association, are "weathering the storm" — for the moment.

"The bigger ones are putting down their own boreholes and concentrating on landscaping and other earth works. But the coming winter will be the crunch. A couple of nurseries in the Magaliesberg area have only two weeks of water left."

The drought-hit parts of the country are the ones where most nurseries were based. There were 1 218 in the Transvaal; 991 in the Cape; 407 in Natal and 105 in the Free State.

Mr Kirsten said the survivors of the drought would benefit from an expected boom in sales when people scramble to rebuild their destroyed gardens.

Cape Times 28/3/84

Pig farmers run a zig-zag maize

3 General

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The worst erosion of profit margins in the livestock industry in many decades is forcing many pig farmers to sell their production units causing a pork shortage and increases in prices of up to 30 percent.

However, other farmers with less debt are braving the cyclical nature of the industry to continue production, and some are even increasing their capacities with a view to an expected surge in pork demand.

The deteriorating margins which the pig farmers are experiencing is the result of increasing costs and decreasing prices — known as a cost-price squeeze but the underlying factors causing this are many.

Upswing

In the previous cyclical upswing many new speculative entrepreneurs entered the industry. In addition most established farmers increased the number of sows in their units to expand production. Prices increased as a result of the shortage in sows which would have been sold for pork and bacon,

and this combined with increasing tax assessments to produce further incentives to expand.

The resultant 30 percent explosion in supply from 1,3m carcasses in 1980/1 to 1,72m in the last 12 months coincided with a downturn in the economy and the drought to substantially reduce consumer discretionary spending. The drought conditions also caused an increase in slaughterings of cattle and sheep with a resultant oversupply in all red meat and this worsened the pig farmers plight.

To aid the pig farmers' economic problems, the Meat Board implemented a floor price scheme and announced a quota marketing scheme which would allow market access based on the previous performance of established farmers. The system was aimed to discriminate against newcomers, speculators, fly-by-nights and those established farmers who expanded production in excess of previous performance.

Uncertainty

"The announcement created such uncertainty among farmers that any planned expansion was cut back," says the executive director of Kanhym, Mr Robin Clark.

As a result the Meat Board reports the number of permit applications for the March to May period decreased from 1 897 in 1983 to 1 415 in 1984.

While the fly-by-nights had flown, unfortunately so had a number of established farmers.

The Meat Board's purchases into its pork pool, under the floor price scheme, which had almost doubled from 11 166 carcasses in 1982 to 21 573 in 1983 plunged to only 122 carcasses that were purchased under the floor price scheme in the first couple of months in 1984.

Many pig farmers blame the Meat Board's floor price, which is set at a level far below pre-

sent production costs, for their economic problems.

The pork promotions campaign that was recently launched by pig farmers and the meat trade with the aid of R1,6m from the Meat Board has thus run into an immediate problem of availability even before it had properly started.

Prospects

Furthermore pig farmers' profit prospects are considerably influenced by the maize price and they are not only viewing the present maize price negotiations between the Maize Board and government with trepidation, but also considering various alternatives for maize.

Nevertheless some producers, such as Kanhym are optimistic about the demand in the future and are going at full-speed to increase production.

In 1982 consumers spent R326m on pork. This represented 8,5 percent of the total meat market. From 1981/2 to 1982/3 the net domestic trade in pork increased from 81 522 tons to 91 312 tons while the trade in beef decreased from 503 000 tons to 499 000 tons and mutton increased from 126 000 tons to 142 000 Tons.

In the market for primary protein foods, there are indications that poultry's rate of increase in consumption is levelling off while egg consumption actually declined.

Processed meats

But marketing to the black population will have to be stepped up before the true potential of the pork market is tapped.

About 65 percent of blacks claim never to eat fresh pork, 30 percent percent of them because of religious reasons, although blacks are responsible for a significant share of the market for processed meats.

'Massive co-operation zone from Cape to the equator' Its food for thought

By Michael Chester

The current peace initiatives in Southern Africa have rekindled a vision that Mr Rudy Frankel has nursed for nearly half a century: the creation of one of the most impressive food production zones in the world, stretching from Cape Town to the middle belt of the continent.

Mr Frankel is the 75-year-old chairman of a major food producer and is regarded as the doyen of the South African food business. He has nursed his dream ever since he was engaged in a World War 2 exercise to evaluate the strategic importance of the whole region.

"We were amazed at the economic potential of the sub-continent," he recalls.

"Angola was dripping with potential. Mozambique and Zambia had fantastic agricultural land to be developed. Zimbabwe has already proved its capability of producing good crop yields.

"Add it all to the sophistication of the food industry in South Africa and here we have the true 'granary of Africa' — given a chance to cooperate and pool our resources.

"Each of the neighbours has a tre-

"South Africa already holds the most impressive food production record on the continent. If political manoeuvres pave the way to wider co-operation with neighbours, and the weather can be out-foxed, the potential appears to be boundless."

mendous contribution to make and equally tremendous benefits to gain if the correct agricultural strategy can be ironed out.

"Not least to consider is the protection that each would secure from the wild vagaries of the weather — the exposure to recurring disasters that swing from droughts to floods that South Africa has been reminded about over the past three seasons.

"It's all so senseless for each country to carry the brunt of weather cycles alone when there is the opportunity to operate as virtually one agricultural unit and ensure self-sufficiency in food production.

"Each specific area can lay whatever agricultural plans it chooses — but none can guarantee that the weather is going to co-operate. What we can reasonably rely on, however, is that natural disasters are highly unlikely to strike the en-

tire sub-continent at the same moment and that is the magic of co-operation in food production.

"All need to work out new strategies to cope with the population explosion if all the mouths are going to be fed.

"The days are fast disappearing when rural families content themselves with meals for breakfast, lunches at mid-day, and meals for supper.

"We need to start planning now if we are going to avert problems by the turn of the century and beyond.

The significance of the enormous dimensions of the agricultural potential of South Africa is underlined by its ability in normal seasons to not only feed its own growing population but produce enough surplus to ship food to export markets.

Each year from 1980 to 1982, before the freak weather took its full toll, SA managed to earn above R2 000 million from agricultural exports. Production from field crops, horticulture and livestock had all been doubled in the past two decades.

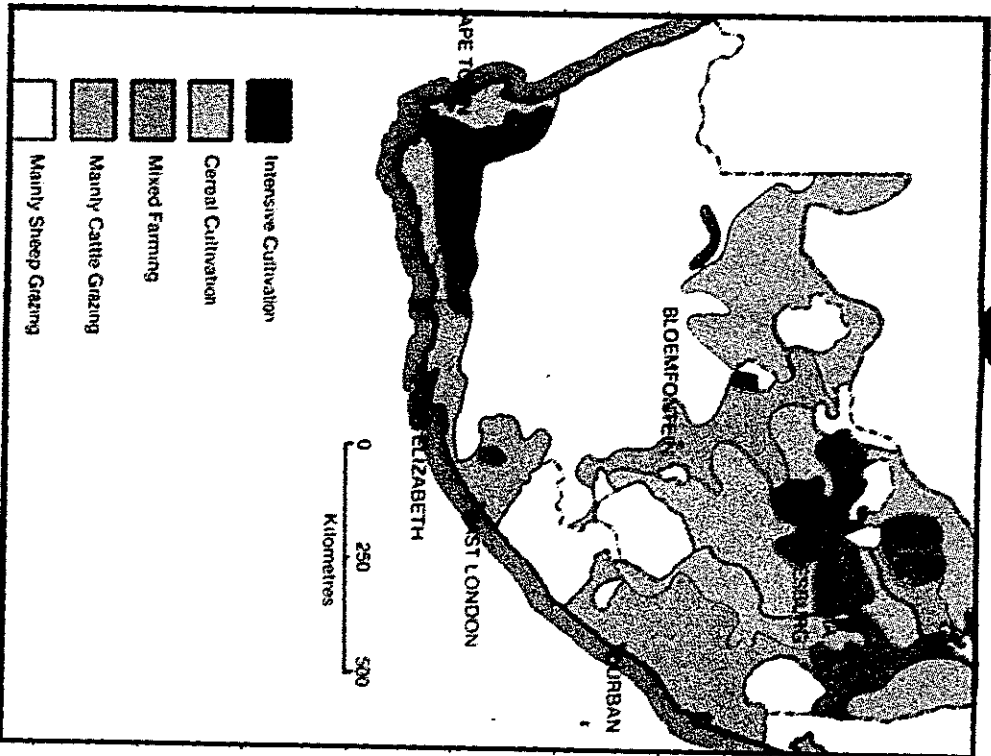
In sharp contrast, the bill for agricultural imports was held as low as R200 million in 1982 — spent on such items as rice, coffee and tea.

The gross value of maize production alone soared to a peak of R1 786 million in the 1980/81 season before droughts slashed the total to only R699 million in 1982/83 and in turn shrank to the point where huge import shipments have had to be ordered to fill the shortfall.

The value of the 1982/83 fruit crop soared to R1 487 million.



"Sick to death of porridge for breakfast, lunch and supper? Don't worry, I see Rudy Frankel has some ideas..."



Farmers reaped a wheat harvest worth R652 million — and slaughtered R991 million worth of cattle and supplied R633 million worth of poultry to dining tables here and overseas, still leaving enough chickens behind to lay more than three billion eggs.

At the latest count in 1981, no less than R29 944 million had been ploughed into capital investments in agriculture in South Africa. A statistical footnote: the Republic today has more tractors tilling the land than motor bikes roaring over the roads.

Topping up food baskets, Southern Africa runs a fishing fleet of about 5 700 vessels — from rock lobster dinghies to huge trawlers. Between them, in 1982 they hauled out of the oceans 377 033 tons of pelagic shoal fish (mainly anchovy, pilchard and herring) and 135 000 tons of hake, sole, kingklip, snoek and mackerel.

South Africa already holds the most impressive food production record on the continent. If political manoeuvres pave the way to wider co-operation with neighbours, and the weather can be out-foxed, the potential appears to be boundless.

Vaal Dam could be full

Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — As local authorities discuss stringent water rationing, Vaal Dam's catchment area has enough stored water to fill the dam to the brim.

There is as much stored water in the upper Vaal catchment as there was in 1976, when Vaal Dam was last full. In that year neither Sterkfontein nor Grootdraai dams existed but in recent years they have trapped hundreds of mil-

lions of litres which used to reach Vaal Dam.

Even without the rains of the past few days the situation in the catchment area is far better than last year.

Vaal Dam is well over half full — in spite of the fact that a large volume of its former run-off is now being blocked at Sterkfontein and Grootdraai dams.

Sterkfontein Dam — which for six years has been trapping run-off which would normally

have found its way to Vaal Dam — is about two-thirds full. It has a larger capacity than Vaal Dam.

Grootdraai Dam, which began intercepting run-off to Vaal Dam in 1979, is now full and was overflowing in recent weeks. It is holding the equivalent of about a third of the amount of water now in Vaal Dam.

In just four years, by stopping Vaal Dam's natural run-off near Harris-mith and storing it in

Sterkfontein Dam, at least 1 000-billion litres have been saved from evaporation. The evaporation rate there is at least 80 percent less than at Vaal Dam.

But water experts are still worried. They say that next year could be another drought year.

● With the combined level of Midmar and Albert Falls dams only a fraction away from the 50 percent mark, water restrictions in the Durban and Maritzburg

areas could be dropped this week.

Good rain has boosted Midmar to 91 percent full — with an inflow of 13,5 kilolitres a second. Albert Falls is now 24 percent full with six kilolitres a second inflow and their combined level is 49,33 percent.

The final say in further concessions must come from the Minister of Environment, Mr Sarel Hayward. He has been briefed on the improvement in Natal's dam situation.

For oral reply:

3 General Howard

Area lost for agricultural purposes

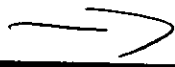
Q. 61. 764 28/3/84

*1. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Agriculture:

What is the estimated area that was lost for agricultural purposes as a result of urban development over the latest specified period of three years for which figures are available?

†The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

1 April 1980 to
31 March 1981 = 5 320 hectares



765

WEDNESDAY,

1 April 1981 to
31 March 1982 = 12 611 hectares

1 April 1982 to
31 March 1983 = 2 415 hectares

TOTAL = 20 346 hectares

RDP 30/2/84 (3)

Aid boost for SA agriculture

By GERALD REILLY
Pretoria Bureau

MASSIVE financial aid for farmers, aimed at rehabilitating the crippled agricultural industry after three consecutive drought years, was announced yesterday by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel.

The measures — which will cost several hundred million rands in subsidised interest rates — were welcomed by the SA Agricultural Union yesterday.

However, the president of the SAAU, Mr Jaap Wilkens, said he regretted that subsidised interest rates on loans from commercial banks had not been included. The SAAU estimates that farmers' carry-over debts with agricultural co-operatives alone amount to more than R800-million.

By August this year when the 1983-84 drought is taken into account this amount will

balloon to a huge R1 400-million. Among the measures announced yesterday were:

- An interest subsidy on carry-over debts with co-operatives which will reduce interest payments to 8%;
 - The subsidy will come into effect from 8% to 6% in interest rates on Agricultural Credit Board crop loans;
 - Production loans granted by the board will increase from R50 000 to R75 000;
 - An increase from 30% to 36% in the interest subsidy paid on production credit from co-operatives for the new season; and
 - The postponement for a year of applications in terms of the special land bank and agricultural credit board-22-year scheme for debt consolidation to March 31 next year.
- Interest will be capitalised in the first two years of the scheme. In effect the first payment will only be at the end of the third year.

Massive aid for farmers announced

36 General
CAM Times 30/3/84

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. — Massive financial aid for farmers, aimed at rehabilitating the crippled agricultural industry after three consecutive drought years, was announced yesterday by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel.

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By August this year when the 1983-84 drought is taken into account, this amount will balloon to R1 400-million. Among the measures announced yesterday were:

- An interest subsidy on carry-over debts with co-ops which will reduce farmers' interest payments to eight percent. The higher subsidy will come into effect from eight percent to six percent in interest rates on crop loans granted by the Agricultural Credit Board. Production loans granted by the board will increase from R50 000 to R75 000.

- An increase from 30 percent to 36 percent in the interest subsidy paid on production credit from co-ops for the new season.

- The postponement for a year of applications in terms of the special land bank and agricultural credit board's 22-year scheme for debt consolidation to March 31 next year.

- Interest will be capitalized in the first two years of the scheme. In effect, the first payment will be only at the end of the third year.

Mr Wilkens said the relief measures followed proposals made to the minister by the SAAU. A number of important proposals, he said, were still being considered.

These included "exceptional risk" loans from co-ops and aid to irrigation stock and dairy farmers. In announcing the relief, the minister emphasized the farmers' weak financial position, and that high interest rates were in the way of recovery.

Farmers reap huge debts

W/KA 31/3/84

Weekend Argus Reporters

FARMERS owe more than R6 000-million — an unprecedented situation in the history of the country — as a result of the devastating drought experienced in the grain-producing areas, Senator Owen Horwood, the Minister of Finance, said.

Opening the Cape Show today, Senator Horwood said this represented about 25 percent of the State's estimated total expenditure for the new financial year and that the debt was more than double the gross agricultural income for the record 1980/81 agricultural year.

The interest payable on these debts will make up the greatest production costs for farmers this year.

The Government has already, with the help of financial institutions such as the Land Bank, offered assistance to about 5 500 farmers who have made applications for financial help.

Talking about the debts of farmers who belonged to co-operatives and who are being subsidised on a sliding scale by the Government, he said the total outstanding debt by March 15 exceeded R794,9-million.

It is estimated that this amount could rise to R850-million this year.

Special aid

Furthermore, the Land Bank has implemented a special drought assistance scheme for sugar farmers in Natal under which assistance of R27,8-million had been given to 435 applicants up to March 15 this year.

Senator Horwood added that, up to March 16, R60,3-million in Land Bank credit for debt consolidation had been granted to 1 010 producers in the summer-sowing regions.

He said estimates indicated that this amount could soar by a further R77-million because the drought is continuing.

Ex-Kruger man to sue Viljoen

Weekend Argus Reporter

THE officer of the watch on board SAS President Kruger, which sank after a collision almost two years ago, has instructed his attorneys to institute civil proceedings in connection with a recent statement by the Chief of the Defence Force.

Sub-Lieutenant Robert Pickstock, who left the SA Navy in December last year, said the civil action was in connection with General Constand Viljoen's announcement that steps were being taken against certain officers of the PK.

The navy's flagship

sank after colliding with SAS Tafelberg during a naval exercise. Sixteen lives were lost.

General Viljoen said, among other things, that entries had been made in the merit files of Lieutenant Peter Smith, the officer on duty in the PK's operations room at the time of the collision, and of both Sub-Lieutenant Pickstock and Sub-Lieutenant Abraham Meintjies, the second officer of the watch.

Mr Pickstock said today the Chief of the Navy had, on request, declined to disclose details of the entry made in his merit record, except that it was "adverse".

Equity rejects Fugard's plea

Weekend Argus Foreign Service

LONDON. — The American actors' union, Equity, has turned down Athol Fugard's plea to allow fellow-South African Yvonne Bryceland to star in his new play, *The Road To Mecca* in the United States.

UL-LETS Super40's 289

STAYF Regular

CRISAN Treatment Shampoo 200 ml

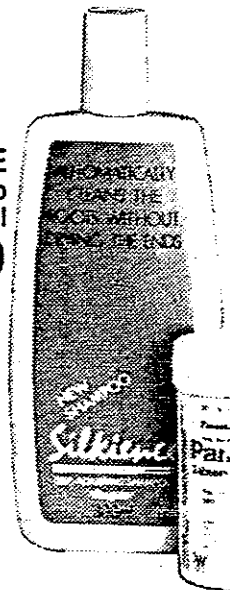
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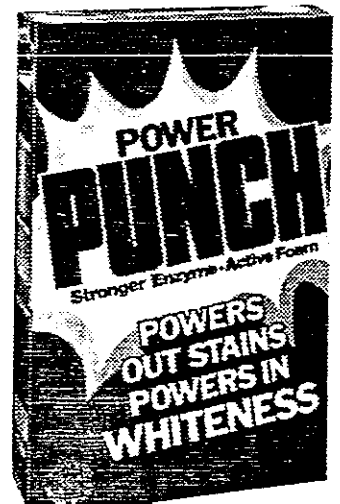
AQUAFRESH Toothpaste 100 r

SILKIENCE Shampoo 300 ml

299



PANADO Tablets 20's 73



Debt-ridden³ co-ops seek^{S. Times General} another R1bn^{1/4/87}

SOUTH Africa's embattled farming co-operatives face the mammoth task of finding at least R1 000-million to finance next summer's crops.

By Barry Sergeant

They will do so against a background of R1 300-million already owed by their 300 000 members. The co-ops in turn owe this money to the Land Bank. Of it, R800-million has been converted into long term loans.

Then there is "at least R500-million" of production credit which is unrecoverable after this season's crop failures.

In negotiating with the Land Bank, the co-ops are awaiting the outcome of requests to the Government for drought aid. Adding concern to the sector is deteriorating co-op balance sheets since the introduction of tax in 1977.

Tiger's back

Inus van Rooyen, deputy director of the SA Agricultural Union, says the co-ops are "riding on a tiger's back" because they must find the money in spite of the huge debt backlog. Farming cannot cease when times are bad — as in the case of, say, a manufacturing industry.

SA's 320 co-ops finance their 300 000 members through the Land Bank at an interest rate of 17,75%. After deducting a Government subsidy of 30% and adding 1% for co-op administration and risk-taking, the farmer pays an effective rate of 13,425%.

The 30% subsidy falls steadily after the first year — an incentive for farmers to pay their debts as early as possible.

Debt carried by farmers through co-ops is only part of overall agricultural debt. Most of the rest is held by commercial banks at higher interest rates.

After the commercial banks' 1% prime rate increase, farmers' financing costs may rise as well.

Co-ops argue that the interest-rate subsidy is borne by the nation as a whole. They contrast it with agriculture's direct subsidisation of industry, notably fertiliser and tractor engines. They see no competitive pricing in the fertiliser industry after lifting of price controls.

Agriculture's sole subsidy is for interest rates.

Some farmers say the co-ops have become banks in all but name. The 1% cut they are taking is said to be unwarranted, and the money provided by the co-ops is used to finance goods supplied by them.

Pride

Mr van Rooyen says no co-op has folded for more than 10 years, and he does not fear a foreclosure this year. But the real pride of the co-ops is that the Land Bank has never written off a cent of co-op debt.

After restructuring of the co-ops in 1977, their balance sheet has deteriorated. A central reason is the old bugbear — tax. As a *quid pro quo* for being allowed to take part in all aspects of getting

a commodity to the consumer, co-ops agreed to be taxed.

But tax — at the company rate of 46,2% — is not applied in the normal way. After a year of trading, co-ops declare their surplus (or deficit). If a surplus is ploughed back into reserves, it is taxed. But if it is paid to members, it is taxed in their hands.

Lower rate

In practice, this means payouts to members who are taxed at a lower rate than the co-ops. The taxed money is then lent to co-ops at market-related rates as members' funds. Members' funds, share capital, undivided surpluses and reserves at the co-ops — at the end of 1982 — were R1 300-million.

After deduction of members' funds and loan capital, the co-ops have R700-million of their own reserves. This acts as a buffer between the banking sector and the swelling potential of farming bad debt.

The R700-million is enough to tide farmers over the current drought — in theory. In practice, the reserves are book entries, not cash. Because of the curious nature of co-op share capital, the shares never appreciate in value because they are never traded.

Under the Act regulating co-operatives, the shares cannot be listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. Raising of cash on the open money and capital markets is uncommon.

Mr van Rooyen says co-op shares are the "most dismal of all investments". Under the Act the most that can be paid on share capital is 15%

— hardly attractive in 1984's investment climate.

Another co-op burden is that only 5% of business can be done with non-members. The 5% figure was reached in negotiations with trade and industry after the Steenkamp Commission's report.

The evolution of the co-ops, drought notwithstanding, is towards a more concerted drive into the processing industry.

Seventy years ago, co-ops were formed to smooth consumer demand with irregular supply. Large buyers, remote from farming areas, manipulated prices by a variety of methods. A favourite was to grade a crop below its real quality.

The next move was into the production of farming requisites and was marked by the entry of Vetsak, controlled by the co-ops. The meat co-op, Vleissentraal, has a 50% investment in a processing plant at Krugersdorp.

Major role

The co-ops want to continue their investment in the processing industry where they already play a major role. Among other commodities, their members produce 26% of SA's maize meal, 32% of its bread flour, 75% of its canned fruit, 55% of its butter and 86% of its wine.

Pointing to profits made by the food trading companies, they believe the middleman's large cut of prices can be honed down.

Latest figures from the Department of Agriculture show the farmer receives 48% of the consumer's food rand.

ASH ^{1976 Trail}

rains as 250 fight blaze

Staff Reporters

SOME 250 firefighters had by early this morning contained a giant bushfire that swept from Silvermine Road across Ou Kaapse Weg to Sun Valley and back again, at one stage threatening the Silvermine Forest reserve.

At its height the fire blazed over a 100-hectare area. It was estimated that the fire was burning at a rate of 100 metres per minute.

On Ou Kaapse Weg, a major road, the fire was contained by a line of firefighters. The fire was reported to have been extinguished.

At the time of the fire, the wind was blowing from the north-west. The fire was reported to have been extinguished.

The fire started at noon after someone believed to be a passer-by had lit a cigarette. The fire was reported to have been extinguished.

A fire engine from Pennsylvania arrived in the afternoon. The fire was reported to have been extinguished.

The fire was reported to have been extinguished.

The fire was reported to have been extinguished.

The fire was reported to have been extinguished.

The fire was reported to have been extinguished.

The fire was reported to have been extinguished.



A pall of smoke dwarfs Divisional Council firefighters as they battle with the blaze that swept through tinder dry scrub in Sun Valley yesterday. Picture: Alvin Andrews

and several families sprayed their lawns and the area between their houses and the bush.

About 8pm the fire turned and re-crossed the Ou Kaapse Weg, where firefighters blocked off the flames along Silvermine Road at San Michelle. The fire swept close to the Noordhoek Christian Farm and residents hosed down the wooden farm houses in the light of the flames.

Officials said that by midnight the fire was "well under control".

in terms of (i) section 1 of the Preservation of Coloured Areas Act, No 31 of 1961, and (ii) section 1 of the rural Coloured Areas Act, No 24 of 1963, and (c) mission stations or communal reserves in terms of the (i) Mission Stations and Communal Reserves Act, 1909, of the Cape of Good Hope, (ii) Coloured Mission Stations and Reserves Act, No 12 of 1949, and (iii) Coloured Persons Communal Reserves Act, No 3 of 1961;

- (2) how many persons are resident in each of the above-mentioned areas;

- (3) what is the extent of the agricultural land owned by (a) Coloured persons, excluding the agricultural land in the areas mentioned in (1) above, and (b) Indians, in each province?

The MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS:

(1) and (2) The rural Coloured areas referred to by the hon member are all at present administered under the Rural Coloured Areas Law, 1979 (Law 1 of 1979 of the Coloured Persons Representative Council). The information requested is as follows:

Area	Extent	Population
Haarlem	1 415,5 ha	1 280
Oppermansgronde	34 185,9 ha	2 200
Saron	3 152,0 ha	6 781
Suurbraak	4 789,0 ha	2 495
Ebenezer	18 286,9 ha	1 590
Eksteenskuil	2 012,9 ha	1 455
Friemersheim	190,9 ha	455
Kranshoek	244,7 ha	1 020
Pella	48 276,9 ha	2 000
Slangrivier	1 123,5 ha	1 855
Concordia	63 383,4 ha	8 259
Enon	10 261,7 ha	770
Genadendal	4 821,4 ha	5 206
Komaggas	62 603,8 ha	4 784
Leliefontein	192 719,7 ha	8 496
Mamre	7 951,7 ha	4 500
Pniel	56,7 ha	1 544
Richtersveld	513 919,2 ha	2 971
Rietpoort	15 092,1 ha	2 521
Steinkopf	329 301,3 ha	5 520
Thaba Patchoa	3 624,6 ha	649
Zoar	5 882,66 ha	2 655
Mier	398 789,3 ha	4 500

During the period 1 July 1982 to 30 June 1983 deferment of the payment of fines were granted to 55 552 persons.

- (b) The required information is unfortunately not readily available.

③ General Hansard
Rural Coloured areas
Q. 61.832 2/4/84
715. Prof N J J OLIVIER asked the Minister of Internal Affairs:†

- (1) What is the extent of the (a) Coloured settlements in terms of section 1 of the Coloured Persons Settlement Act, No 7 of 1946, (b) incorporated areas

(3)(i) and (ii) Statistics are not available in the Department.

CAPE Times 10/4/84 (36 word) / 10/4/84

Farm-tax system to be probed

Political Staff

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

— Farmers who have been making unrealistic purchases in agricultural equipment during “good” years merely to win tax write-offs are in for a shock.

This follows a warning yesterday by the Minister of Finance, Mr Owen

Horwood, that the possible misuse of the agricultural tax system would be investigated and corrective measures taken if necessary.

Replying to the Budget debate, Mr Horwood said “it would certainly be improvident for any farmer to spend money on implements which he

does not really need merely to reduce his liability for tax by a maximum of 50 percent of the amount expended”.

Last week Mr Errol Moorcroft (PFF Albany) charged that the agricultural tax system fostered a “get-rich-quick” attitude that encouraged farmers to buy agricul-

tural machinery they did not need to win reductions in their tax bills.

Mr Horwood warned that the tax concession allowing farmers to deduct the full purchase price of implements in the year of purchase was intended primarily to assist farmers improve their cash-flow position.

RSM 17/4/84

Water, water everywhere ...

3

SEVERE water drought exists in many rural areas of South Africa, even when there have been rains, papers presented at the Carnegie conference have revealed.

In the Mahla area of Gazankulu, for example, 165 boreholes were found to be the main source of water for 152 000 people — with a tap-to-population ratio of one tap to 760 people.

During a survey in April 1982 in the same area, seven villages with a population of 15 582 had no boreholes and a further six villages with a population of 16 846 had all their boreholes out of order.

This meant that 32 428 (48,6%) of the 66 615 people in the 25 villages of Mhala South did not have access to clean water, Erich Buch and Cedric de Beer wrote.

In another survey in Gazankulu, several respondents gave the whole village as the number of people served by one tap, Dr Patrick Harries of the University of Cape Town reported.

In the Ndevana resettlement camp of the Ciskei,

97% of the respondents said they had been without water for the past 12 months, while in the Oxton resettlement area, 32% said they had been without water for more than five months.

Professor A G Schutte, of the University of the Witwatersrand, said that in a village in Venda 10 of 30 children born had died within the first year.

One significant factor affecting infant mortality was the purity of the water supply and the quality of nutrition.

Besides inadequate supplies of water — particularly clean water — in rural areas, the recent drought had taken a heavy toll. Mr Muller said that 555 691 cattle had died in Transkei between April 1982 and November 1983 — and Dr Harries said that about 89 000 head of cattle had died in Gazankulu by September 1983.

These studies showed that although the recent drought may have been broken in many areas of South Africa, the provision of water remained a major problem.

Canal scheme sets

Department wants a R33m dam

RELATIVE merits of the two schemes have been weighed in a comprehensive report filed by the consulting engineering firms Steffen Robertson and Kirsten (SRK) and Ninham Shand.

Mr B J Middleton of SRK has compiled an additional report on the high-level option and its additional benefits.

The low-level canal —

to the limited extent to which it functions now — was an expedient after the Department of Water Affairs changed its mind over the high-level option.

Ten kilometres below the Cookhouse Tunnel, at a point where the feeder canal from the Orange River swings conveniently close to the left bank of the Little Fish, the department

has simply abandoned the high-level route (and 16 kilometres of freshly-dug canal) and dumped the water down a chute into the river.

Further downstream, at Wellington Grove, the water is pumped out again into a canal running on to Lake Mentz.

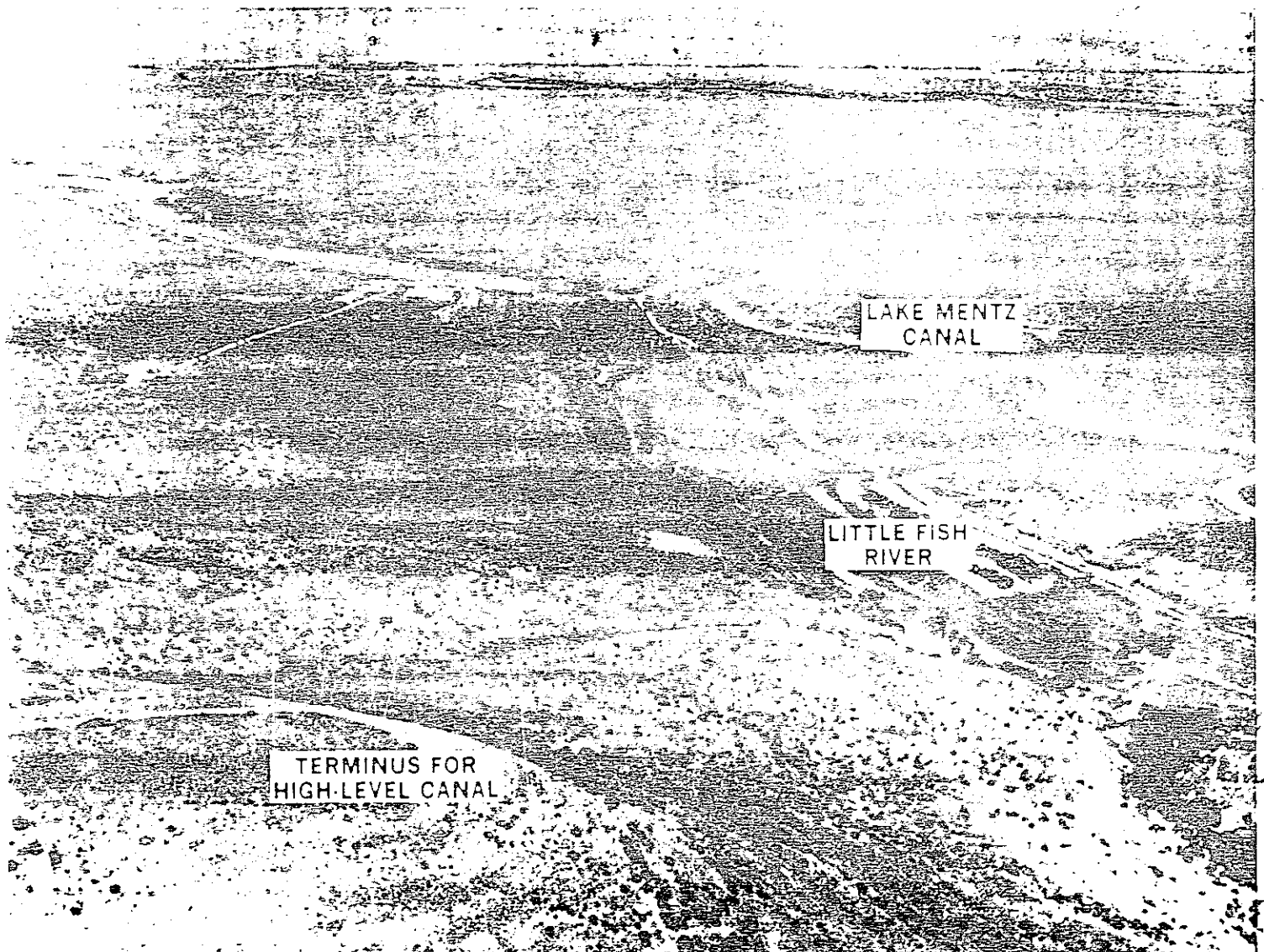
This canal is capable of carrying 26,7 cubic metres a second (m³/s), but the pumps can lift

only 4m³/s, so the flow to Lake Mentz is restricted by the Wellington Grove bottleneck.

The department's proposed solution for this was to dam the river (at a cost of R26,7 million — or R33 million allowing for escalation) until the level rose, spilling over into the Lake Mentz canal, occupying its full capacity.

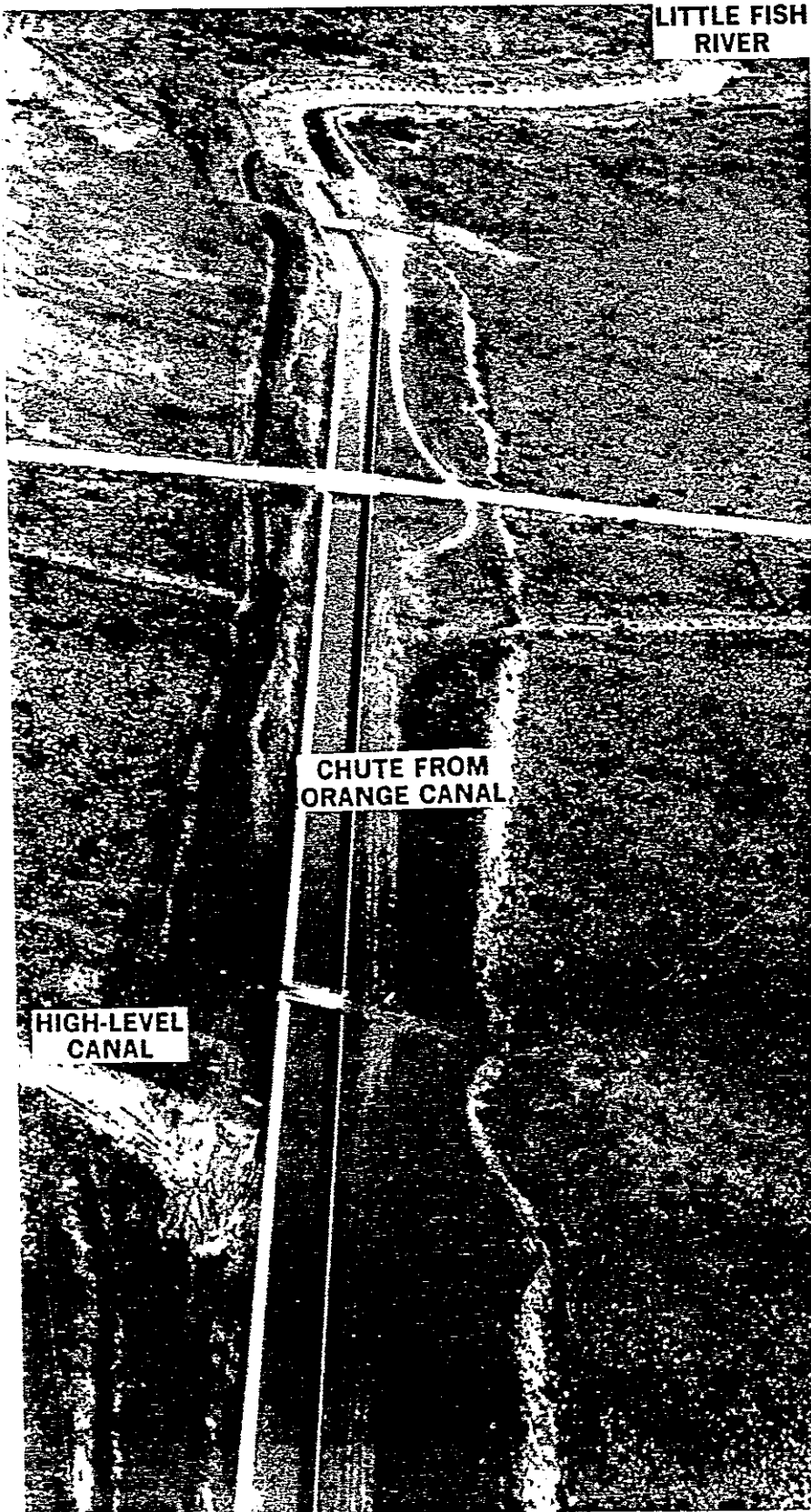
This would allow for the irrigation of an additional 2 400 hectares of land en route to Lake Mentz (as will the high-level scheme).

An additional low-level spur 30 kilometres long (at additional cost) would allow for irrigation of 1 600 hectares of additional land on the Great Fish side of the river.



What will happen if the high-level canal scheme is adopted. The canal will terminate on the hill (left foreground) and discharge water through power-generating turbines towards the Little Fish River (right foreground). It would then pass through a siphon to the Lake Mentz canal, snaking across the veld at right.

Farmers' R32m ca



By CLIFF FOSTER

WHILE the Eastern Cape waits for improved incentives to lure new industry into the region, farmers on the banks of the Little Fish River have put together a multi-million rand scheme to revitalise their district themselves.

They are so confident their project will pay off in handsome dividends that if the Government is not prepared to help, they are ready to finance it themselves, and banks are willing to back them.

But the scheme will need the approval of the Department of Water Affairs, which this week started to examine it.

On Monday the farmers of the Little Fish River Irrigation Association will place the scheme before the Water Resources Committee of the Region D Development Advisory Committee in Port Elizabeth.

What the scheme proposes is an alternative to the present method of discharging water from the Orange River canal into the Little Fish, and then pumping it out downstream into a canal carrying it to Lake Mentz (for onward transmission to the Sundays River Valley).

Instead the water should be retained at its high level in the hills and carried along (in a partly constructed canal) to a point where it could cascade 150 metres down into the river from a steep hillside.

The high-level canal would:

- Irrigate far more land.
- Provide for inclusion of a hydro-electric power station which Port Elizabeth municipality has said it will need.
- Enable an agro-industrial plant to be established turning out between 30 million and 40 million litres of diesel fuel a year, or a whole variety of animal and human feedstocks, as well as solid fuel — depending on which way material is channelled through the plant.

Benefits flowing from the high-level canal scheme far outweigh those from the low-level alternative. And large-scale indirect socio-economic benefits would accrue over the whole region, with increased job opportunities and business development.

And the costs for completing the two basic canal schemes are not widely dissimilar — between R26,7 million and R33 million for the low-level one, R32 million for the high-level one.

What is more, 16km of canal (worth about R11 million) already exist for the high-level scheme. It was built before the department — with only seven kilometres to go — changed its mind and opted for its "short-cut" low-level pump scheme.

Today this canal snakes across the veld and through the hills abandoned, its tunnels used as shelter for goats, its rainwater-filled sections watering the stock — maybe the most expensive drinking water in the world.

The farmers are confident they could get their high level canal completed inside two years — half the time it will take to make the low-level project work properly — so that 26 cubic metres a second (m³/s) can be flowing to Lake Mentz (instead of 4m³/s at present) in double quick time for use by farmers throughout the Sundays River Valley.

What is happening now. Water from the Orange River canal is discharged down a chute into the Little Fish River. The intended route of the high-level canal branches off to the left (foreground).

3) Conrad

Scene for revitalising the Little Fish

Irrigation for more land

THE 16km of high-level canal already excavated has along its route two tunnels — the Bloemhof, 2 446 metres long with only 100 metres still to be excavated, and the Rietfontein, 396 metres long and completed. Both tunnels still need to be lined. An additional tunnel, the Wildenhonden, 874 metres long, still has to be built along with seven kilometres of canal and two siphons — one 996 metres long, another 458 metres long — before the water can reach the Lake Mentz canal.

Work on these stretch-

es, however, can proceed in several places at once, cutting down construction time, reducing escalation, and discharging water into Lake Mentz two years sooner than the low-level alternative.

A consortium made up of the Little Fish Association and the Sundays River Irrigation Board, plus the hydro-electric and agro-industrial undertakings, could raise finance for this alternative should the Department of Water Affairs remain unwilling, and repayments could be set against the cost of water at a later stage.

(There is a precedent for this with the Umgent Water Board in Natal, but the department has shown reluctance to allow private finance in water affairs.)

From its higher situation the canal could serve both sides of a watershed, bringing under irrigation larger areas towards the Great Fish.

By conventional irrigation through a much shorter canal than the low-level spur (10km as against 30km), water could be provided for 4 500 hectares between

the Great and Little Fish (as opposed to 1 600 hectares by the low-level spur).

But it could serve a far greater area — 30 000 hectares — of drought-resistant pasture (growing produce requiring very little water) as opposed to 21 000 hectares by the low-level spur.

This additional pasture which the high-level canal could irrigate makes viable the agro-industrial plant which could produce the 30 million to 40 million litres of diesel or the fuel/foodstock alternatives.

THE flow along the Lake Mentz canal remains the same in both schemes, so benefits to farmers downstream (and in the Sundays River Valley) are identical — except that water could arrive more quickly from the high-level canal.

The benefits that can derive from the high-level canal between the Little Fish and the Great Fish are considerable, among them agro-industrial processing.

This processing makes use of salt bush, a very leafy shrub that thrives even in dry conditions and can support between 12 and 15 times the number of animals that normal veld can. With irrigation it can support up to 28 times the normal amount.

But its benefit in this particular scheme would be twofold. The lower foliage would sustain stock on the land while the upper foliage would be lopped for processing in the biomass agro-industrial plant.

Then, for example, five tons of the leafy section and 10 tons of fibrous stalk, costing R45 delivered to the plant, could produce:

- 4.6 tons of energy-supplement nutrient (to be sprayed back on to salt bush) worth R700 (R152 a ton) — comparable with a maize equivalent at R11 040 (R240 a ton).
- 0.4 tons of protein concentrate for specialised animal feed worth around R640.
- 1 000 litres of diesel fuel worth R300.

The same processing plant could turn the coarse stalks into charcoal briquettes.

The 30 000 hectares of drought-resistant pasture the high-level scheme could bring under irrigation would supply 15 tons of biomass per hectare per year — enough salt bush to provide between 30 million and 40 million litres of diesel using two-thirds by weight of the bush's woody stalks, and still leave one-third for food processing.

(And it would be using vegetation costing R15 a ton as opposed to other fuel-from-plant processes using maize at between R150 and R200 a ton.)

The plant itself would cost close on R40

million and only become optimally viable at these quantities. Discussions have been held with finance houses and cash can be obtained for the plant. Suppliers of equipment have indicated interest in a joint venture partnership where they would supply and erect the equipment for a share in the equity.

The other shareholders would supply the biomass needed for processing.

It would be a major insurance for the livestock industry which is anticipating hard times in the near future, farmers maintain.

And it would help liberate the Government from farm subsidies which the Little Fish farmers regard as shaky economics. "This way farmers could be eliminating the need for subsidies," they say.

The plant would require power output of some three megawatts which could easily be achieved by constructing the first stage of the hydro-electric plant.

Rich stock food and fuel source in salt bush . . .

... while water can generate electricity

TWO systems are at present being considered.

A peak topping station, with a discharge of 27 cubic metres a second (m³/s) at 135 metres head would be capable of supplying 35 megawatts for a period of seven hours during Port Elizabeth's peak periods. In January 1982 the cost of this station was estimated at R17,07 million. This figure could now be R21 million.

It would mean a construction cost of R360 for each kilowatt, as against a current figure about five times this much for the normal Escom installation.

The alternative is a pump/storage installation which would generate electricity at peak periods and pump the water back to a high-level reservoir using cheap off-peak power.

The plant would have four generators, three of which would be capable of operating in reverse to pump the water back.

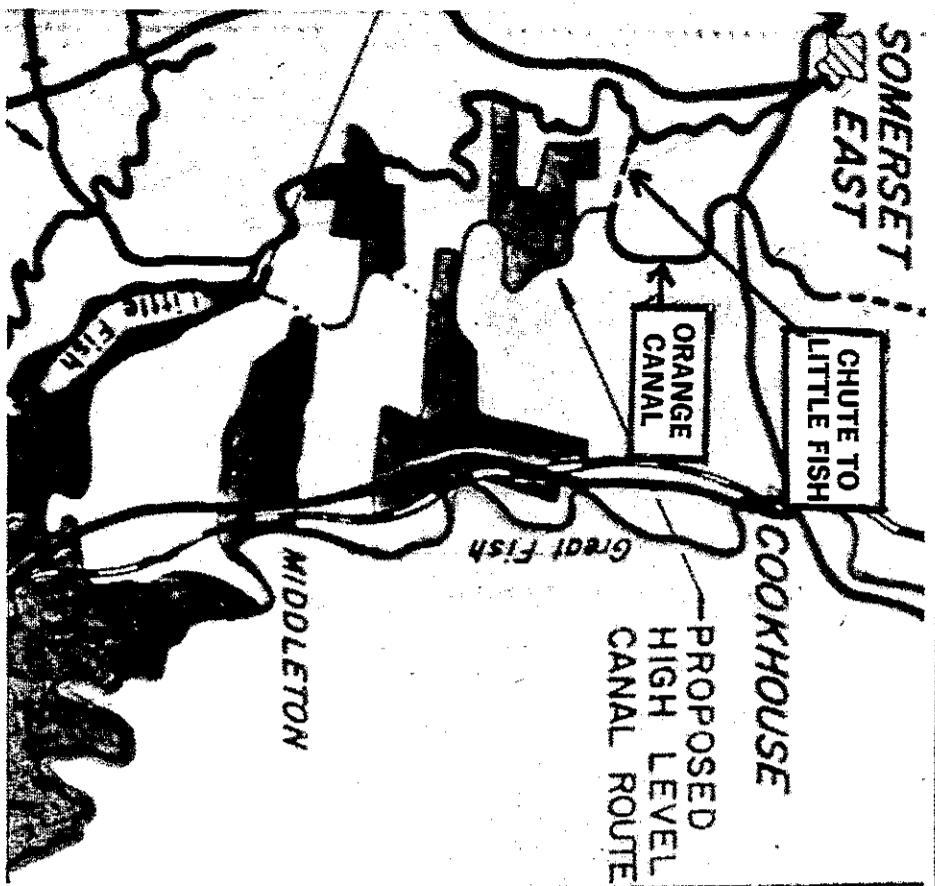
This installation would have a generating capacity of 170 megawatts and would cost R107 million.

The pump/storage systems would have the additional benefit of being a zero consumer of electricity because of the power generated around the clock by the normal irrigation flow into the Lake Mentz canal. Most other pump/storage systems consume about 25% more energy than that generated.

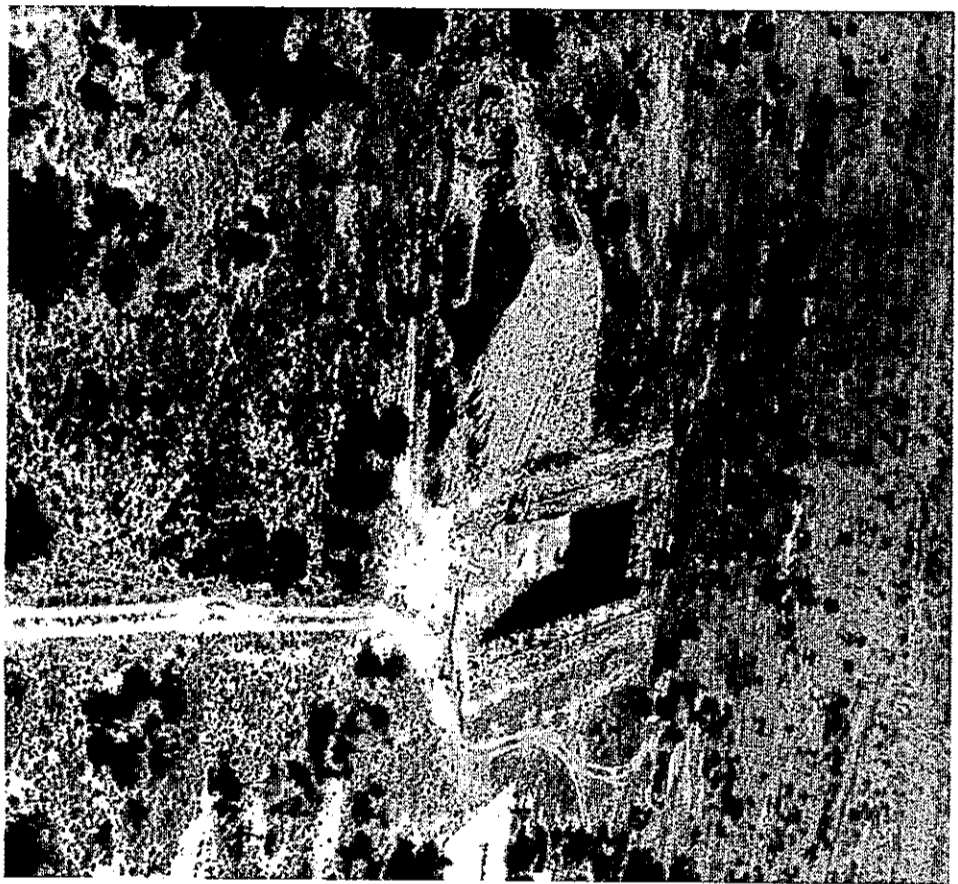
Electrical consultants to the Port Elizabeth Municipality have investigated the city's future power requirements and requested the association to ensure that the high-level option is not discarded.

A letter from the city's Town Clerk states: "The City Council is desirous of erecting a pumped storage project on the Little Fish River in approximately 15 years' time and that the association is requested to keep this option open."

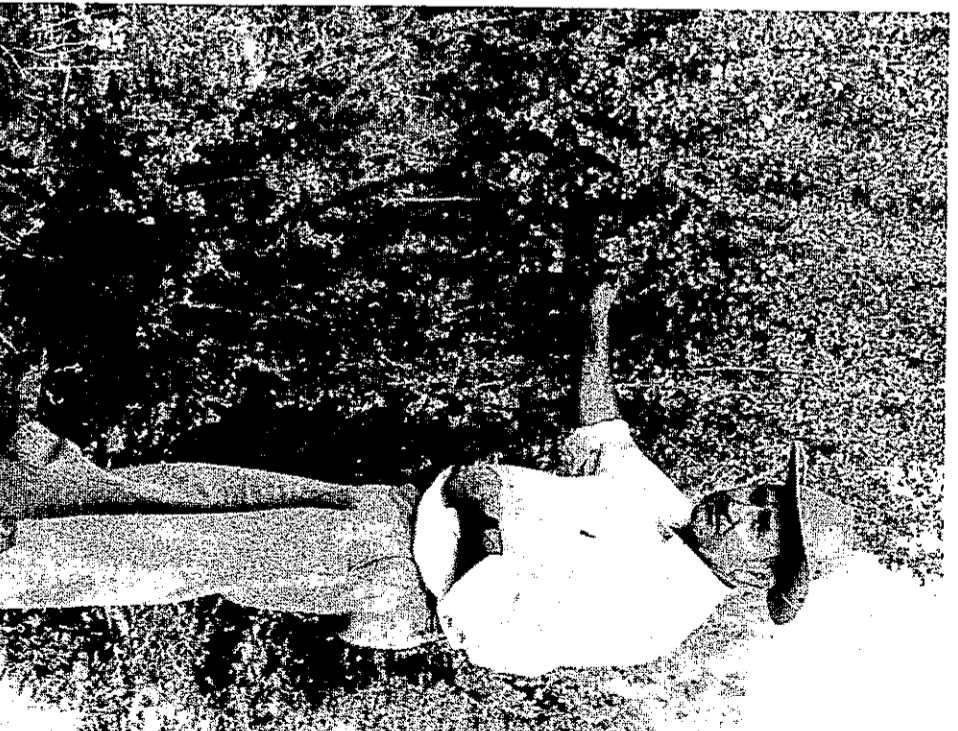
Somerset East Municipality, the largest municipal distributor of rural electricity in the country, would be ideally placed for running the installation.



This map shows the present chute to the Little Fish River and the route of the high-level canal, running south from the arrow to its junction with the Little Fish. The four shaded areas in the middle will be irrigable from the high-level canal, while the lower shaded area will be irrigable with either scheme.



The outlet of the Bloemhof tunnel, excavated from both ends for the high-level canal, but with fore and hind sections which don't join in the middle. Rainwater collecting in it is perhaps the most expensive drinking water in the world.



Farmer Mr LAWRENCE TURNER with salt bush, staple commodity for the biomass process, growing on his farm. Note how sheep have eaten away the lower foliage.



Union asks for more State aid for farmers

ARGUS 17/4/54 (3 6000)

Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — The South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) is to ask the Government for more aid for farmers.

The president of the SAAU, Mr Jaap Wilkens, said at Douglas that prevailing conditions had assumed the proportions of a disaster "which in extent is more serious than any one of us has ever experienced."

Speaking at the inauguration of a new grain silo, he said a stage had been reached where many farmers, and with them the co-operatives in the summer rainfall areas, "cannot hold their heads above water without substantial bridging aid by the State."

Mr Wilkens said the latest aid measures announced by the Government were as welcome as a good shower in the drought.

"The trouble is, the shower is simply not enough. What we as farmers need now is penetrating rain," he said.

"The SAAU is still working on further requests so that agriculture can be healed."

He added that his hope was set on the authorities doing the necessary to enable producers to look ahead with optimism.

"It is vital that the authorities should pay further attention to the aid measures on which the union has not yet reached finality," Mr Wilkens said.

"This includes the increasing risk, causing concern to our co-operatives, in granting additional credit to their members, and expensive credit at commercial banks on which a large percentage of our farmers are dependent."

Agriculture as 'employment creator'

CAIK Times 8/5/84

(3 General)

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. — A reduction in market interference by the agricultural control boards and a possible contribution by government to the social and welfare needs of farm labourers are issues raised in the White Paper on Agricultural Policy, which was tabled in Parliament yesterday.

The last White Paper on the government's goals in the agricultural sector was compiled in 1946.

According to the new White Paper, future agricultural development would have to depend largely on vertical expansion, "where fewer farmers

have to produce more on less land to feed more people".

During the past decade, it states, South Africa increased the gross value of its agricultural production, with exports of these products the largest foreign-exchange earner after gold.

However, the country's resources are "limited and vulnerable" and "necessitate the reformulation of South Africa's agricultural policy".

The report questions the wisdom of having "excessively large" and "non-viable small" farms unable to supply food efficiently to a growing popula-



The White Paper also emphasizes the importance of improving farm workers' skills and maintaining sound labour relations.

"Not only does agriculture play a vital role in providing employment, but it also offers 'lebensraum' such as housing and other facilities on a decentralized basis to a large portion of the population."

Because the government considers agriculture's role as employment creator so important, it is considering ways in which the whole sector can be used to promote decentralization and discourage urbanization.

The White Paper mentions the possibility of government provision for welfare needs of farm labourers.

It says that, on the marketing side, the government should ensure its involvement does not distort production, marketing and price structures in the agricultural sector. Also, since the government advocates free-market principles, "The control board system needs to be applied with great circumspection".

At present, the National Marketing Council is evaluating the control schemes and considering "the advantages of moving towards a freer market system". — Sapa

Fewer farmers must feed more

THE ASSEMBLY — Future agricultural development would have to depend largely on vertical expansion — in which fewer farmers produced more, on less land, to feed more people.

This recommendation was contained in the White Paper on Agricultural Policy which was tabled in Parliament yesterday.

A reduction in market interference by the agricultural control boards and a possible contribution by Government to the social and welfare needs of farm labourers were also raised.

Only 12 percent of the country's total area of 122 million ha was arable. Of this, only 4 million ha could be regarded as high-potential soil, which included the greater part of the million ha of irrigation land.

The disastrous effects of the drought and the vast financial assistance rendered by the State stressed the importance of a long-term strategy to support the rural areas, where 47 percent of the population lived.

Excessively large farming units on the one hand and non-viable small units on the other were not in the interests of the country.

At present about 70 000 farming units provided

virtually the total food requirements of the country.

The White Paper stated that during the past decade South Africa had increased the gross value of its agricultural production, with exports of these products the largest foreign exchange earner after gold.

But it stressed that the country's resources were "limited and vulnerable" and this necessitated "the reformulation of South Africa's agricultural policy to suit changing circumstances".

The report said the country had to strive towards an optimum use of natural agricultural resources and the "demands on agricultural land for purposes other than agriculture will have to be handled with circumspection and great responsibility".

Referring to labour matters, the White Paper said it was important to improve the level of skilled labour and maintain sound labour relations.

"Not only does agriculture play a vital role in providing employment, but it also offers 'lebensraum' such as housing and other facilities on a decentralised basis to a large portion of the population."

Because the Government considered agriculture's role as an employment creator to be so important, it was considering ways in which the whole sector could be used to promote decentralisation and discourage urbanisation.

The White Paper mentioned the possibility of Government support by means of providing for the social and welfare needs of farm labourers.

It said that, on the marketing side, the Government should ensure its involvement did not distort production, marketing and price structures in the agricultural sector. Also, since the Government advocated free-market principles, "the control board system needs to be applied with great circumspection".

At present, the National Marketing Council was evaluating the control schemes and considering "the advantages of moving towards a freer market system".

While it was important for South Africa to become self-sufficient in food, fibre and beverages and the supply of raw materials to local industries at reasonable prices, the country should also strive for optimum participation in international trade.

Furthermore, the country should use its exper-

tise "in Africa in general" and, through co-operation and assistance, to help promote peace and prosperity in the sub-continent.

The White Paper predicted that the trend towards replacing regular agricultural labour with machines had hardly begun.

The maintenance of a desired equilibrium between labour and mechanisation and steps, with Government assistance, to provide for the social and welfare needs of farm labourers, would have to be considered.

The promotion of agriculture was critical and indispensable for giving momentum to the development process in most African states.

South Africa, with its extensive agricultural expertise and technical skills, could contribute to a more rapid and stable increase in agricultural production.

The Land Bank's 1983 report, which has already been tabled in Parliament, showed a huge increase in the mortgage loans to farmers last year.

These amounted to R744 132 650. — Political Staff, Sapa.

AR2645 8/5/84 (36cent)

White Paper warns on control boards

By TOS WENTZEL
Political Correspondent

A Government White Paper on agricultural policy recommends that the control board system needs to be applied with great circumspection to ensure that State involvement does not distort production, marketing and price structures.

For this reason the National Marketing Council is evaluating the control schemes, taking into account the advantages of moving towards a freer market system.

The White Paper, tabled in Parliament, also states that a stage has been reached where fewer farmers have to produce more on less land to feed more people.

LIMITED RESOURCES

It points out that South Africa's natural resources are severely limited.

Only 12 percent of the country's total area of 122 million hectares is arable. Of this only four million hectares can be regarded as high-potential soil and this includes the greater part of the million hectares of irrigation land.

The disastrous effects of the drought and the vast financial assistance

rendered by the State emphasised the importance of a long-term strategy to support the rural areas, where 47 percent of the population lives.

Excessively large farming units on one hand and non-viable small units on the other are both not in the interests of the country.

About 70 000 farming units provide virtually the total food requirements of the country.

The White Paper predicts that the trend towards replacing regular agricultural labour with machines has hardly begun.

The maintenance of a desired equilibrium between labour and mechanisation and steps, with Government assistance, to provide for the social and welfare needs of the farm labourer will have to be considered.

The promotion of agriculture is critical and indispensable for giving momentum to the development process in most African states.

South Africa, with its extensive agricultural expertise and technical skills can contribute to a more rapid and stable increase in agricultural production.

CAPL Times 9/5/64 (36 and)
Govt attacked on White Paper

Political Staff

THE PFP spokesman on agriculture and MP for Albany, Mr Errol Moorcroft, has criticized the Agricultural White Paper tabled in Parliament on Monday for failing to address any of the major problems facing producers or consumers.

Mr Moorcroft said the White Paper clearly demonstrated the need for a commission of inquiry "to address itself to the problems of agriculture in general and marketing and distribution in particular".

This was vital when one considered the consequences of poverty and high-priced food.

"One had hoped that after a year of

intensive research there would have been more evidence of innovative thought. The minister should have focused attention on weaknesses in marketing and paid special attention to those products in particular which were staple foodstuffs."

Mr Moorcroft said the White Paper clearly demonstrated the need for a commission of inquiry on which all available talent could serve "to address itself to the problems of agriculture in general and marketing and distribution in particular".

This was vital when one considered the consequences of poverty on one hand and high-priced food on the other.

THURSDAY, 10 MAY 1984

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

Meat Board
Q.G. 1199 10/5/84
 884. Mr M A TARR asked the Minister of Agriculture:

What (a) quantities and (b) grades of carcasses of (i) beef and (ii) sheep were held by the Meat Board as at 9 April 1984 or the latest specified date for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

25 April 1984:

(i)	(a)	(b)
	16 775	Super A and A1
	14 658	Grade A2
	9 746	Prime B1 and B2
	18 959	Top C, C1 and C2
		Grade 3 and 4
	<u>60 138</u>	

(ii)	(a)	(b)
	422	Super Lamb
	1 096	Lamb 1
	325	Lamb 2
	421	Lamb 3
	2 776	Mutton Prime B
	6 699	Mutton B1
	439	Mutton B2
	9 787	Mutton Top C
	5 848	Mutton C1
	6 309	Mutton C2
	336	Mutton Grade 3
	<u>34 458</u>	

Boned beef: ton
 Blue cartons 8 832,3 (B2 up to Super)

Red cartons 2 791,2 (Grade C)
 Black cartons 1 130,8 (Grades 3 and 4)

Total: 12 754,3 (equal to 86 764 beast carcasses)

Canned stock:
 765,32 ton (equal to 5 206 beast carcasses)

Rosettenville: voters

886. Mr S P BARNARD asked the Minister of Internal Affairs:†

(1) (a) How many voters were registered at the latest specified date for which figures are available in the constituency of Rosettenville with a view to the coming Provincial Council elections and (b) how many of these voters were registered by each specified political party;

(2) whether (a) the local city council and (b) other local bodies register voters for this purpose; if so, how many voters were registered as at that date by (i) the city council and (ii) each specified other body?

The MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS:

(1) (a) 19 827 as at 31 March 1984.

(b) Record of the number of applications for registration as voters received in respect of each political party are not kept by the Department.

(2) (a) and (b) No.

FRIDAY, 11 MAY 1984

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

Prime Minister:

Q.G. 1200 11/5/84
 Security operations: former member of House of Assembly

*1. Mr H E J VAN RENSBURG asked the Prime Minister:

(1) Whether a former member of the House of Assembly, whose name has been furnished to the Office of the Prime Minister for the purpose of his reply, was involved in any security operations connected with the (a) Schlebusch Commission and (b) President's Council; if so, what was the (i) cost and (ii) purpose of these security operations:

(2) whether any State moneys were paid to any persons in this regard; if so, (a) to which persons, (b) what total amount and (c) for what purpose in each case?

†The PRIME MINISTER:

(1) (a) and (b)—I am not aware of any security operations with regard to the Schlebusch Commission and the President's Council.

(i) and (ii)—Fall away.

(2) (a), (b) and (c)—Fall away.

†Mr H E J VAN RENSBURG: Mr Speaker, arising out of the reply given by the hon the Prime Minister, in view of the evidence submitted by Mr Van der Walt, a former Deputy Minister, before the Law Society and in court, this would mean that the hon the Prime Minister's reply to my question indicates that the former Deputy Minister committed perjury in court. Is that in fact true?

†The PRIME MINISTER: Mr Speaker, the hon member wanted to know from me whether there are certain facts in this regard. I replied to him that I have no knowledge thereof; if he derives pleasure from trampling upon people who are down, it is his business

†Mr H E J VAN RENSBURG: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the reply given by the hon the Prime Minister, is he prepared to have investigations made—he says he is not aware of any operations of this nature—to establish whether secret operations of this nature did take place?

†The PRIME MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I have been in touch with the heads of all the security services in the country. They have given me the assurance that there is nothing of this kind. The hon member must therefore accept my word. I am not prepared to have his gossip further investigated.

†Mr H E J VAN RENSBURG: The hon the Prime Minister is therefore not prepared to reply to this in the negative or in the affirmative? [Interjections.]

†Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Security agent: former member of House of Assembly

*2. Mr H E J VAN RENSBURG asked the Prime Minister:

(1) Whether a former member of the House of Assembly, whose name has been furnished to the Office of the Prime Minister for the purpose of his reply, was a security agent for any State department; if so, (a) for which Department and (b) (i) for what purpose and (ii) for what period was he so employed;

(2) whether he received any remuneration for these services; if so, what total amount?

The PRIME MINISTER:

(1) No. (a) and (b) (i) and (ii)—Fall away.

(2) Falls away.

X Ministers:
3 General Boland Farms: allocation to Coloured farmers
Q.G. 1202 11/5/84

*1. Mr J H HOON asked the Minister of Community Development:†

(1) Whether his Department has received any representations on the allocation to Coloured farmers of the area in the District of Kuruman known as Boland Farms; if so, (a)

from whom and (b) what was the nature of the representations;

- (2) whether the representations are being considered; if so,
- (3) whether a decision has been taken on this matter; if so, what decision;
- (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

†The MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS (for the Minister of Community development):

- (1) No.
- (2), (3) and (4) Fall away.

Porter Reformatory: escapes

*2. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Internal Affairs:

- (1) Whether there were any escapes from the Porter Reformatory in Tokai recently; if so, (a) how many during the latest specified period for which figures are available and (b) what steps have been taken by the relevant authorities to deal with the matter;
- (2) whether any complaints in this regard have been received from residents living in the immediate vicinity of this reformatory; if so, (a) how many and (b) what was (i) the nature of the complaints and (ii) the response thereto?

†The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING (for the Minister of Internal Affairs):

- (1) Yes, there were abscondings.
 - (a) 124 absconded during the period 1st January to 30 April 1984.
 - (b) The management of the school recently conducted an intensive investigation into the problem of absconding. As a result thereof a new system was introduced

whereby children indentified as chronic absconders are now being accommodated separately from the other children under stricter supervision. The South African Police are also informed of all cases of absconding.

- (2) The records of the Department were perused and no complaints could be traced for the period January to April 1984.

Oshoek border post

*3. Mr W V RAW asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) Whether members of the South African Police are required to perform certain duties at the Oshoek border post between the Republic and Swaziland; if so,
- (2) whether these duties relate to the introduction of firearms into Swaziland through this border post by persons travelling there from the Republic; if so, what (a) steps are taken and (b) procedure is followed by the South African Police in this regard;
- (3) whether the South African Police have facilities for the safekeeping of travellers' firearms at this border post; if so, what facilities; if not, (a) why not and (b) what steps are the travellers concerned required to take in this regard?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) Yes
- (2) Yes, *inter alia*.
 - (a) and (b) Since an export permit, issued in terms of the Arms and Ammunition Act, 1969, is required to take any arm or ammunition out of the Republic, persons proceeding through South African border posts are requested to declare any arm or

ammunition they may have in their possession. At the request of the Swaziland authorities to assist in curtailing the introduction of arms into that country export permits are not issued unless the applicant is in possession of an import permit issued by the Swazi authorities.

- (3) No.
 - (a) Because this border post is not a police station.
 - (b) Where they are not in possession of import permits, they are advised to hand in their arms for safekeeping at Badplaas, which is the nearest police station.

*4. Mr W V RAW—Internal Affairs—[Withdrawn.]

Braamfontein: railway coaches damaged

*5. Mr G B D McINTOSH asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

- (1) Whether any railway coaches belonging to the South African Transport Services and parked at Braamfontein were damaged by fire in 1983; if so, (a) how many coaches were damaged and (b) what was the (i) cause of the fire, (ii) extent of the damage and (iii) total cost involved;
- (2) whether any precautions have been taken to prevent a recurrence of incidents of this nature; if not, why not; if so, what precautions?

†The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes.
 - (a) Thirteen of the old type coaches.
 - (b) (i) Arson.
 - (ii) They were totally destroyed.
 - (iii) Approximately R150 000.

- (2) Yes. The yard is being patrolled around the clock by the SA Railways Police.

Mr G B D McINTOSH: Mr Speaker, arising out of the reply given by the hon the Minister, is he aware of the fact that it is apparently a practice among vandals and vagrants to sleep in those coaches, and that those were probably the same people who earlier damaged coaches belonging to the White Train? Would he kindly tell the House whether the patrols undertaken at Braamfontein are indeed effective? [Interjections.]

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, that whole area is patrolled by the police around the clock. I do wonder, however, whether the hon member could perhaps give me the names of the people who slept in those coaches belonging to the White Train. I do not know who they were. If he could give me the names of those people I will certainly have the matter investigated further. [Interjections.]

Mariannhill: derailment

*6. Mr G B D McINTOSH asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

- (1) Whether (a) a dining saloon and (b) any other coaches were derailed at Mariannhill in 1984; if so, (i) when, (ii) how many items of rolling stock were involved and (iii) what was the (aa) cost and (bb) cause of the derailment;
- (2) whether any persons have been (a) arrested and (b) convicted in connection with this derailment?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

- (1) (a) and (b) Yes.
 - (i) 26 March 1984.
 - (ii) Three.
 - (iii) (aa) An assessment of the dam-

3 General

Summer grain farmers: 25% 'financial risks'

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. — More than a quarter of the country's summer grain farmers are now classified as uncreditworthy and financial risks, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, said yesterday.

It was because of this "shocking" situation that the government had agreed to extend drought aid in the form of financial credit to these 7 000 farmers at a subsidized rate of 35 percent, he announced during debate on his portfolio.

The minister said that although previous drought aid had been announced by the government over the past few years, a number of co-operatives had recently approached the State with allegations that up to 60 percent of their farmers were not creditworthy.

The Co-operative Council of the SA Agricultural Union had studied 25 co-operatives and its conclusion, conveyed to Mr Wentzel last week, was that 25 percent (7 000) of the summer grain farmers were financial risks.

Mr Wentzel said it would be a shock to the whole of South Africa if this situation were allowed to worsen.

"These aren't bad farmers. Their problem is that the (drought) condition has put them in this position."

The temporary credit which the government would now guarantee the Land Bank would be made available to the various co-operatives and then monitored on a regular basis.

The co-operatives had agreed to this procedure, largely because their se-

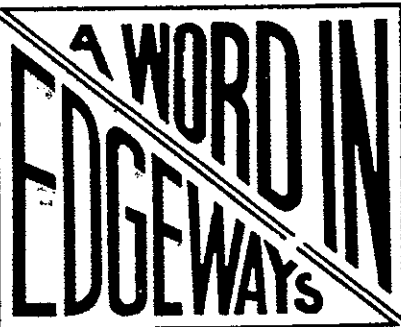
curity position was being prejudiced by the debts of their members.

Mr Wentzel said the latest aid action by the government would bring to an estimated R800 million the amount guaranteed by the government to farmers through aid schemes. However, he added, this money was mostly being used on non-drought consolidation purposes, covering farmers' "loose debts", such as hire-purchase contracts, bank accounts and other smaller debts. — Sapa

CAL TINS 18/5/84 36ans

Africa's hopeless drought

WHILE everyone hopes that the skies will clear and the rains will go away in this lush southern tip of Africa, the rest of the continent from Zimbabwe to Zaire and from Mauritania across the southern Sahara to Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia is being devastated by the worst drought of the century.



Brian Barrow

Reports from 24 different countries tell a fearful story of vast orange dust-clouds, desolation and death by starvation.

The enormous stretch of country known as the Sahel where the nomads of the sub-Sahara once grazed their herds has disintegrated beneath the stinging African sun and is strewn with the carcasses of hundreds of thousands of cattle.

There is not a blade of grass or scrub to be seen in the entire region. Crops have failed everywhere. Goats have eaten the bark round the base of the thorn trees which are also dying and no longer provide shade. All nomadic life has come to an end.

Entire herds of cattle have died almost simultaneously. Tribes stare hopelessly out of their huts and tents at the burning, all-consuming desert. Men and women seem stunned by it all. Children with swollen bellies and red streaming eyes have become pathetically weak and confused.

It is as if the world has come to an

end. The only realities are hunger, thirst and the futile search for water.

Scattered about the grey, bone-dry earth, as hard as concrete beneath the dust clouds, are the mummified remains of livestock. The moth-eaten camels, starkly ribbed, seem ready to die and even the vultures have fled. Over a land surface of millions of hectares there is nothing except alternating night and day and endless silence.

What makes it all so hopeless is that to the starving tribes the rest of the world doesn't seem to notice or care. When there is a catastrophe in the West the newspapermen and television teams are there right away to record it. But in this god-forsaken region no one hears, and people have given up crying for

help.

And help is, in fact, on the way, the Rome-based Food and Agricultural Organization reports that donors from the West have supplied two-thirds of the 3.5 million tons of grain needed to avert one of the greatest disasters in history.

The problem is to distribute the food in these empty, land-locked countries. Only half of what has been pledged has arrived. Food aid is still 40 percent of what is desperately needed.

The plight of the Sahel is only part of the story. In Mozambique and Zimbabwe the situation is critical and estimates put deaths by starvation in Matabeleland alone at 170 000.

At the end of World War I when most of Africa was under the colonial rule of Britain, France, Belgium, Portugal and Spain, the continent was feeding itself, but today Africa has supplanted Asia as the world's hungriest continent.

United Nations statistics show that seven out of 10 Africans are destitute or on the verge of poverty. Only one out of four has access to clean water and the population is increasing at a rate of 2.8 percent a year while food output grows by only 1.3 percent.

In Mozambique some 2 000 peasants are estimated to have died of starvation in one small district in

the south in less than four months and about 100 000 Mozambicans have fled their country in search of food.

It's a pitiful story and like most huge disasters most people don't seem able to comprehend it.

School effort

OF COURSE, South Africa has its problems too, with thousands of poverty stricken families in the homelands and rural areas. What shines out is the incredible spirit of the Africans and their courageous efforts at self-improvement and education.

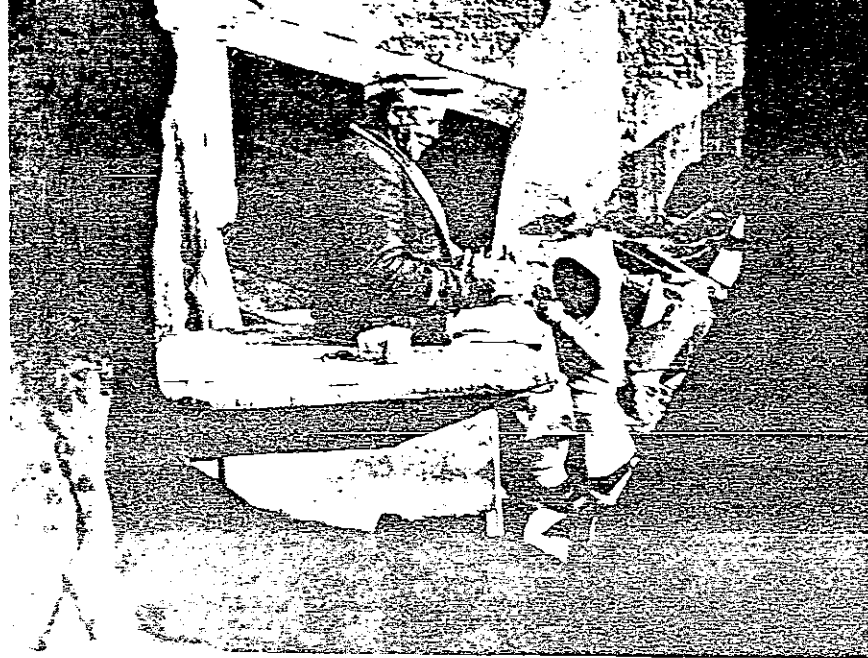
Typical is the moving story of the Mbonmgweni Junior High School in Bizana in the Transkei which was built in 1955 by the efforts of the people themselves.

Children and parents built it cement-block after cement-block as they raised the money, starting with two classrooms. It is an ongoing labour of love and quiet determination.

Today the school has seven classrooms, 12 teachers and 655 children and they are determined to expand this accommodation even if they have to build it brick by brick.

Their enemies are poverty and starvation, but they are determined to win through for the sake of their children.





Mr Jacobus Philander, 72, and his niece, Sarah, 5, inside the remains of her parents' demolished home in the historic village of Suurbraak, near Swellendam.



An uprooted tree in Newlands gave Mrs Ge Renée Street, who will be seven today, studi

Cape Times 18/5/84

Boland towns assess damage after the storm

General

Staff Reporters

WHILE workers in the Peninsula cut up and disposed of trees devastated by Tuesday night's storm, Boland towns yesterday were trying to establish the full extent of the damage in country areas.

In Citrusdal, council workers attempted to reconnect water supplies to the town. Access to the town from the south was cut off when the national road was washed away.

For a brief period, the Cape Times was able to establish telephone contact with the town and was told: "There is no disaster here."

Only access

Later attempts to confirm reports of washaways in nearby farmlands were unsuccessful.

A Boland police spokesman said that as far as he was aware, the only access to Citrusdal was through Ceres and the Kouebokkeveld.

The Clanwilliam Dam, meanwhile, has been reopened to boating after good rains in the catchment area.

The dam is now 75 percent full, according to a statement issued by

the Cape Department of Nature and Environmental Conservation.

In Paarl, the municipality was still trying to find out how many trees had been uprooted in the storm.

A spokesman for the municipality said: "We lost quite a few trees. In a small street in a residential area alone, we lost four or five old oak trees."

In Strand, a municipal spokesman said the worst-hit areas had been near the beach. The sea wall had been breached in four places.

A beach rest house had been toppled by high seas and a wooden jetty had "taken a bad knock".

"The sea is rough and we have not been able to assess the full extent of the damage to the jetty."

● An Escom spokesman said yesterday that four massive power lines had been broken by fallen trees and six others blown over by the wind in the mountains south of Worcester. This kind of damage had been unheard-of before, he said.

Additional men had been brought in to relieve them but some

technicians had carried on, despite being soaking wet, for more than three days.

Power had been re-established in virtually all the main towns in the Western Cape, the spokesman said.

However, Swellendam and Ladismith were still having distribution problems even though power had been reconnected.

More isolated towns and farms were still without power and reconnections could only be expected within the next two days and in some cases next week.

Having problems

The areas particularly badly hit were Grabouw, Vyeboom, Botrivier, Gansbaai, Bredasdorp, Stanford, Riviersonderend, the Buffelsjag area of Swellendam, Ceres, Kouebokkeveld and Gyboom.

Napier and Vyeboom were still without power and Riviersonderend was still having problems, he said.

There were also farmers in the Malmesbury area, including Philadelphia, Klipheuveld and Fisantekraal, still without power late yesterday.

PFP: Farmers don't need 'nose-wiping'

CAC Time 16/5/84
Political Staff



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.
— The farming community of South Africa is ready to be weaned away from the grosser forms of protectionism, subsidization and "general nose-wiping" by the government, the Official Opposition's spokesman on agriculture, Mr Errol Moorcroft, said yesterday.

Speaking in debate on the Agriculture budget vote, the Albany MP said the farming community was able "to stand on its own two feet" in a more flexible marketing system.

"The minister seems to be wanting to move in that direction himself, but I think he should do so more firmly."

Although there was little in the recently-tabled government White Paper on agriculture that the PFP could be enthusiastic about, there were nevertheless some aspects the Opposition felt it could support. These included:

- A commitment to a free-market system.

- Hints that import-control measures could

be modified if not abolished.

- An acceptance that the loss of a certain number of unviable farming units was inevitable.

- Concern over the loss of land for purposes other than farming.

"We knew before the paper was tabled that the government had committed itself to private enterprise and a free market, to a viable agricultural industry and to the welfare of all connected with agriculture."

The PFP supported these ideals "but this gets us no closer to solving those contradictions in agricultural policy which work against these admirable ideals".

Some of the worst contradictions were contained in the White Paper itself, he said.

The government advocated the principles of the free-market system on the one hand but on the other called for State involvement — "which will mean inevitably, distortion of marketing and price structures".

"We in these benches would have preferred a far more definite commitment to moving away from controls, particularly those controls embodied in single-channel fixed-price systems," he said.

A second contradiction in the paper involved the commitment to self-sufficiency.

"It just does not make sense to say on the one hand that you don't want to interfere with the free-market mechanisms in order to achieve an economic goal, while on the other hand you prohibit or preclude free trading on that market in order to pursue non-economic goals."

Farmers face huge debts and rising input costs

CPK Times 2/15/84
36

JOHANNESBURG. — The agricultural sector has to an increasing extent been subject to a price-cost squeeze, with the result that the farmer's net income in real terms has not kept pace with the turnover of his farming operations.

This is stated by Volkskas in its Economic Spotlight for May.

"Net farming income declined from 43,6 percent of gross income in 1975 to 16,6 percent in 1983. During the same period, input costs rose from 32,3 percent to 50,5 percent of gross income, while interest costs increased from R134-million in 1975 to R865,4-million in 1983. Thus, farmers have found it increasingly more difficult to finance inputs from their own resources and have become more dependent on external sources of finance.

Short-term debt

"These trends are expected to continue in 1984."

At present, farmers' debts amount to about R6400-million. On the face of it, this seems a healthy situation, given the total investment of R36 800-million.

"The composition of

the debts has changed, however — from largely long-term debts in 1972 to mainly short-term debts in 1983. At present with more short-term loans are granted, which is symptomatic of the cash flow problems experienced by farmers. The ratio of short-term credit to net farming income deteriorated from 0,39 in 1974 to 0,82 in 1981 and 2,90 in 1983.

"The worsening terms of trade position and the poor yields owing to drought during the past few years have caused carry-over debts with co-operatives to rise sharply to more than R7000-million."

The Land Bank had been financing farmers to an ever increasing extent by way of cash credit loans through co-operatives. Thus the co-operatives were becoming more and more involved in the credit supply function, therefore becoming exposed to the risks associated with that role.

Financing costs

"Since the agricultural sector has been financed by the Land Bank at market-related interest rates and the rates of other financial institutions have been

rising sharply, farmers' financing costs have increased substantially. These rises in financing costs have coincided with a marked decline in the agricultural cycle," says Volkskas.

Among lessons to be learned from the drought were:

- The current concession to farmers of a rebate of 100 percent in respect of the purchase of capital equipment should be reconsidered. This concession has adversely affected many farmers.

- Co-operatives will have to diversify strategically to include more agriculture-related and other processing industries in order to reinforce their own resources and reduce their direct exposure to the vicissitudes of the agricultural industry. In this way, they can ensure greater stability.

- Owing to the financial pressures brought to bear on them by the drought, co-operatives will have to revise regularly their policies on the provision of forward production credit to farmers.

- The vulnerability of the economic viability

of meat-related businesses in rural areas and their dependence on the prosperity of agriculture in the region concerned, has been emphasised anew. This important sector received no government assistance of any kind.

"A poor agricultural year is anticipated in the summer rainfall region in 1984," says Volkskas.

Five years

"Carry-over production credit and other debts will still have to be financed at high interest rates. In addition, calculations made before the current drought by the South African Agricultural Union indicate that farmers in the summer grain areas will need at least five normal years to repay the accumulated debts of the recent years of drought.

"In view of the balance of payments situation, the authorities are in no position to stimulate the economy deliberately, and we will have to rely on an export-led upswing in the economy. The main thrust will have to be provided by mineral and metal exports and in this regard there are some encouraging signs of a revival.

"We can expect no more than a negative contribution from the agricultural sector. It has been estimated that South Africa will have to import more than four million tons of grain this year at a total cost of about R1000-million." — Sapa

Chicago denial

CHICAGO. — First National Bank of Chicago yesterday denied a report that it planned to acquire all or part of Continental Illinois, which has received credit of \$7,5 billion in the largest rescue operation in US banking history.

But First Chicago, the 11th largest US bank and the second-largest in Chicago after Illinois Continental, did not rule out an eventual bid.

"We are not presently preparing a bid," said First Chicago chairman, Mr Barry Sullivan.

Continental chairman, Mr David Taylor, said on Thursday a merger was one possible course of action which his bank, the eighth largest in the United States, might take to bail it permanently out of financial difficulties.

The immediate crisis for Continental Illinois began after market rumours that it was in trouble led to substantial withdrawals of deposits.

First Chicago, whose holding company, First Chicago Corporation is worth \$36,3 billion, has been among several major US, European and Japanese banks whose names surfaced in the past week as possible buyers of Illinois Continental. — Sapa-Reuter

Farmers' incomes plunge

ARGUS 21/5/84
3 General

Volkscas

JOHANNESBURG. —

The agricultural sector has increasingly been subject to a price-cost squeeze, with the result that the farmer's net income in real terms has not kept pace with the turnover of his farming operations, Volkscas says in its latest Economic Spotlight.

It says: "Net farming income declined from 48,6 percent of gross income in 1975 to 16,6 percent in 1983.

"In the same period, input costs rose from 32,8 to 50,5 percent of gross income, while interest costs increased from R134-million in 1975 to R865,4-million in 1983."

FIVE YEARS

Calculations made by the South African Agricultural Union before the current drought indicated that farmers in the summer grain areas would need at least five normal years to repay the accumulated debts of the previous years of drought.

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SHARE prices will appear on this page in later editions today.

cost of about R1 000-million."

Farmers have found it increasingly more difficult to finance inputs from their own resources and have become more dependent on external sources of finance.

At present, farmers' debts amount to about R6 400-million. On the face of it this seems a healthy situation, given the total investment of R36 800-million.

"The composition of the debts has changed, however — from largely long-term debts in 1972 to mainly short-term debts in 1983. At present more short-term loans are granted, which is symptomatic of the cash flow problems experienced by farmers.

"The ratio of short-term credit to net farming income deteriorated from 0,39 in 1974 to 0,82 in 1981 and 2,90 in 1983.

"The worsening terms of trade position and the poor yields owing to drought in the past few years have caused carry-over debts with co-operatives to rise sharply to more than R7000-million."

CASH CREDIT

The Land Bank has been financing farmers to an ever increasing extent by way of cash credit loans through co-operatives. Thus the co-operatives are becoming more and more involved in the credit supply function, therefore becoming exposed to the

risks associated with that role.

"Since the agricultural sector has been financed by the Land Bank at market-related interest rates and the rates of other financial institutions have been rising sharply, farmers' financing costs have increased substantially.

"These rises in financing costs have coincided with a marked decline in the agricultural cycle."

A poor agricultural year is expected in the summer rainfall region in 1984.

"Carry-over production credit and other debts will still have to be financed at high interest rates." — Sapa.

Despite the gloom and pessimism expressed in so many quarters during the past three years over the state of agriculture in South Africa, the long-term future of the industry appears to be sound.

There is no doubt that the drought has had serious financial implications for the country and that in the short term these difficulties will continue to plague the profitability of the industry.

The crisis brought on by the drought has highlighted the degree of influence that the Government exerts on the profitability of agriculture.

The viability of farming is largely controlled by the marketing policies of the various control boards in South Africa and in this field the Government plays a major role.

This marketing system needs to be closely examined and the sensitive subject of protection needs to be broached if the Government is to overcome certain weaknesses in its strategic planning for agriculture.

At the moment, this planning seems to be on an ad hoc basis that, during times of crisis, gives rise to panic measures such as those we have seen implemented to overcome the effects of the drought.

POPULATION GROWTH

The Government needs to adopt long-term strategies which will lead to the financial independence of the agricultural industry.

As a basis for planning the industry's financial recovery there is the inevitable increase in the demand for food due to population growth.

Govt needs new strategy to ensure future of farming

This demand should give the Government the opportunity to restore profitability to the industry through well-planned price administration.

In any policy designed to restore profitability to the farmer the Government must be prepared to face the consumer's wrath by structuring prices in such a way that the farmer receives a fair return on investment.

Protection in the agricultural industry is totally justified by the Government because of strategic and security considerations.

There is no doubt that protection has a great influence on the profitability of agriculture in general.

This influence is usually understated because the profit add-on cost of protection is normally ignored.

If agricultural products such as fertilisers, machinery and certain products in the agrochemical industry are regarded as strategic, then surely the users of these products should be regarded in the same light.

To the cost of protectionism for strategic reasons must be added the high cost of capital in South Africa (higher than in any other Western country) and the high risk of climatic disaster.

These factors present a strong case for SA food prices to be higher

than in any other country in the free world.

On this basis, the Government should be prepared to risk consumer criticism and create a pricing policy to guarantee the long-term profitability of agriculture.

One major drawback to a policy of protection is that South African industries and producers will have to sacrifice the export market.

ONLY OPTION OPEN

The only means by which the export losses can be absorbed would be through the unpopular and unfair method of passing these costs on to the consumer.

Unfortunately it is the only option open to the Government outside a direct strategy.

In defence of my own industry's role in contributing to any increases in the price of food in South Africa, it must be established that during the past 10 years the agrochemical price increases have in only one year (1982) exceeded the rate of inflation.

This hiccup was caused by the weakening of the rand by 30 percent against the dollar.

A measure of the benefits to agriculture of the agrochemical industry is that in the 1963/64 season a record

This week's VIEW-POINT focuses on the agricultural industry and the contributor is Mr Fred Lloyd, managing director of the agricultural chemical company, FBC Holdings (Pty), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Berlin-based Shering AG group.



maize yield of 1,1 tons a hectare was recorded.

The record harvest of the 1980/81 season produced 3,1 tons a hectare. Even during the first year of the current drought, in the 1981/82 season, the yield was 1,9 tons a hectare.

Despite the significant role the agrochemical industry plays in increasing food production, the market is relatively small.

The agricultural chemical market in crop and animal health controls represents about five percent of total farm production costs.

The total market is worth about R260 million. The cost of agricultural chemicals to the farmer is his fifth largest item after labour, ma-

chinery (including fuel), feeds and fertiliser.

One of the most significant statistics of the market is the phenomenal growth in the use of agricultural chemicals during the past decade.

In the five years before 1977 use increased 200 percent by value. In the five years up to 1982 the rise was 110 percent. The total increase over the 10 years was 500 percent.

There is no doubt that the agricultural industry in South Africa is firmly based. The growth in demand for food is a fact of life.

What is needed now is a long-term strategic plan from the Government that will guarantee a sound future of the industry.

Suurbraak: lone man on hunger strike

Staff Reporter

IN a lone crusade to have the flattened hamlet of Suurbraak declared a disaster area, a Grabouw man has embarked on a hunger strike.

Mr Percy Carolus, former chairman of the Grabouw management committee, today marked his fifth day in St George's Cathedral without eating — and he plans to carry on indefinitely.

He was motivated by an apparent lack of concern about the situation at Suurbraak, where almost 500 people have been left homeless by the recent storms. They have been living in army tents and have had no word about Government aid.

Describing his condition as "physically weak but spiritually strong", Mr Carolus appealed to the Department of Community Development to start a housing scheme similar to that built in Laingsburg after floods devastated the Karoo town in 1981.

"The residents there were provided with temporary mobile homes which, to us, are a luxury," he said.

"The Government provided millions of rands for new homes to be built. The Suurbraak people were given tents which blew away."

Mr Carolus said he had no family in Suurbraak, but had visited the community on purely humanitarian grounds last week. What he saw there prompted him to start his hunger strike.

"People were walking round aimlessly, not certain of what would happen to them. For them there is no tomorrow," he said.

He said the Government should respond to the appeals for help.



Mr Percy Carolus, former chairman of the Grabouw Management Committee, who is on a hunger strike in St George's Cathedral.

Minister, party chief to hold talks on Suurbraak

ARGUS 1/6/84

36

Political Correspondent

STATE aid for the storm-stricken Suurbraak coloured next week at a meeting between the Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr F W de Klerk, and the leader of the People's Congress Party, Mr Peter Marais.

Mr Marais said today that the Minister had agreed to see him on Monday or Tuesday.

He would press for the area to be declared a disaster area — which will allow a relief fund to be started along with other relief measures.

Reluctance

Mr Marais criticised what he said appeared to be official reluctance to declare Suurbraak a disaster area.

"Money is available for big sports promotions but not for badly-needed relief work. Suurbraak should be on the conscience of the whole of South Africa. We should get our priorities right."

Hunger-striker Mr Percy Carolus, who is also trying to have Suurbraak declared a disaster area, is a supporter of Mr Marais's party.

Mr Marais and a number of members of the PCP executive went to Suurbraak today.

Blown down

Before the group left he said he understood that hundreds of people were affected. The army had provided tents — but most of these had been blown down.

Mrs Di Bishop, MPC for Gardens, is also due to visit the area.

The matter had been raised in the Provincial Council and the MEC for local government, Mr Hernus Kriel, has indicated that the administration will be sympathetic to appeals for help raised by local authorities.

The matter will also be discussed in Parliament on Wednesday when Mr de Klerk will answer questions put by Mr Tian van der Merwe, MP, the Progressive Federal Party's chief spokesman on internal affairs.

Was willing

He wants to know whether the settlement will be declared a disaster area, whether officials have visited Suurbraak and what aid is being proposed.

The Minister of Health, Dr C V van der Merwe, said the department was willing to become involved in Suurbraak if it was approached.

The department could decide on whether a disaster fund should be started while it in any case had a health function to perform.

According to another Health Department source one of the problems is that a number of disaster relief funds have been set up recently — including one for the flood damage in Natal — and the response has shown that public interest was waning.

Fast ends
in hospital

Staff Reporters

HUNGER-STRIKER Mr Percy Carolus yesterday called off his 14-day fast to have Suurbraak declared a disaster area, after being taken to Woodstock Hospital, where he was fed intravenously.

He was taken to hospital from the Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church in District Six after complaining of severe stomach pains, Father Basil van Rensburg said.

The fast by Mr Carolus was part of an attempt to draw government attention to the plight of Suurbraak, a village near Swellendam which was virtually destroyed by the recent storm.

He demanded that the hamlet be declared a disaster area, which would entitle it to government aid for reconstruction.

At the hospital last night, Mr Carolus said he had broken his fast because he did not want to "jeopardize the priesthood of Father Van Rensburg".

"The doctor told me that because of the shortage of sugar in the brain, I would go into a coma, and if I ever came out of it, I definitely would have brain damage.

"If I had destroyed myself, Father Van Rensburg would have my life on his conscience. He is there to preserve life," Mr Carolus said.

"I had no other motive than to help the people of Suurbraak."

He would remain in hospital for at least a week to regain his strength.

Classification of Suurbraak as a disaster area now rests with the Department of Health and Welfare which, a spokesman said, would make its findings known this week.

Hunger striker urged to reconsider his stand

W/C ARGUS 2/6/84 36ced

By LINDA VERGNANI
Weekend Argus Reporter

MR Percy Carolus, the Gra-bouw taxi-driver who collapsed at St George's Cathedral at midday after fasting for 12 days in an attempt to get Suurbraak declared a disaster area, has been urged to "reconsider his stand".

The plea was made by the Rev Noel Kow, an Anglican priest who works in Suurbraak, on behalf of the people of the gale-devastated hamlet.

Mr Carolus was taken to Woodstock Hospital by ambulance after collapsing in the cathedral parking lot. However, he discharged himself from the hospital at about 3pm after refusing treatment.

According to the Rev Basil van Rensburg, parish priest of the Holy Cross Church in District Six, doctors wanted to give Mr Carolus glucose but he would not accept it. He discharged himself from hospital after signing an indemnity form.

Father van Rensburg said: "He is back here in bed. He is too weak to return to the cathedral. I said he could stay here only on condition that if he feels

ill he must go back to hospital and be put on a drip."

When Mr Kow heard that Mr Carolus had collapsed he said: "Our sincere prayer is that Mr Carolus will recover. He has brought the plight of the people of Suurbraak to the attention of the authorities, but we feel he should now reconsider his stand. He has achieved his goal and he should think of his wife and family now."

Mr Kow said the people of Suurbraak particularly admired the fact that Mr Carolus did not have any political motives behind his stand.

"I personally feel that the Minister of Internal Affairs has slighted the people of Suurbraak by granting an audience to the People's Congress Party on the disaster. He should be speaking to the people of Suurbraak who are intimately concerned with the matter."

Mr Kow said immediately after the gale had ripped off the roofs of 80 houses in the hamlet he had personally tried to get in touch with the Deputy-Minister of Internal Affairs to try and get aid for Suurbraak. Instead he had been referred to a Mr Bothma, who had so far not replied to a plea that Suurbraak be declared a disaster area.

"We are not very happy that the Minister of Internal Affairs is prepared to talk to the People's Congress Party, which has nothing to do with the situation here, while he is not prepared to meet a delegation from Suurbraak."



Mr Carolus lies collapsed in St George's Cathedral car-park.

Blast death toll 13

ABBEYSTEAD (England). — The death toll from last week's explosion at a water plant near here in north-western England rose to 13, officials said. — Sapa-AP.

Concern

CAPE TOWN 6/6/64

Over Suurbraak

Chief Reporter

THE Bishop of George, the Rt Rev W J Manning, yesterday described what he termed "a valley of devastation" that he had witnessed from a hilltop overlooking the Southern Cape village of Suurbraak, and said many of the villagers need help desperately. The bishop, who has started a relief fund to help the people of Suurbraak, Zoar and other villages in the area that were badly hit by storms last month, said most of those affected were elderly folk, dependent on pensions, or children. "There are roofs off all over the place, and we are very concerned about the villagers."

Bishop Manning said a government department had provided tents for homeless villagers and that the Red Cross Society was "doing a very good job" in the devastated areas.

A local committee had been set up, he said, to co-ordinate relief work.

● The bishop added that he was "very grateful indeed" for donations that had been made to his relief fund. Any further contributions should be sent to:

The Bishop's Relief Fund, PO Box 227, George 6530.

Suurbraak needs to rebuild

By JOHN
VAN DER LINDEN

THE community of storm-devastated Suurbraak are thankful for the tents, food, blankets and clothing they have received but desperately need building materials and advice on how to go about rebuilding their houses.

When the Cape Times visited the community yesterday the formerly quiet, sleepy valley reverberated with the sound of hammers as many of the younger residents repaired damaged roofs, windows and walls. Most of the elderly victims walked about aimlessly in the sun.

Mr Mathewis Sabastian, 56, said: "I was born in the house, as was my 84-year-old mother, Mrs Sophia Filander, with whom I share it, but we now live with my aunt until someone tells us what to do."

Mrs Lydia Jagers, a mother of nine, still lives in a tent and is not sure of her future. "My husband earns about R160 a month but with all the children to feed there will be little left to replace the roof."

The family does the cooking in the kitchen — the only room with some sheeting on top of it.

"We are not thankless for what we have already received in the form of the tent, food and blankets, but a little help with the roof will be welcome as we can't remain in the tent forever," she said. Her husband works in Barrydale and is not often at home.

A similar fate has be-



Mrs Maria Theodore, a mother of six, receives blankets from Mr Phillip Hendricks of the emergency assistance committee of Suurbraak yesterday. *CAPE Times 7/6/84*

fallen Mrs Elizabeth Petersen, a 59-year-old widow who lives in a tent with her two daughters, two sons and two grandchildren.

According to the chairman of the emergency assistance committee, Mr Henry Titus, the community is badly in need of a cash fund to buy building materials.

"The people of Suurbraak are more than willing to rebuild their destroyed homes but being a very poor community they do not have the finance to do so," he said.

More than enough assistance had been provided in the form of tents, food, clothing and blankets, but building advice and materials were needed.

He was not aware of any government decision on such aid but hoped that it would be forthcoming before adverse conditions struck again.

Official help for Suurbraak

Staff Reporter *36000*

THE government is to assist victims in the Suurbraak and Zoar rural areas by getting the Department of Community Development to repair all government buildings and schools and helping local management boards to repair and replace all damaged houses.

This was announced in Parliament yesterday by the Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr F W de Klerk.

Replying to questions, Mr De Klerk said the Department of Health and Welfare would ensure that the necessary health services were rendered in co-operation with local authorities.

Exchange

Apart from shelter facilities arranged by his department in co-operation with the South African Defence Force, Mr De Klerk said welfare services would be "extended where necessary".

He appealed to private organizations also to help and said the Red Cross, the Management Board of Suurbraak and church organizations were already giving substantial aid.

The Red Cross had established a disaster fund and authorization to raise funds for the victims by any other body could be obtained by contacting Mr N van Zyl of the Department of Internal Affairs Pretoria office at 323-9311, ext 327.

Three departments will aid Suurbraak and Zoar

AK&S 7/10/84



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● "The Department of Community Development will fully repair all Government buildings and schools. That department will also, in co-operation with the local management boards, be responsible for assisting with the replacement and repair of damaged houses.

● "As far as health matters are concerned the Department of Health and Welfare has already instituted investigations and will ensure that the necessary health services are rendered in co-operation with the local authorities.

● "Apart from the shelter facilities arranged by the Department of Internal Affairs in co-operation with the Defence Force, a thorough investigation was conducted by that department, and welfare services will be extended where necessary.

"I want to emphasise that the decision not to declare the areas concerned as disaster areas in no way minimises the extent of the assistance that the State will give. This decision also does not in any way preclude private organisations, institutions or individuals from becoming involved in additional assistance.

"It has been noted with appreciation that meals and blankets are supplied by the Red Cross, the local Management Board of Suurbraak and church organisations. The Red Cross has also established a disaster relief fund.

"Other organisations and bodies, including newspapers, can also obtain temporary authorisation to raise funds for this purpose.

"Arrangements have been made by the Department of Health and Welfare that authorisation can be obtained from Mr N van Zyl of the department's Pretoria office, 323 9311 (ext 327).

By TOS WENTZEL
Political Correspondent

THE Coloured rural areas of Suurbraak and Zoar are to receive extensive State aid following serious storm damage.

Answering questions put to him in the Assembly by Mr S S van der Merwe (PFP Green Point), the Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr F W de Klerk, gave details of the damage and the aid to be given.

He said a survey by officials of his department had shown that 83 houses at Suurbraak had been either damaged beyond repair or so badly damaged that the occupants had had to find temporary homes elsewhere.

In some cases furniture, clothing and household appliances were also damaged.

Disaster area

The management board of Suurbraak had asked for assistance and for the area to be declared a disaster area, and other coloured political leaders had approached him.

"The Government has carefully considered the advisability of the declaration of the rural areas of Zoar and Suurbraak, that were exposed to storm damage on May 15 1984, as disaster areas in terms of the Fund-raising Act.

"As a result of the investigations it was found that these two rural areas were affected to such an extent that the State must render comprehensive assistance.

"It was, however, decided that such assistance can best be given through direct intervention instead of doing so by declaring the areas as disaster areas.

"The main facets of the proposed Government assistance will involve three departments:

ARGUS 25/6/82

No relief yet for 500 homeless in Suurbraak

36 Staff Reporter

FIVE hundred Suurbraak people — many elderly and small children — are still living in tents, makeshift shelters or on charity provided by relatives and friends, five weeks after the historic hamlet was devastated by the May 15 storm.

Three Government departments — Internal Affairs, Community Development and Health and Welfare — have been given the responsibility of providing aid for the stricken town.

There is, however, still no sign of the relief promised — except that the Department of Community Development has asked the 83 families to fill in official forms.

FORMS

Mr Henry Titus, chairman of the Suurbraak Relief Committee, said officials of the Department of Community Development left the forms with him last week.

“These forms were to be filled in by the residents whose homes were destroyed or da-

maged by the storm. It contains questions on income, how many people lived in the homes and how much it would cost to rebuild,” he said.

Mr Titus said the officials were to return on Thursday to pick up the completed forms.

“However, nothing has yet been done about our urgent request to provide mobile homes as temporary shelters,” Mr Titus said.

APPEALS

Father Noel Kow of Swellendam's Anglican Church last week appealed for temporary mobile homes to be provided immediately until the damaged homes could be repaired or rebuilt.

“It will take quite a while to restore or rebuild the damaged homes and the people cannot wait that long with only army tents or temporary shacks to provide shelter in mid-winter,” he said at the time.

A Department of Community Development spokesman said the matter was being handled as quickly as possible.

Farmers gamble summer billions

Mercury 9/8/84 (3)

On top of it all after golden win

Mercury Correspondent

PRETORIA—South African farmers are gambling by their biggest accumulated debt of more than R8 000 million, and are prepared to gamble R2 000 million more in the summer season which could drive hundreds of them to the wall.

The worsening crisis in the agricultural industry caused by two successive summers of devastating drought has already forced hundreds of farmers to the brink of bankruptcy.

Their plight was discussed here yesterday at the meeting of the general council of the South African Agricultural Union.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr J J G Wentz, and his deputy, Mr Gert Kotze, will attend today's council session.

The chief economist of the union, Mr J Willemse, estimated that farmers would go into a new summer season burdened by a massive accumulated debt of more than R8 000 million.

The debt, nearly double the 1981 total, had accumulated dramatically over the past two years of devastating drought and another drought this summer would finish off hundreds, Mr Willemse said.

It is estimated that farmers in the summer season would gamble with a huge investment of R2 000 million — the bulk of it borrowed from the Bank — in summer grain crops.

Huge gamble

The National Maize Producers' Organisation economist, Dr Kit le Clus, estimated that to plant a maize crop alone, over an estimated area of 3 900 000 ha, would cost about R1 300 million.

For many farmers the coming summer is a



...s gamble ...er billions

Mercury 9/8/84 (3)

Mercury Correspondent

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It is estimated that farmers in the summer grain areas would gamble with a huge investment of about R2 000 million — the bulk of it borrowed from the Land Bank — in summer grain crops.

Huge gamble

The National Maize Producers' Organisation's economist, Dr Kit le Clus, estimated that to plant the maize crop alone, over an estimated area of 3 900 000 ha, would cost about R1 300 million.

'For many farmers the coming summer is a huge gamble. We are in a dry cycle, and the risk of another summer of below-average rainfall is great.'

A senior official of the Land Bank estimated that bank loans to farmers through agricultural co-operatives would amount to about R1 200 million in the new season.

To be added to this are borrowings from commercial banks by farmers who are still considered good credit risks — a small and shrinking minority.

Meanwhile sources here said the Cabinet would soon have to consider an increase in the maize price — the second this year.

Because of the low value of the rand in terms of dollars, South Africa is spending greatly increased sums to buy nearly 4 000 000 tons of imported maize.

Agricultural economists, including Dr le Clus, said another price rise, or a big increase in the Government subsidy, would be needed to compensate for the greatly inflated costs of maize imports.



ive women

an brothel

**Swazi boy's
eyes examined**

A light

By GERALD REICLY
Pretoria Bureau

FARMERS are likely to go into the new summer season burdened by a massive accumulated debt of more than R8 000-million, the chief economist of the South African Agricultural Union, (SAAU), Mr Johan Willemse estimates.

This emerged after discussions this week on the worsening crisis in South Africa's agricultural industry caused by two successive summers of devastating drought.

The talks were held by the General Council of the SAAU and were attended for some of yesterday by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, and his deputy, Mr Gert Kotze.

The debt — nearly double the 1981 total — has acceler-

RDM 10/8/84 3

Farmers' debt now R8 000m

ated dramatically over the past two years of disastrous droughts.

Another drought this summer would "finish off" hundreds of farmers, Mr Willemse said.

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sources say the Cabinet will soon have to consider an increase in the maize price — the second this year.

Because of the low value of the rand in terms of dollars South Africa is spending greatly increased numbers of rands to buy the dollars needed to purchase nearly four million tons of imported maize.

Agricultural economists warn that another price rise, or an increase in the Government subsidy, will be needed to compensate for the inflated costs of maize imports.

Big beef over man in the moon adverts

Unkind cuts from the Meat Board

By Barry Sergeant

CONSUMERS and many farmers are beefing over Meat Board advertisements.

One advertisement says the Meat Board has as much to do with controlling meat prices as the man on the moon.

Mike Tarr, Progressive Federal Party MP for Maritzburg South, has lodged a complaint with the Advertising Standards Authority. Mr Tarr, an agricultural economist, says the two advertisements are misleading. He wants the board to make a public apology.

Anniversary

Roy van der Westhuizen, executive director of the Organisation of Livestock Producers (OLP), has called on the 600-staff Meat Board to publish a correction. He says claims in the advertisements are "misleading and misrepresentations".

Robin Clark, managing director of beef and coal producer Kanhym Karoo, says the Meat Board, by controlling supply, causes its own problems.

The advertising campaign coincides with the Meat Board's 50th anniversary and the year of its most acute problems since the 1930s. It is also a time when increasing official concern over agriculture's treatment in the media is being expressed.

The SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) may establish an or-

Claims it doesn't meet

THE Meat Board's advertisements claim there is a free market. Economists say there are three main requirements for a free market:

- Many buyers and many sellers.
- No price guarantees.
- No restrictions on market entry or withdrawal.

The Meat Board does not meet two of these requirements, say economists.

ganisation for livestock producers, and the independent OLP is clamouring for change in the industry.

Pool

Underscoring the industry's problems is a pool system, which may be sprung on SA's 50 000 livestock producers at any time to replace the floor price for meat.

The pool system has been devised after a Meat Board investigation into a Jacobs Committee recommendation. The OLP says the proposed pool system does nothing for anybody in spite of its high degree of flexibility.

Consumer purchases of red meat this year are expected to amount to R4 300-million — making it the most important single money-spinner in agriculture. Livestock and chickens eat 50% of SA's maize, the same amount as humans, making profitability of the meat industry vital to grain farmers.

Beef industry experts point to what the advertisements do not say. There is no reference to:

- The proposed pool system.
- A daily increase in the surplus of 200 000 frozen beef carcasses.
- The R1-million weekly cost of storing frozen carcasses — paid for by farmers.
- A 5% reduction in the floor price in an attempt to sell beef.
- Effective control of abattoirs.
- The distinction between controlled (urban) areas and non-controlled (rural) areas.
- Control over quotas and permits needed before livestock can be slaughtered.
- Control over butchery licences
- Control over the grading of meat.

Protection

The advertising does not refer to a survey conducted in the Western Cape showing that beef prices are sharply lower in non-controlled areas.

Red meat faces several long-term problems. Consumption is falling and shows no sign of recovery.

White meat is marketed without protection — there are no controls, supports or minimum prices, not even a chicken board.

In 1963, 48 000 tons of chickens were marketed, rising to 457 000 tons in 1983. Red-meat sales in the same time rose from 740 000 tons to 983 000 tons, reaching a peak of 1 028 000 tons in 1980.

Middleman

Another problem is the beef farmer's falling cut of the consumer's rand — it dropped from 57% in 1975 to 46% in February 1984 as levies and middlemen took more and more.

Perhaps the largest increase in costs is abattoir charges which have risen 1 200% in the past decade. The Meat Board effectively controls the abattoirs.

The Meat Board advertises: "The meat market is a free market."

The board fails to meet a requirement of a free market by guaranteeing producers a minimum price, the so-called floor price. When the auction price falls below the floor price, the board becomes a buyer — assuring the producer of a minimum price.

Farm debt

Minimum prices have been described by analysts as one of the main causes of SA's R12 000-million farm debt. Minimum prices keep inefficient farmers on the land and discourage the efficient.

Farmers are obliged to apply for slaughter permits — so freedom to enter the market is restricted, corrupting another free market requirement.

One advertisement says: "The funds used by the Meat Board to buy at the floor price are provided by the farmers' own stabilisation fund which, like all Meat Board costs, is paid for by the farmers themselves!"

If auction prices stay soft for a long time, the board is forced to draw more and more from its stabilisation fund. To keep the stabilisation fund solvent, farmers' levies must be increased, leaving less of the beef pie for them.

As the process continues, farmers clamour for price increases to compensate for diminishing returns. So floor prices are increased to help them.

Farmers threaten production cuts

12/8/84

3
General
S-Times

Business Times Reporter

FARMERS, carrying R12 000-million of debt, say increased interest rates are undermining their precarious situation. They predict production reductions in the coming season. This would mean increased imports and food prices.

Three years of drought have reduced the industry's creditworthiness. Farmers qualify for smaller loans than before and many may not be able to pay for the coming season's plantings.

Another threat to food prices is the deterioration in the rand which has pushed maize import costs above R1 000-million.

Many experts forecast large price increases for food because of shortages as farmers are forced to restrict production.

Jaap Wilkens, SA Agricultural Union president, says: "The drastic interest-rate rise comes as a serious shock for agriculture, adding to the burden of a weak financial situation."

High interest rates may also lower the amount of money farmers may borrow.

National Maize Producers Organisation chairman Hennie de Jager says he is shocked by the increase in interest rates. "Three years of low rainfall plus the new interest rates mean maize farmers cannot afford to borrow. The new rates effectively cancel financial aid given to farmers this year and last year."

Maize farmers will have no choice but to reduce production.

Protection, debt, drought — and farmers go in fear

PERHAPS the most amazing thing about South Africa's troubled agricultural sector is that it has not yet collapsed in total ruin.

But it certainly seems to be heading that way unless urgent action is taken.

These conclusions can be drawn from developments — or lack of them — in this vital sector in recent years, and particularly during the current drought cycle and economic downswing.

Not only is the agricultural sector vital for the production of food for South Africa's growing population, but it is also a major employer and, as such, has a role to play in the promotion of the Government's decentralisation policy and the prevention of unproductive urbanisation.

In times of economic recession in particular, agriculture, it is argued, should be in a position not only to provide foreign exchange via exports but also to save on food imports and to maintain a stable rural worker population.

But the situation in South African agriculture is far from sound.

At the most recent farming forum — the annual congress of the Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) in Pretoria last week — the gloomy picture got gloomier as speaker after speaker painted a stark portrait of the pending disaster.

Apart from natural crises, such as droughts and floods, probably the most severe problem facing farmers is their spiralling debt.

In the current year, interest alone on borrowings would be more than R1 000-million — a three-fold increase since 1980 — the president of the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU), Mr Jaap Wilkens, told the TAU congress.

Linked to this was rapidly increasing production costs. The TAU president, Mr N J Kotze, said the amount spent by farmers for each rand earned had increased from about 53c in 1975 to 83c in 1983.

It is a shaky situation made all the more tenuous by the fact that, in spite of its agricultural production potential, South Africa is not endowed with much favourable farming land.

According to a Government White Paper of agricultural policy published earlier this year, only 12% of the country's total land area of 122-million hectares is arable.

Of this, only four-million hectares could be regarded as high-potential soil, in which nearly 40% of the country's total agronomic and horticultural output is produced.

The White Paper stressed the importance of agriculture's "vital role

South Africa's vitally important agricultural sector is struggling. Unless it can pull out of the current crisis it faces the prospect of collapse. The Mail's Political Correspondent reviews the situation

CHRIS FREIMOND

in the national economy" and said that the sector had to be backed by a policy "aimed at making agriculture an independent and financially sound industry".

But the measures proposed by the Government's agricultural planners fell short of the expectations of the leaders of organised farming.

The SAAU was not overly impressed by the White Paper.

Mr Wilkens said that it was felt in "certain circles" that it was vague and did not get to grips with some of the more pressing problems in the sector.

And one of the Government's most outspoken critics of official agricultural policy — the Progressive Federal Party's agriculture spokesman and MP for Albany, Mr Errol Moorcroft — said that the White Paper contained "little that is new" and did not address itself to any of the "major problems" facing the sector.

"The White Paper demonstrates

clearly the need for a commission of inquiry representative of all available talent to address itself to the problems of agriculture in general and marketing and distribution in particular," Mr Moorcroft said.

In Parliamentary speeches during the past year, Mr Moorcroft has repeatedly nagged the Government for what he believes is a "distinct reluctance" to define exactly the real problems of agricultural policy.

Farmers were being turned into "a community of beggars" dependent on Government handouts to survive. It was a situation that neither they nor other taxpayers liked, he said.

Mr Moorcroft believes that over-protection is one of the "real problems" of the sector.

The state of the maize industry illustrated his contention. The Government was bound by political commitments to keep farmers on the land and ensure high producer prices and national self-sufficiency.

This affected the supply and price of maize to the consumer as well as the entire structure of the industry.

Farmers were encouraged to plant as much as they could so that, even in a bad year, there would be enough for the country's needs.

In good years there were massive surpluses which had to be sold on world markets... possibly at a loss, which the taxpayer had to bear.

Mr Moorcroft suggested that self-sufficiency should not be striven after at all costs.

Rather the prime growing areas should be used to their maximum potential with minimum input costs.

This could mean that in average years production would match the consumers' demands without a burden on the taxpayer, and in bad years the shortfall could be imported... as is the case now anyway.

Farmers in marginal areas could be encouraged to plant crops less vulnerable to droughts.

It might also be necessary to consider reducing the number of farming units.

Mr Moorcroft believes that a way out of the current agricultural crisis can be found which will benefit both producers and consumers.

"Given the correct economic structures, the South African farmer can produce reasonably priced food, while at the same time consolidating his own financial situation.

"But it will mean that certain contradictory political commitments will have to be modified," Mr Moorcroft said.

"Unless the Government is prepared to do this, the agricultural industry is in very real danger of collapse in the near future," Mr Moorcroft said.



ERROL MOORCROFT, MP

Survival of the fittest is the new farm fare

30/9/84 (3) General

S. Tunes

EFFICIENT farmers, once the most protected species in the industry, are being abandoned.

The once-fatherly SA Agricultural Union is set to cut its support with many of its 60 000 members. Farmers will therefore be subject to the same economic forces as small businessmen — and thousands may bite the dust. These are the major conclusions of the most comprehensive financial survey yet conducted by the SAAU, a body forced on it by the third successive year of drought. Final findings are expected to be formally released in late October.

There is consensus among agricultural leaders that the industry will have to adapt to the new market conditions. Government leaders hope to see

By Barry Sergeant

change in supply patterns, lower prices and inefficient farmers being replaced.

Johan Willemse, SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) chief economist, says: "In line with the Government's White Paper earlier this year, agriculturalists are realising that farming is not a God-given right."

Bankruptcy

"Farmers will have to be treated like any other small businessman. If a farmer cannot produce profits, he will have to face bankruptcy and leave the land. The one and only exception to this would be where the farmer has suffered a climatic calamity, which even the best manager cannot hedge against."

"The time has come to realise that farmers run a management and investment risk like any other entrepreneur. Seen macro-economically, there is no reason why the weaker farmers should not be replaced by new farmers entering the industry."

Amazing statistics concerning farmers' debt position have also been exposed for the first time. The survey concludes that 47% of farmers have liabilities that comprise just 10% or even less of their assets.

This is in stark contrast to the picture painted by the agricultural lobby. It was thought that agriculture was debt-ridden and on the edge of total bankruptcy after three years of drought. But although the liability/asset relationship is extremely healthy, most farmers do have cash-flow problems.

Interest

Some of the reasons for the financial soundness of nearly half of SA's farmers are:

- The average interest paid on debt. Mr Willemse has calculated that the average interest rate paid on agriculture's estimated R10 000-million debt is 15%, well below the prime bank rate of 25%. The 15% is a weighted average and includes short-term and consolidated long-term debt.

● The role of SA's 320 co-operatives in self-help during the drought years. The co-ops created large reserve funds in the good years and used the cash during the drought to help farmers' cash-flow. The standard method among co-ops is to average out a farmers' crop for two or three years prior to crop failures and pay the farmer for a crop failure as if it had been harvested. The amount paid

out by the co-ops on this basis over the past three years runs into hundreds of millions of rand.

● Survival methods used by successful farmers during the drought years. SA's tax system encourages farmers to spend in good years, as the cost of capital spending (a wide category) is deductible against income.

Replaced

These tax laws meant that after a series of good years, a farm unit would have replaced capital goods at a faster rate than normal and would be well placed to stand up to several years of drought by maintenance and repair instead of replacement.

What is worrying farm leaders now is the future of inefficient farmers who are kept on the land by Government help. According to the SAAU's survey, 16% of SA's farmers have liabilities that represent 40% or more of their assets, and 18% have percentages of 10% to 20%.

Farming leaders realised a decade ago that matters were going astray in the agricultural sector. It is now generally

thought that the drought was the straw that broke the camel's back, the cherry on the farm reformation cake.

Apart from inefficient farmers, the main areas of concern are the dual questions of supply and price. It is increasingly accepted that the Marketing Act, the umbrella for most of SA's 22 marketing Control Boards, is no longer the Magna Carta it was hailed as in 1937.

SA has surpluses and shortages of produce; rarely does a crop ever meet domestic demand levels. Consumers see a credibility gap in the farm sector, as prices rise annually regardless of shortages or surpluses.

Now the SAAU expects more pertinent questions to be aimed at the farming sector. After institution of the new constitutional dispensation on September 3, it expects highly critical questions on the R800-million (about half will eventually be recovered as loans) spent on agriculture in the 1984-85 fiscal year.

The reality of Government budget cut-backs will compound the question when debates open in the new tri-

camera Parliament.

SA is one of only seven net exporters of food in the world, having achieved self-sufficiency for its own needs for most produce. The blunt question expected from liberal politicians is justification of the hundreds of millions of rands handed out to a sector which according to micro-economic surveys is supporting many inefficient producers.

On the supply and price question, the political reality is that if the White Paper is implemented, it will be a matter of the market deciding what the farmer grows. This is diametrically opposed to the present situation where the farmer decides what he will grow (and any farmer will admit he prefers this), knowing there is a guaranteed price when the crop is harvested.

Prices, farm leaders say, will become more politicised, particularly for the staple foods such as maize meal and bread. The consumer will demand the most food for the lowest price. If it is generally perceived that the market is giving the consumer the best price, the resistance to prices may diminish.

Follow the leader

(3) General

In three weeks' time, SA's 60 000 farmers will elect a new leader. And that leader will have five years in which to patch over the deep ideological divisions which run through the community. So, who will it be?

Almost certainly Kobus Jooste of the northern Cape, presently number two in the powerful SA Agricultural Union (SAAU). Jaap Wilkens, the current president, steps down later this month — and while the top job does not automatically go to the second-in-command, a skilled diplomat like Jooste can use the vice-presidency to line himself up as the obvious choice. That being the case, all eyes in agricultural politics are now fixed on the same day's impending election of the new vice-president.

It is generally assumed that Jooste will himself step down from the presidency after a maximum of five years in office. Although Wilkens failed in his attempt to formalise a five-year limit on any one man's tenure in the top job, he has probably achieved his objective by setting a personal example of early retirement. His successors will be embarrassed if they do not follow suit.

The structure, attitude and *modus operandi* of the SAAU have all been mutating slowly under Wilkens' hesitant leadership; but the process is far from

The balance of power within the SA Agricultural Union has traditionally been divided between the Cape and Transvaal farmers. But with a leadership tussie in the offing, the stage is being set for a switch away from provincial rivalry.

complete. Jooste (assuming he gets the job) will inherit an organisation in flux. The choice of his own vice-president will help determine whether he can restore confidence and credibility in the SAAU — or whether the whole creaking edifice will split down the seams. To prevent it from splitting in the past there has been a tendency for the union to silence rival factions by electing Cape deputies to balance Transvaal leaders, and *vice versa*. On that reckoning, Nico Kotze, current president of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, would appear to be the leading contender for the number two spot.

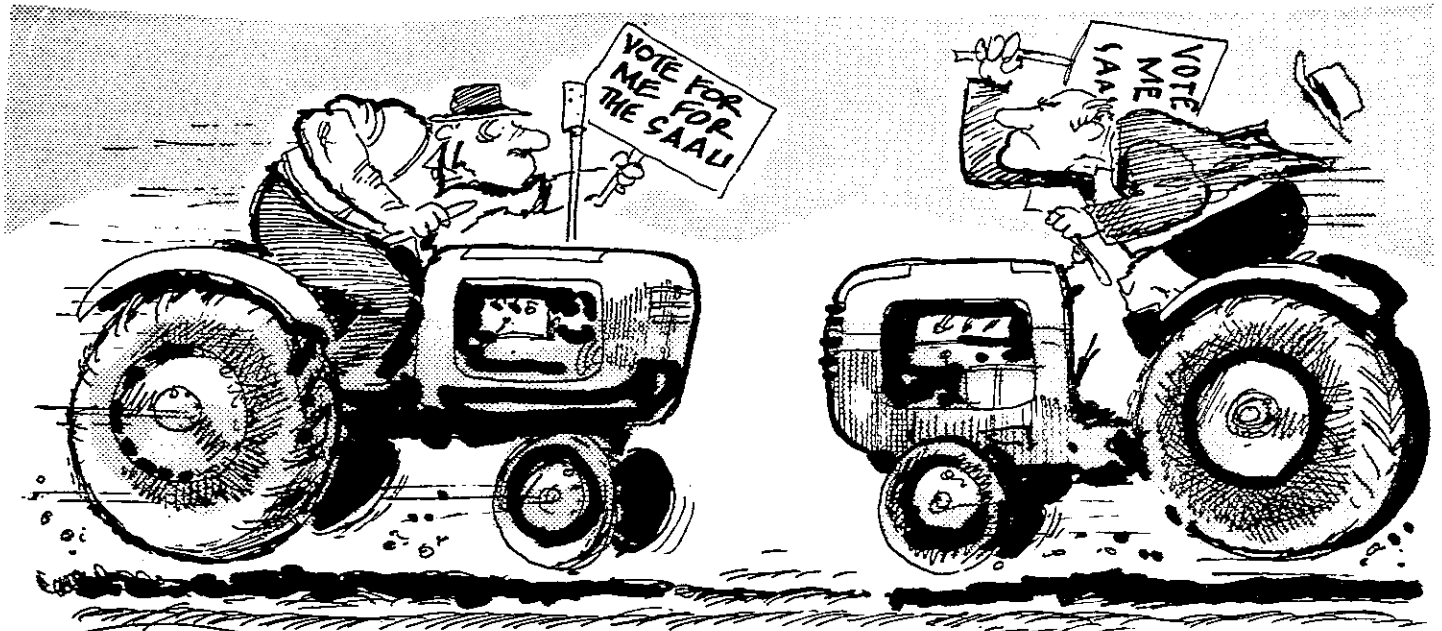
His appointment would undoubtedly reassure the more conservative elements in the union, who are inclined to see Jooste as a potentially dangerous Cape *verligte*. But the somewhat staid and pedestrian Kotze

has little else to recommend him. The more progressive elements in the union wince at the thought of him as heir-apparent. And since this is not the time for inertia, the rising star of the movers and shakers is Tobie Meyer from the eastern Cape.

Meyer is an impressive candidate, flexible of mind, useful in committee and a competent administrator. But he hails from the "wrong" province and his comparative youth must militate against him. All of which bodes well for Jan van Vuuren of the Free State, who may inherit the vice-presidency by default.

Although he is seen by many as an anachronism, Van Vuuren could be just the man to keep the Transvaalers at bay while Meyer (perhaps) or someone like Boet Fourie, the new Natal provincial leader, is groomed for the presidency. Van Vuuren's unimpressive record in the co-operative movement, and at the Dairy Board and in Parliament, should pacify the northern tribes without impeding progress.

The co-operative link is important. Structurally the SAAU is supposed to stand on two legs of roughly equal stature. In practice, the left leg (comprising primary co-operatives below the knee and central co-operatives above) has become much the stronger, while the right leg (comprising



Financial Mail October 5 1984

surprised (left), who attended the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund, was interviewed by Mulholland on economic policy; and a report on a major speech by Kissinger was carried in last week's *FM*. The IMF and World Bank meetings are a forum for top-level exchanges on global economic and political directions.

try to steer a constructive course. Events seem for the moment to have cost the authorities their credibility. Year after year there are budget overruns, money-supply growth is ex-

③ General

5/10/84

fresh band of producer representatives on the Maize Board. The Minister had no choice but to sack the old gang (including Jaap Wilkens' politician brother, Ben, who then held the chair) which had been recommended by the SAAU.

Needless to say, that group was heavily laden with co-op stooges as well as politicians. Other speciality organisations were bound to follow. The money and power were simply waiting for them. At first, the old guard of co-op loyalists within the SAAU were determined to fight against

them; but more recently they appear to have been accepting the inevitable.

When the Organisation of Livestock Producers (OLP) got off the ground a few months ago, the SAAU responded almost immediately by offering to set up a similar organisation of its own. Merger talks are already being held — but there could be more to these than at first meets the eye.

Fanie van Rensburg heads the SAAU meat committee as well as the co-operative movement and he is known to be a staunch supporter of the Conservative Par-

ty. According to one (very plausible) theory we are now witnessing the emergence of a new rightwing power ploy to undermine the main body of the SAAU by weaning from it as many speciality organisations as can possibly be controlled by the Conservatives.

Before the next five years are up, a third leg will have been added to the SAAU's precarious structure, and the new one promises to be by far the strongest. So Kobus Jooste may well be the last president to climb to the top via a provincial platform.

③ General

Revealing SA's weaknesses

Recently, a conference on the effects of the drought in SA was jointly sponsored by the FM and Unisa. The following summarises the main points raised by a number of speakers. The conference was chaired by Stephen Mulholland, Editor of the FM.

It has been claimed that "normal" weather conditions may be expected over the next year because of the reversal of *El Nino* in the equatorial Pacific. *El Nino* is a phenomenon where the normal weather patterns are reversed.

Weather forecasts are almost as precarious as economic forecasts. And another year of drought could be crippling to the SA economy. It would be wise, therefore, for contingency plans to be decided upon in advance.

Our population is growing, our dependence on the land is increasing, and the demands by industry for resources such as water are continually expanding.

There is no universally acceptable definition of what constitutes a drought. What is conceived as a drought in the Sahara is very different from that for an area in the rain belt. A very useful definition was once given by a former head of the Australian Weather Service: "Drought is a lack of sufficient water to meet a society's requirements."

On the basis of the definition, SA has for the past three years experienced severe drought.

Farming and industrial activity

Agriculture has been worst hit. Total farming debt increased by some 121,9% from R3,8 billion in mid-1980 to R3,5 billion by 1984. Short-term debt increased by 192,8% over the same period. Interest rates increased substantially between 1980 and 1984, and the high present rates are to some extent the result of lower exports, higher imports and the need to provide profits to the agricultural sector.

The interest burden for farmers rose from R323m in 1980 to an estimated R1,7 billion in 1984. The ratio of short-term debt to net farming income after interest payments increased from 0,68 in 1980 to 3,0 in 1984. The net farming income, after increasing by 57% in 1980, rose by only 9,5% in 1981, and actually fell by 55% between 1981 and 1983.

Reduced income and output for farmers resulted in reduced demand for farming inputs. Sales of tractors, machinery and implements fell by some 39% in real terms between 1981 and 1982, and by a further 36% between 1982 and 1983. Similarly, fertiliser sales decreased by some 18% in 1982 and by 25% in 1983.

The buying power of the farming community declined over the drought years and adversely affected retail sales to this sector. However, there were also substantial price increases as a result of, among others, the high cost of imported maize and other products, and these price increases were aggravated by the depreciating rand.

In consequence, the rate of increase in retail sales declined significantly between 1981 and 1984. Various other factors, such as enhanced shrinkage, the increase in sales tax, higher interest rates, and the increase in bad debts (all of which are partially attributable to the drought) have led to a decline in the post-tax profits of retailers.

Power generation

Fifteen months ago, the drought had apparently threatened as much as two-thirds of Escom's power-generating capacity. As one delegate put it: "The facts are: no water, no electricity." The economic consequences of so drastic a power cut would

have been extremely far-reaching.

Fortunately, Escom was able to share the generation of power among power stations and so provide more electricity from areas where the water shortage was not as acute.

Together with the Department of Water Affairs, for example, Escom effectively reversed the flow of the Vaal River over a distance of over 200 km, so that water could be provided to the major power stations and to Sasol.

In addition, some power stations had to be closed altogether (such as Umgeni and Ingagane), and others produced at substantially reduced capacity. Camden power station near Ermelo reduced its output by 75%.

Moreover, the drought contributed substantially to the reduced rate of growth of demand for energy from over 7% over the last five years to 2,2% in 1983.

There is no doubt that significant power cuts, coupled to power rationing, do not provide a viable solution. In fact, it has been estimated that the average cost of one unit of electricity is 3,36c. But it was found that if the unit was not produced, then the opportunity cost to the nation would be 75c in terms of lost production capacity.

Macro-economic effects

Although the direct contribution of agriculture to gdp has fallen from about 21,4% in 1911 to just over 6% at present, it is still a vitally important sector because of its relationship to other industries and because of the important contribution it offers to the external sector. In fact, it has been estimated that, had 1983 been a "normal" year in agriculture, real gdp might have declined by just 1,8% instead of 3,1%.

The reduced output of agricultural and related products, the negative effects on the balance of payments, the weaker external rand and higher interest rates, the increased sales taxes — which were necessitated in part to provide for relief to farmers — all contributed to higher inflation, coupled to lower output; in a word, stagflation.

Unfortunately, all this was aggravated by the world depression and sluggish world recovery, the recent low gold price, the high rate of growth of the domestic money supply, and (at times) inappropriate tax policies of government.

The lesson to be learned from all this is that we must expand our industrial base so that we are not entirely dependent on primary and mining products. We need more than just this to provide us with the necessary revenue to import goods and services. For it has been shown that excessive reliance on these sectors renders the economy extremely vulnerable to exogenous shocks.



Arid land . . . a warning for the future

As Vaal Dam fills up, the water's let out

STAR 14/11/84

3 General

By James Clarke

Vaal Dam HAS been filling up — despite the gloom-and-doom picture the Department of Water Affairs continues to present. But as the water pours in so the department lets it out.

Vaal Dam, one-fifth full this week, would have been nearly a third full had the water not been released.

Huge amounts have gone to Vaalharts farmers. The amount released so far is equivalent to 10 percent of the dam's capacity. It is half as much again as Rand Water Board draws off in a normal wet year and six times more than Johannesburg uses in a normal year.

But a spokesman for the department, Mr Anton Steyn, insists the situation "is gloomy". Yesterday I telephoned him after his department had given a statement to *The Star* saying recent heavy rains had not stopped Vaal Dam's level dropping, and that the Vaal system was dry. The statement did not reveal that vast volumes of water had been released.

As it is, over the last 10 weeks Vaal Dam has poured more than 225 million cu m downstream — half as much water as is in the dam at present.

Vaal Dam's apparent inability to hold its water has triggered a rumour that the dam has a hole in it. The rumours, being received by newspapers as well as the Rand Water Board and the department, have caused amusement among hydrological engineers.

Mr Steyn confirmed: "For 2½ months, water has been released at the rate of 36,15 cumecs". That's 36 150 litres a second. "Most of it," he said, "went through the Barrage" which means it was not used by the Rand Water Board.

But why has this 3 100 million litres a day not increased the level of Bloemhof Dam — downstream of Vaal Dam — which is still only 8 percent full?

The main reason is that much of it went through Bloemhof and on to the 900 farmers of the Vaalharts irrigation scheme — 700 river kilometres from Vaal Dam.

Mr Steyn said: "People forget that there are also towns down the Vaal requiring water — Parys, Klerksdorp, the Free State goldfields and Kimberley." He said that although other dams (chiefly in the Free State) also feed these towns, those dams are also low.

Underground water for Rand

The Minister of Agricultural Economics and Water Affairs, Mr Greyling Wentzel, told a hydrology conference today that the Rand Water Board might use underground water to top up surface supplies during shortages.

Addressing an international convention at Crown Mines in Johannesburg, Mr Wentzel said South Africa's largest city had used ground water from dolomitic strata until 1923, when the Vaal River Development Scheme came into operation.

Since then the volume supplied by the RWB had increased forty-fold and could not be supplied continuously from ground sources. But the dolomitic formations in the board's distribution area still contained large volumes of water that could be tapped. — Sapa.

Rain is ^{STAR}
^{23/11/84}
'critical'
~~General~~
for maize

By Russell Gault

Maize production is on the brink of disaster.

In many of the major production areas the continuing drought is biting deeper and threatening a worse crop than last year's record low of four million tons.

Transvaal Agricultural Union spokesman Mr Joel Coetzee said: "The situation is critical."

He said if rain did not fall within 10 days this season's crop was headed for disaster.

"Normally planting begins in mid-October, but so far around 50 percent of all maize planting has not been started."

While heavy rains have fallen in many areas the important maize-growing areas of the north-western and western Transvaal as well as northern Free State — which produce half the nation's crop — have had virtually nothing.

The general manager of the Maize Board, Mr Hennie Nel, added: "Taking the country's entire maize-growing area as a whole, the drought is as severe as last year's."

"It may have rained in a lot of places but not in the bulk of the maize areas."

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DROUGHT (3) General
A water corporation
PM 14/10/88

Would an independent water corporation, operating nationwide on the same basis as Escom, be an acceptable alternative to the present divided control over water supplies?

It seems government is thinking that way. In May it appointed the Raubenheimer committee to investigate water resources development and supply schemes for the PWV area. Although the committee's findings will not be released until next April, an "open hearing" was recently held in Pretoria.

Preliminary recommendations included the nationalisation of water on Escom-lines. Under the present system, the Department of Environment Affairs (DEA) is the ultimate controller of water resources.

Says a DEA spokesman: "We are not in a position to comment on these recommendations until the report is complete."

According to noted hydrologist (and Raubenheimer committee member) Desmond Midgley, economics, and not engineering, is preventing the adequate supply of water to the PWV area.

A self-funding water corporation may be the solution to the current difficulties. In August the Department of Water Affairs was ordered to make a 7,5% saving as part of the revised budget. This has since been revised downwards to 5%.

"Already several projects have been shelved because of lack of funds," says a Department of Water Affairs liaison officer. "The recession is having a dampening effect on any thoughts of future expansion and catching up on the backlog of projects."

Under present water management, the consumer effectively pays more for less water. The "economics of water" states that reduced sales, as a result of restrictions, means increased unit costs per kilolitre.

As a result of water restrictions, the Rand Water Board (RWB) lost R4,8m in revenue in 1983. Domestic and industrial consumers bore the brunt of the losses with a 23,5% increase in the price of water.

"Operating costs remain static whatever the level of demand," says RWB chairman, Dale Hobbs. A further 4% tariff increase is

due for December if there is no improvement in the water supply.

In April, the DEA imposed a 30% aggregate saving on water consumption in the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging (PWV) area. The measures were aimed at stretching the PWV water resources until the winter of 1985. The domestic sector was required to save 40% — according to latest RWB statistics, there is a current target shortfall of 8% points.

The severity of these restrictions lead one observer to describe government's handling of the matter as "unnecessary crisis management." The severity of these restrictions imply that government has assumed a worst-case scenario in its short-term planning.

Shortly after the current restrictions were gazetted, Midgley described the measures as "incomprehensible" and the projections on which they were based "statistically unsound" (FM May 4).

Latest official figures show an improvement in the levels of the three main dams serving the PWV, compared to last year. The Department of Water Affairs Scientific Services Manager, Will Alexander, says relaxing water restrictions may be possible given a normal rainy season but remains "desirably cautious." The position will be reviewed towards the end of next month.

However, government's "wait-and-see" policy has had a disastrous effect on property owners, irrigation farmers and industry in the PWV. Because of poor planning, government is now having to conserve water to iron out shortcomings in providing an adequate supply of water.

The provision of water is not keeping pace with industrial development on the PWV. That Raubenheimer was instructed to bear in mind the decentralisation of industrial development, indicates that political motives are still affecting planning.

Long term

Government's "see-saw" relations with neighbouring states may jeopardise long-term chances of drawing on ample supplies of imported water. By putting pressure on Lesotho to sign a Nkomati-style agreement in July, government nearly scuttled the joint R2 000m Highland Water project.

To establish an independent water corporation seems to make political and economic sense. Without a data bank system in the southern hemisphere it is impossible to predict weather conditions.

A spokesman for the Wits department of climatology is "cautiously optimistic" that in 10 years an "early warning" system will be operational. But can we wait that long?

A water corporation charged with providing adequate supplies of water at market prices makes sense. If the country runs short of electricity, Escom is quickly brought to task. A water shortage simply prompts the various water boards to blame the weather.

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Crops still threatened

STAR 26/11/84 3 General

Rains have not broken drought

November rainfall figures are lower than last year's and many Reef gardeners are complaining that their gardens are dying.

With three cloudless days last week, the drought is far from over.

But farmers in the Rustenburg area had the best bonus in years this weekend. A total of 29 mm of rain fell in the 48 hours to 8 am today.

It was one of the most significant falls in any area of the Western Transvaal in the past three years — but for most farmers in the Transvaal next week will be D-day.

Elsewhere in the drought-stricken western and northern areas of the province, and in the northern Free State, the devastating effects of the heat and clear skies are apparent.

Most farmers have still been unable to plant their maize crops — a month and a half behind schedule.

If farmers have been unable to plant by next week their chances of getting a crop in will be negligible.

Economic disaster

That spells economic disaster for the nation's total maize haul. The South African Agricultural Union says only 40 to 50 percent of maize has been planted. That means a crop of perhaps four million tons this season compared with the record low last year of 4,5 million tons.

Rainfall in many areas has been heavy over the past two months, but the maize-producing areas have had generally low falls.

In spite of apparently heavy falls around Johannesburg this month, only 75,4 mm had fallen to 8 am today. The average for the past 92 years for November is 127 mm.

October was slightly wetter with 77,2 mm last month compared with the average of 68 mm; only 9,7 mm fell in September compared with the average of 26 mm.

The Weather Bureau in Pretoria says the need is for progressively more rain each month from August and September, but in the vital maize areas there have been only drops.

"The public tends to think that because there have been a few heavy falls in isolated urban areas the drought has ended. Unfortunately there are large areas which are in an even worse state for rainfalls than last year," said a bureau spokesman.

3 *General* NOU. 84

E Cape farmers need help

PORT ELIZABETH — Hundreds of farmers from Alexandria to the Langkloof may be forced to abandon farming unless urgent government assistance for the drought-stricken area is forthcoming.

In some areas the grain crop has dwindled to 10 per cent of the normal yield, and in the Langkloof about 200 fruit farmers are facing their worst season in living memory.

These farmers, who represent about 75 per cent of the fruit farmers in the Langkloof, will have to "pack up and sell out" if it does not rain before January, Mr O. Crous, the manager of

the Langkloof Farmer's Co-op, said yesterday.

Mr Crous said vast damage has already been done and even if it did rain before January, very little of the crop would be salvaged.

He said the next fortnight would be critical for the fruit trees because they needed more water than any other time of the year.

Mr Crous said it was difficult to determine the size of the expected crop.

Individual crops could yield as little as two tons, instead of the average six. The total crop for the area usually represented about R63-

million, he said.

The Department of Agriculture has been notified of the crisis situation, and representatives of the department visited the area recently.

Meanwhile, farmers in the Rustenburg area had the best bonus in years at the weekend — a total of 29 mm of rain fell in the 48 hours to 8 am yesterday.

It was one of the most significant falls in any area of the Western Transvaal in the past three years — but for most farmers in the Transvaal next week will be D-day.

Elsewhere in the

drought-stricken west and northern areas of the province and in the Northern Free State, the devastating effects of the heat and clear skies are apparent.

Most farmers have been unable to plant their maize crops — a month and a half behind schedule.

D-day for planting is next week. If farmers have been unable to plant by then, their chances of getting a crop in will be virtually negligible.

That spells economic disaster for the nation's total maize haul. — DDC- SAPA.

Latest rainfall figures a shock

STAR
27/11/86
3 General

By Russell Gault

November rainfall figures are well below the November average for the past 92 years, according to the weather bureau in Pretoria.

The assistant director of the bureau, Mr K E Estie, said researchers were agreed that the sub-continent was in the grip of a 10-year drought which was unlikely to lift until late 1989.

But there is hope," he said. "This year is the fourth year, so in my view the chances of better rains in the near future are very good in spite of the immediate poor outlook."

The latest figures provided by the bureau show a big drop in rainfall totals around the country for this month to 8 mm yesterday compared with November last year and the average November for the past 92 years.

"I want to appear as optimistic as possible," said Mr Estie. "We must remember we had very good rain in November last year and we had good falls in October this year. I think that if past records are any indication, December will see a better weather pattern."

A renowned weather pattern researcher, Professor Peter Tyson, former head of the geography department at the University of the Witwatersrand and now deputy vice-chancellor of the university, presented years ago and offered convincing scientific evidence that the 1980s would be drought-ravaged times in South Africa.

He said there would be minimum rainfall until late 1989, followed by 10 years of high rainfall.

● See Page 11, World section.

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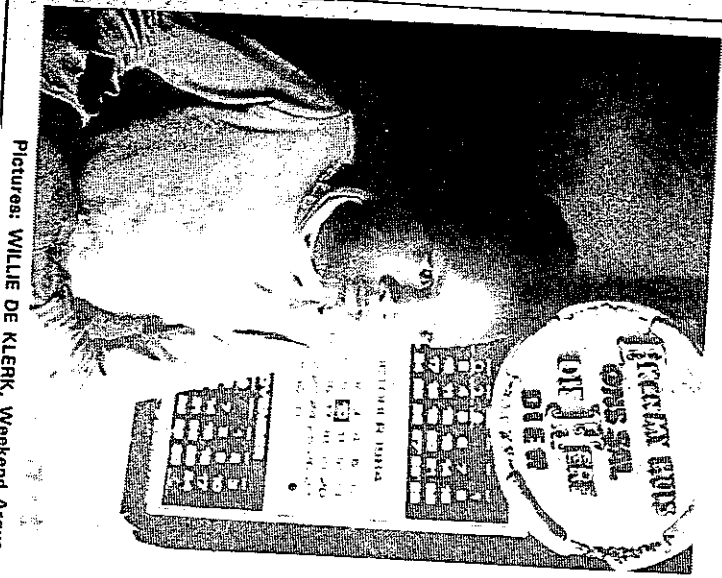
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Boy's severed ear kept as a warning to others

Farmer at 'war'

Argus 24/11/94 (3)



Pictures: WILLIE DE KLERK, Weekend Argus

By MARK STANSFIELD
Crime Reporter

A WORCESTER farmer whose dog bit off half the ear of a child has kept the severed piece as a warning to local children with whom he is at "war" over what he considers their pilfering habits.

"I have kept the ear to show them what a dog can do," Mr Chris Rabie said.

The cross Doberman-Rottweiler's attack on six-year-old Jim Bruinjies last Monday has left his parents and other farmworkers bitter.

Stealing from farms

But Mr Rabie, of Wilger River Farm, Nuy Station near Worcester, says the dog attack on the boy was the culmination of a "war" that has raged for years between him and children in the area.

Some of the children have appeared in court for stealing from neighbouring farms and have received corporal punishment as a result.

Mr Rabie said signs warned people about his two savage dogs.

"At own risk"

"My farm is private property and any person who comes on to it does so at his own risk," he said.

Recently his beehives were robbed of honey and store-rooms broken into, and he caught a boy in his fowl run.

"The children can make all sorts of allegations against me, but check with the Worcester police and find out how many of them have been convicted in a court for stealing from us farmers," he said.

Worcester court records show that several boys who were interviewed have received corporal punishment for stealing.

Bite wounds

Meanwhile, Jim Bruinjies cannot attend Nuy Station Primary School because he receives treatment for bite wounds and his damaged ear every day at Eben Dönges hospital.

Jim's grandmother, Mrs Victoria Bruinjies, notified the Worcester police after the dog had severed her grandson, but since then charges against Mr Rabie have been withdrawn after a police investigation into the attack.

Major George Kershoff, Boland police liaison officer, said the police investigation records had been handed to the public prosecutor, but the court had declined to prosecute because Jim Bruinjies had been on private property without permission. There are warning signs and fences showing where Mr Rabie's property begins.

Mother angry

Jim's distressed mother, Mrs Magrieta Ollifant, who is employed in Cape Town, is angry.

"My child was born with both his ears and will now go through life looking as though God did not make him. Mr Rabie refused to help us when we approached him after the attack," she said.

Mr Rabie said that straight after the attack he took the injured boy to the farmhouse and applied plaster to the wound.

"Jim is lucky I arrived when I did. I'm sure that dog would have killed him," he said.

Collecting wood

Jim Bruinjies said the dog had attacked him while he was collecting wood on Mr Rabie's property.

But Mr Rabie said the boys had been stealing oranges from his orchard.

"They forgot to tell you that. After we pulled the dog off there were several oranges lying on the ground, which were handed to the police," he said.

Above: Jacob Bruinjies, 11.



Below: Jim Bruinjies, 6, who was collecting wood on the farmer's property, had half an ear was bitten off during the attack.



Angry grandmother Mrs Victoria Bruinjies, who took Jim to Eben Dönges hospital for treatment.



Heavy rains elsewhere

— but Transvaal is dry

STAR 29/11/84 1/3 General

Heavy rains fell in many parts of South Africa yesterday but they missed the Transvaal and the level of the Vaal Dam is still dropping.

Parts of the north-eastern Free State were soaked with falls up to 75 mm, and grain farmers there are now expecting record crops.

The Northern Cape also had good rainfalls of up to 60 mm, while areas in the Eastern Cape had some relief with Port Elizabeth recording 27 mm, East London 30 mm and Stutterheim 48 mm.

Streets in Port Elizabeth were flooded yesterday as drains blocked.

But in the Transvaal — in spite of showers in Johannesburg last night — good soaking rains remain elusive and

today's forecast is cloudy and cool with scattered showers.

Bryanston recorded 7 mm yesterday, the Southern Suburbs of Johannesburg 6 mm and Melville 7 mm. Springs received 0,5 mm, Vereeniging 0,7 mm and Joubert Park 8,1 mm.

The picture is not completely bleak: the Weather Bureau has not ruled out the possibility of a break in the drought.

The Bureau says that the south-eastern areas of the Transvaal could enjoy good rains today while the wet weather is expected to continue in the Transkei and parts of the Cape.

Much of the rain yesterday provided little relief to drought-stricken towns.

Although Victoria West recorded 20 mm, the town's dam is still reported to be empty.

Drenching rains fell yesterday over the Eastern Transvaal, Free State and particularly the Northern Cape, according to a spokesman for the Weather Bureau. The areas which experienced the highest rainfall countrywide yesterday were:

Thabizimbi (Transvaal) 53 mm and Middelburg and Queenstown in the north-eastern Cape with 43 mm each.

Less prolific showers occurred over the Witwatersrand with Jan Smuts Airport recording 6,2 mm, Joubert Park 8,1 mm and Krugersdorp 7,5 mm.

In the Free State, Bloemfontein recorded 20 mm, Kroonstad 13 mm, Welkom 32 mm and Zastron 32 mm.

Good soaking rain has fallen over a large part of the province in the past two days, but has brought only slight relief.

But underground water levels in the Free State remain very low. At least 125 mm will have to fall to bring real relief.

Crop failure will cost SA dearly

By Harvey Thomas

A bleak warning that conditions in South Africa "are perfect for another maize crop failure" which could cost the country more than R1 billion was given today by the general manager of the National Maize Producers' Association, Dr Pieter Gouws.

Widespread rains which have fallen in many areas over the last 24 hours have not touched crucial agricultural regions. If it does not rain in the major maize producing regions in the next 10 days the countdown to a drought disaster will begin.

Speaking from Bothaville, headquarters of the association, Dr Gouws said that in the vital Western Transvaal, an area which produces 45 percent of South Africa's maize crop, so little rain had fallen that farm-

ers had planted about 40 percent of their normal annual crop.

"It is true that even last year, which was bad enough, we had much better growth conditions than we now have," said Dr Gouws.

He noted that 80 percent of South Africa's maize crop was grown in the Western Transvaal and the North-West Orange Free State. The rest came from the Eastern Transvaal and the Eastern Free State. "You can liken conditions to a cup," he said. "What usually happens is that in October/November enough rain falls in these areas to tide the farmers over the traditionally dry months of December and January.

"The next time the 'cup' is usually filled is in February/March."

But Dr Gouws said that this had not happened this year.

Aircraft damaged at Wonderboom

Fierce storms lash parched SA

By Sue Leeman,
Pretoria Bureau

STAR 17/12/84

3 general

Fierce storms whipped through many parts of the country this weekend, ripping up power lines and damaging crops but bringing good rains to many areas.

Some of the worst damage was at Pretoria's Wonderboom airport, where the worst windstorm in 15 years tore 19 aircraft from their moorings. There was extensive damage to planes and helicopters.

A spokesman for the Pretoria Weather Bureau said, however, that the windstorm had been very localised and recording apparatus in the centre of Pretoria had not picked up the devastating Wonderboom winds.

Power disruptions

The weekend thunderstorms over most of the Pretoria/Witwatersrand area caused several power disruptions and several buildings were flooded.

Exceptionally heavy thunderstorms and hail in the northern Drakensberg region of Natal caused serious damage to crops and places such as Vryheid had deluges of nearly 60 mm of rain.

Most parts of the Southern Cape were blacked out early this morning in the region's second power failure in less than a week.

A broad area stretching from Mossel Bay to Plettenberg Bay and reaching as far north as Oudtshoorn was without power.

Soaking rains

Parts of the parched Western Transvaal were also lashed by driving winds and rain but no damage has so far been reported.

Most areas of the country had good, soaking rains at some stage of the weekend, starting on Friday when Schagen in the Eastern Transvaal had 55 mm and 32 mm was recorded on some farms near Nelspruit.

On Saturday Thabazimbi had 61 mm and Warmbaths 53 mm while 45 mm fell in Zeerust.

Last night the Johannesburg suburb of Melville had 72 mm, while in Randburg 54 mm fell and Pretoria had 29 mm. Joubert Park recorded 21,8 mm.

The Weather Bureau spokesman said further thundershowers could be expected over most parts of the Transvaal, Orange Free State and Natal over the next few days. Other parts of the country would stay dry.

Johannesburg traffic was disrupted this morning following a heavy weekend rains which put several traffic lights out of action, causing snarl-ups at busy intersections, including some in Braamfontein, Bez Valley and Parktown. At least two traffic light poles were knocked down.

● A cloudburst during which 180 mm of rain fell caused chaos in the Hartbeespoort Dam area this weekend. Roads were washed away and walls collapsed.

At least 20 birds at the Animal Anti-Cruelty League's premises near Onderstepoort drowned in downpours.

The weekend weather also caused widespread power cuts in the Pretoria-Verwoerdburg areas, leaving residents in darkness for up to three hours.

Repairmen worked throughout yesterday clearing damaged aircraft from the aprons of Wonderboom Airport where 19 planes were damaged.

A Weather Bureau spokesman described the weather as normal thunderstorm activity.

Farmers face ruin in E Cape

Mail Correspondent
PORT ELIZABETH. — Hundreds of farmers from Alexandria to the Langkloof may be forced to abandon farming unless urgent Government assistance for the drought-stricken area is forthcoming.

In some areas the grain crop has dwindled to 10% of the normal yield, and in the Langkloof about 200 fruit farmers are facing their worst season in living memory.

These farmers, who represent about 75% of the fruit farmers in the Langkloof, will have to "pack up and sell out" if it does not rain before January, Mr O Crous, manager of the Langkloof Farmers' Co-op, said this week.

Mr Crous said vast damage had already been done,

and even if it did rain before January very little of the crop would be salvaged.

"The situation is critical, the farmers are desperate. Some 200 of them will have to sell out if relief does not come very soon," he said.

Mr J W Loubser, general manager of the Humansdorp Farmers' Co-op, said the grain crop in the Uitenhage region had dwindled to 10% of the normal 2 700 tons. The Humansdorp area has produced 9 500 of an expected 17 000 tons so far this season.

Mr C Brown, of the Paterson Farmers' Co-op, said 180 grain farmers in the Paterson and Alexandria areas had been severely hit by the drought. He said he expected a crop of only 12 000 tons, compared to the 26 000 tons reaped last year.

Thousands face a grim Christmas in

Namaqualana

Staff Reporter

THOUSANDS of Namaqualanders face a grim Christmas and uncertain New Year with little chance of work — a situation aggravated by the drought.

While the Red Cross and World Vision have poured money and resources into the area, research and aid organizations say the quality of life in Namaqualand can be improved only by major restructuring.

There are few roads, electricity has only recently been installed in some areas and many depend on scarce water schemes and on the depressed copper and diamond mining industry for work and housing. Wages, some about R5 a day, are dismally low and prices on average 20 percent higher than in Cape Town.

The Ochia Diamond Mine recently retrenched about 600 employees and a recent study by a UCT academic says employment in the Okiep Copper

Company fell from 5 102 in 1974 to 2 955 in 1982. The company retrenched more than 1 000 workers in the past year.

A National Union of Mineworkers organizer in the area, Mr Howard Gabriel, said the workers retrenched by Ochia Diamond Mine were given no severance pay.

A UCT researcher said: "Sometimes houses vacated by white employees have been left empty while coloured employees have been forced to squat."

The Okiep Copper Company has allowed some retrenched workers to stay if they built their own houses.

Researchers and community aid organizations say industry and government have seriously neglected Namaqualanders.

The Reverend Reginald Jacobus, of Okiep, said: "The government is mainly interested in making the bantustan system work to keep black people out of the towns. We feel that while they have spent much

money on the bantustans they have ignored Namaqualand."

A steering committee in Okiep is set to affiliate to the United Democratic Front.

"Namaqualand is very isolated and we think the UDF will allow us to meet people from other areas to discuss our problems and how to solve them," said Mr Jacobus. "But many people have been scared by security police action in the area. We see our problems as a result of the apartheid system."

The drought has made the situation worse. Many see farming as the one reliable source of subsistence in times of high unemployment.

But low rainfall and overpopulation have caused erosion and overgrazing. Without proper water supplies it is becoming difficult to live off the land.

Annual rainfall dropped from 206 mm in 1974 to 153 mm in 1982, with as little as 53.2 mm in 1979. Farmers who raised one sheep on every six hectares are now using 12 hectares per sheep.

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"Some people tried to plant grain last year but it was pointless because there was so little rain," said Mr Jacobus. "Many have been forced to collect the insides of animals from the abattoirs to eat."

"Wealthier farmers have gradually left the area, taking with them essential irrigation equipment. The Red Cross had a feeding scheme for more than 8 000 schoolchildren but cannot reach them during holidays."

However, feeding schemes are a short-term solution.

Mr Jan de Waal of World Vision says its projects aim to help communities become self-sufficient while recognizing that people facing starvation must be fed. Projects are initiated and controlled by the communities, with World Vision providing resources and skills.

Members of the community have called on the government and industry to take an interest in developing Namaqualand to improve the quality of life for its inhabitants.

Dam levels plummet and the rural drought remains unbroken

Hope fades as rainy season draws to close

STAR 28/12/84 3 General

By Andrew Beattie

South Africa's rural drought crisis grows worse by the day and, with only one month of the traditional rainy season left, strategic dam levels are plummeting alarmingly.

Vast areas of both the Transvaal and Free State remain parched and barren.

Mr Anton Steyn, a spokesman for the Department of Water Affairs, said that the Vaal Dam was only 19 percent full, compared with 40 percent at this time last year. Other dam levels had similarly fallen.

"The situation is deteriorating, to put it mildly. We are living on last year's water supply," he said.

December has been a disastrously dry month on the Highveld. According to the Rand Water Board, only a quarter of last year's December rainfall has fallen.

And the prospects of rain before the New Year are bleak.

"There are no general rainfall conditions building up and it is unlikely that there will be good rains before the New Year," a weather forecaster said.

Dry conditions

Dry, hot conditions over most of the country were expected to continue into the New Year, although there would be scattered thunderstorms strictly limited to the Eastern Transvaal over the next few days, he added.

Maize farmers in the Frankfort district of the Free State, where crops looked promising this year, were hit by unseasonal frost on Christmas Day. One estimated that he would lose R260 000 and that the frost-bitten plants would have little chance of recovery. One of the only positive aspects is that the Vaal Dam's main feeder, Sterkfontein Dam near Harrismith, is now more than three-quarters full (76,1 percent).

The latest RWB bulletin said that, for the first time, water consumers had achieved the 30 percent saving requested by the Government. The Rand saved 31,1 percent of its normal consumption. This was put down to the closing of factories and the holiday exodus.

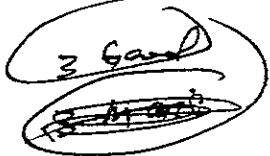
But the picture remains grim.

Total rainfall
The total rainfall for December up to December 24 — in the RWB's network of measuring stations is 50,5 mm (last December: 191 mm; long-term average for December: 125 mm). Bloemfontein Dam is still only 7,9 percent full. Total water content of the RWB dams is 30,9 percent (last week: 31,5; last year: 37,1).
So far this month in Joubert Park, central Johannesburg, only 52,3 mm of rain has fallen — just over one fifth of the total for December last year, which was 258,2 mm.
On a recent visit to the Free State, Mr Steyn said he observed that areas that had received as much as 80 mm over a few days had still received no run-off whatsoever.
The general manager of the Maize Board, Mr Henmie Nel, said it was vital that good rains fall in the traditional rainy month of January but added that farmers were also relying on good widespread rains right through until the end of February.

No rains for parched triangle

Vital maize belt is still in peril

STAR 18/12/84



Pretoria Bureau

A R1 100 million crop loss threatens the rain-starved western half of the maize triangle, where no significant falls have been recorded in the past 24 hours.

While relief from the drought seems to be on the way in most areas, the important western Transvaal maize belt remains largely parched by relentless heat.

This vital belt now faces its fourth crop failure in succession.

Deadline

The Western Transvaal, which is capable of producing three million tons of maize, will yield less than one million tons if it does not rain long and hard within the next couple of days.

The maize planting deadline came and went last weekend but, according to the Lichtenburg-based North-Western Co-operative, 30 percent of farmers have not been able to plant at all.

General rains have fallen in most parts of the Transvaal, although not as heavily as superficial observation would suggest.

Overcast skies over most of the Transvaal followed overnight rain in the Vereeniging, East and West Rand, Pretoria and central Johannesburg areas.

A Weather Bureau spokesman in Pretoria confirmed that light thunder-showers had fallen over most of the Transvaal.

Exact rainfall figures were unavailable but yesterday's showers were generally lighter than some of the storms last week and at the weekend.

The weather forecast today for the Transvaal is partly cloudy and warm with scattered thundershowers. Isolated showers are expected over the Eastern Transvaal.

The north-western Free State is the other high-risk maize-growing area where the drought has destroyed hopes of a reasonable crop. If it does not rain there before Christmas, another two million tons may be lost.

By contrast, the area east of the Bloemfontein-Johannesburg railway line is still safe. After widespread rains, the Eastern Transvaal Highveld and the Eastern Free State areas show good prospects for a normal crop of about four million tons.

Good wheat crop

Local co-ops said that a good wheat crop had just been harvested and there was ample soil moisture for this season's maize.

In Natal, only the northern part of the province's maize area is faring reasonably but there is not enough soil moisture. A crisis is just around the corner, according to Mr D G Macarthur, development manager of Natal Co-op in Dundee.

The crunch is likely to come in January and February, according to the general manager of the National Maize Growers' Organisation, Dr Pieter Gous.

Good rains then would enable South Africa to avoid maize imports.

SA's rural drought worsening

CARE Trans 29/12/84
36 General

JOHANNESBURG. — South Africa's rural drought crisis is worsening by the day and with only one month left of the traditional rainy season, strategic dam levels are plummeting while vast areas of the Transvaal and Free State remain parched and barren.

Bleak

Mr Anton Steyn, a spokesman for the Department of Water Affairs, said the Vaal Dam was only 19 percent full. This time last year it had been 40 percent full. Other dams were in a similar predicament. "The situation is deteriorating, to put it mildly. We are living on last year's water supply," he said.

December has been a

disastrously dry month on the Highveld so far. According to the Rand Water Board (RWB) only a quarter of the amount of last year's December rainfall has fallen.

And the prospects of rain before the new year are bleak.

"There are no general rainfall conditions building up and it is unlikely that there will be good rains before the new year," a weather forecaster said.

Dry, hot conditions over most of the country were expected to continue into the new year. Scattered thunder showers would be strictly limited to the Eastern Transvaal over the next few days, he said.

Frost

Maize farmers in the Frankfort district of the Free State whose crops looked promising this year were hit by unseasonal frost on Christmas Day. One estimated that he would lose R200 000.

One of the few bright aspects is that the Vaal Dam's main feeder, Sterkfontein Dam near Harrismith, is now over three quarters full (76,1 percent).

The latest RWB bulletin said that, for the first time, water consumers had achieved the 30 percent saving requested by the government. The Rand saved 31,1 percent of its normal consumption figure. The achievement has been put down to the closing of factories and the holiday exodus.

But the picture remains grim and the prospect of water restrictions being lifted is remote.

December

The total rainfall for December — up to December 24 — in the RWB's network of measuring stations is 50,5mm (last December: 191mm; long term average for December: 125mm). Bloemhof dam is still only 7,9 percent full. Total water content of the RWB dams is 30,9 percent (last week: 31,5; last year: 37,1).

Rainfall statistics from the Weather Bureau in Pretoria show that so far this month in Joubert Park, Central Johannesburg, only 52,3mm of rain has fallen — just over one fifth of the total for December last year, which was 258,2mm.

Similarly, Pretoria, Potchefstroom, Vereeniging, Bethal, Lydenberg, Kroonstad and Bethlehem have had far lower rainfall figures for the past three months than they had in the same period last year.