

ACRIBICULTURE - LABOUR

1986 → DEC .

Laws for domestic and farm workers unlikely this year

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

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

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

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

The NMC was instructed in 1982 to begin an inquiry into employ-

ment conditions for the two groups and the long delay in producing legislation has been strongly criticised and several questions have been asked in Parliament.

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

Mrs de Villiers said domestic workers were an important workforce making a significant contribution to a stable society.

"Having domestic workers allows many skilled and professional women to enter the economy," she said.

LABOUR

AKG 6/2/86

Farmworkers are abused — Labour

PETER FABRICIUS
Parliamentary Staff

4

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

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



Mr Petrus Meyer

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

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

Theology document a call to murder — MP

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

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

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

The document made God into a political God and talked of salvation in terms of freedom from political repression, not in terms of "what we know it as", a personal thing, he said.

The Government's reform initiatives were not mentioned in it at all.

The harshest criticism in the Kairos document was of what it called "State theology", citing among other things the "blasphemous use of God's name in the preamble to the new Constitution".

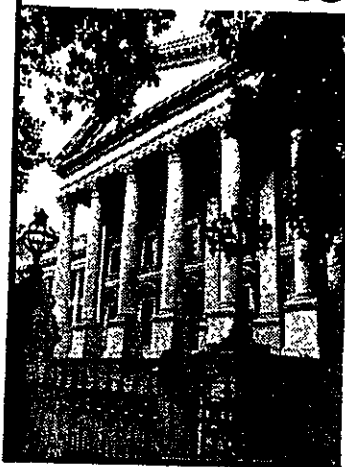
The document, in spite of its advocacy of violence, did however have at least one advantage: it forced people to search their own consciences: "It is so easy to say we were put here in



Mr J W Meiring, National Party MP for Paarl.

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

PARLIAMENT '86



Committee to settle dining row

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

The Speaker of Parliament, Mr Johan Greeff, convened the joint meeting to prevent the issue being "blown up into something of national and international proportions".

Mr Greeff appealed to MPs to observe the existing arrangements pending the decision of a joint meeting of the committees on Standing Rules and Orders of the three Houses.

He reiterated his claim that the refusal to serve coloured MPs had nothing to do with race or colour. It was designed to ensure privacy for Members of Parliament.

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

Solidarity MPs turn on NPP and their own leader

Political Staff
National People's Party (NPP) leader Mr Amichand Rajbansi was scathingly attacked by one of the rebel opposition MPs in the House of Delegates yesterday.

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

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

Mr Rajab said Mr Rajbansi should accept vicarious responsibility for the passing of apartheid laws. He (Mr Rajbansi) sat on the most powerful body in the country with the same Min-

isters who pushed through apartheid legislation, "caring not who was demeaned and who was hurt".

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

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

Mr Munsook denounced the FCI and Assocom as white capitalists who had never before worried about the plight of blacks.

"Suddenly everyone who never lifted a finger is on the bandwagon shouting 'change!'", he said.

Plan to protect farm workers

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

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

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

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

Mr Petrus Meyer (LP, Vredendal) told the House that neither farm workers nor domestics were defined as workers under the Manpower Act. — Political Staff.

- (1) Whether the Government has opened immigration offices in (a) India and (b) Pakistan; if so, (i) when and (ii) what is the cost involved; if not,

- (2) whether it is the intention to open such offices in these countries; if so, (a) when and (b) at what estimated cost?

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

- (1) (a) and (b) No. (i) and (ii) Fall away.

- (2) No. (a) and (b) Fall away.

Damage to school buildings

*18. Mr H D K VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

- (a) How many cases of damage to school buildings in Black residential areas occurred in the 1985 calendar year and (b) what is the estimated amount of the damage?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

- (a) At 294 schools damages occurred.

- (b) The damages are calculated at R7,8 million.

In several areas local Black communities have on their own initiative repaired damages due to the riots ranging from R324 up to R3 200.

To put the matter into more perspective it can be mentioned that damage of less than R50 occurred at 44 schools and damage of less than R10 000 at 153 schools.

At 17 schools buildings were totally destroyed. Of these schools 10 were destroyed in one outburst of violence at Duncan Village in East London, together with several churches, buildings and houses.

†Mr T LANGLEY: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, I would like to know why this information had

HoA

not been furnished to us in the form of a statement, a long time ago. [Interjections.]

Farm domestic workers

*19. Dr A L BORLINE asked the Minister of Manpower:

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 15 on 5 February 1985, the report of the National Manpower Commission on the working conditions of farm and domestic workers is available; if not, (a) why not and (b) when will it be available; if so, what were the findings of the Commission;

(2) whether any legislation is to be introduced as a result of these findings; if not, why not; if so, (a) what legislation and (b) when;

- (3) whether farm and domestic workers are to be brought within the ambit of the (a) Labour Relations Act, No 28 of 1956, and (b) Basic Conditions of Employment Act, No 3 of 1983; if not, why not; if so, when;

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

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER:

- (1) The report has been finalised but has not as yet been released.

(a) Consultation is already under way with organised agriculture on certain subject matters and will be extended to other people and organisations concerned in due course.

(b) The release of the report will be considered once the consultations have been concluded.

- (2) and (3) The introduction of legislative changes will depend on the comments and representations received.

- (4) Not at this stage.

Mr R M BURROWS: Mr Speaker, arising out of the reply given by the hon the Minister, is he conducting negotiations with the Domestic Workers' Association in connection with the working conditions of domestic workers? If not, why not?

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I have had interviews with the people concerned, and I am also prepared to conduct negotiations with them. As a matter of fact, Sir, I intend to invite them for further discussions. I hope that will satisfy the hon member for Pinetown.

Tobacco products: advertisements

*20. Mr A B WIDDMAN asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

- (1) Whether his Department has (a) made or (b) commissioned a study of the effects of smoking on the health of smokers and non-smokers; if not, why not; if so (i) when and (ii) what were the findings;

(2) whether he or his Department has (a) a policy and/or (b) reached an agreement with any tobacco companies regarding the advertising of tobacco products on radio and television; if so, (i) what is the nature of this policy and/or agreement and (ii) when was this policy formulated and/or agreement reached; if not, why not;

(3) whether he intends taking any action with regard to the advertising of tobacco products on radio and television; if not, why not; if so, (a) what action and (b) when;

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

†The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

- (1) No. The effects of smoking on health of smokers and non-smokers are well documented.

- (2) (a) and (b) Yes.

(i) A code of practice for tobacco product advertising was drawn up by the Department of National Health and Population Development in conjunction with the Advertising Standards Authority and the tobacco industry to ensure control over the advertising of tobacco products. Essentially the code is that advertising should:

- (a) not to be directed towards increasing number of smokers.
- (b) not be directed at youth.
- (c) conform to certain norms.
- (ii) 23 November 1979.

(3) (a) and (b) Advertising on radio and television must conform to code.

(4) (i) In reaction to a request initiated by the Cabinet, the SABC and cigarette manufacturers have agreed to cease the use of the senders of Radio Suid-Afrika and Radio South-Africa for all cigarette flashes, as from 23/1/86.

(ii) On Friday 7 February 1986 I also issued the following press statement:

Pursuant to a request made by me, the local cigarette manufacturers have agreed to print a health notice on all packets containing cigarettes manufactured by them. The notice will appear as from October 1986.

The notice will be

SMOKING IS A HEALTH RISK — ROOK IS 'N GESONDHEIDSRISEKO

HoA

Marketing Act essential, says farmers' union

Mercury Reporter

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

Mr Savel was speaking at the 1986 annual meeting of the Natal Commercial Poultry Producers' Association (NCCPA), which was held at the Royal Hotel, Durban.

'Specific schemes can, however, be adjusted as circumstances may demand and according to the demands of the time, provided that it is done in consultation with the pro-

ducers concerned,' Mr Savel continued.

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

Promote

'In this respect the Marketing Act provides an excellent framework within which the various commodity branches can be given the necessary support with a minimum of regulations.'

Mr Savel said the Marketing Act did not exist solely to promote the producer's interests, but also to promote and protect the interests of the consumer.

'The truth of this assertion is supported by the fact that control boards are not composed out of producers only, but include consumers, processors and distributors,' he said.

Ammunition

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

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

'I urge you therefore to use the ammunition at your

disposal, your inherent efficiency, your marketing ability, know your costs of production and distribution, get involved in the decision-making process of your industry,' Mr Barnsley said.

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

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

'But it is not possible to say definitely if prices will drop because the lower petrol price was only announced on Wednesday,' Mr Barnsley said.

Mercury
Barnsley
2/2/86

ARGUS 4/3/86 (4)

Worker dies after attack by 'upset' bull

Staff Reporter

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

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

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

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

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

After the incident Mr Mayika walked to the farmhouse and was taken to Stellenbosch Hospital. He was transferred to Tygerberg Hospital.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(a) On 31 December 1985 farmers were indebted to the Land Bank for the total amount of R2 275 166 507 under long-, intermediate- and short-term loans.

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

Land and Agricultural Bank

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

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

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(a) 6.

(b) 6.

Own Affairs:

631
 Agricultural colleges
 18/3/86
 HANSWAD
 21. Mr R W HARDINGHAM asked the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply:

In respect of each specified agricultural college in the Republic in each of the latest specified three years for which figures are available, how many students (a) applied for admission, (b) completed the course and (c) obtained their diplomas?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

Agricultural College	Year	(a)	(b)	(c)
Grootfontein	1983	95	45	44
	1984	105	43	42
	1985	106	43	43
Potchefstroom	1983	128	64	64
	1984	163	47	47
	1985	163	52	52

Eisenburg	1983	230	76
	1984	203	78
	1985	201	80
Glen	1983	149	54
	1984	152	55
	1985	151	50
Cedara	1983	168	70
	1984	167	46
	1985	166	44

Subsidies for fencing

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

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

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

	1984/85	1985/86*
Highveld Region	13 208	27 437
Karoo Region	105 394	77 819
Natal Region	8 379	15 459
Eastern Cape Region	38 226	50 104
Free State Region	152 271	173 453
Transvaal Region	55 349	56 146
Winter Rainfall Region	14 064	17 148

Figures per province not available.

*Provisional figure.

18/3/86
 HANSWAD
 Housing loans for farm labourers
 23. Mr P A MYBURGH asked the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply:

(1) How many farmers in (a) the Greater Western Cape area, (b) the remainder of the Cape Province, (c) the Orange Free State, (d) the Transvaal and (e) Natal applied for housing loans for farm labourers in 1985;

(2) (a) how many of the applications in each area were granted and (b) what was the total amount granted in (i) each area and (ii) the Republic as a whole?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

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

Drought relief: financial assistance

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

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

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

R275 474 754 (1 April 1985-31 January 1986).

White-owned farms
 19/3/86
 HANSWAD
 42. Mr M A FARR asked the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply:

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

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

No such statistics are being kept.
 18/3/86
 Farm labourers: amount allocated
 HANSWAD
 44. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply:

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 AND WATER SUPPLY:

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

WEDNESDAY, 19 MARCH 1986

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General affairs:
 19/3/86
 HANSWAD
 Internal Security Act Detainees
 634
 39. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Law and Order:

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

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

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

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

(b) Section 50(1) of the Internal Security Act, 1982 (Act 74 of 1982)

Govt accused of delaying farm report in fear of white backlash

Political Reporter

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

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

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

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

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

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

21/3/85
"This is a long time for an investigation, and I am told that the report of the commission is with the Minister."

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

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

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

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

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

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

The time for the debate expired and the motion lapsed.

**Consolidated
Limited**

**Development and
Corporation Limited**

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

Announcement

Agreement concluded between Freddie's and President Brand (a wholly owned subsidiary of Freegold) in respect of a mining lease No. 324, Ventersburg district, Orange Free State.

President Brand over the Area has now been granted for the joint exploitation of the Area, which includes Basal and Leader reefs in the north and the south.

Agreement for a mining lease over the Area and for the Area to be mined as an extension of the Area.

Freegold will receive 55% and 45% respectively of the net cost of the Area and of the profits earned from such exploitation in the same proportion.

The agreement was entered into unilaterally by President Brand, and Freddie's will receive 55% of its share of such profits.

The agreement is currently being drawn up.

The agreement will have any significant effect on the Area before 1990.

Free State Development and
Investment Corporation Limited
Consolidated Building, Fox and Harrison Streets
Johannesburg
2001

B. D. M. (circled)
21/3/85
**Machines
threat
to farm
workers**

EBRAHIM MOOSA
Political Reporter

MANPOWER Minister Pietie du Plessis said yesterday in the House of Delegates he feared that mechanisation in the agricultural sector would result in about 1-million farm workers losing their jobs.

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

Du Plessis was speaking during a Private Member's Motion in the House of Delegates which called for farm workers to be brought under the ambit of existing legislation.

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

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

Du Plessis blamed the "advocates of disinvestment and boycotts" for the growing unemployment, which he said would result in regional destabilisation as many of the workers in this country were from neighbouring black states.

Du Plessis said he was in favour of extending the scope of the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) to farm workers.

CAMF Tent
2/3/86 (4)

Mechanization 'threat to farm labourers'

Political Reporter

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

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

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

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

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

Mr Du Plessis blamed the "advocates of disinvestment and boycotts" for the growing unemployment which he said would result in regional destabilization as many of the workers in this country were from neighbouring black states.

Farm-housing loans *Cont Times 25/3/86* (4)
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. — The loan scheme for farm workers' housing would be reactivated from April 1, Mr De Klerk said. The loan scheme had of necessity been abolished in 1984 and this had led to a great backlog. The Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply, Mr Sarel Hayward, would give further details during debate on the Budget.

U.C. Printing Services
11 St Mitchell's Road
Observatory
Tel 471451

4

Govt provides R1,5 m for security of farmers

25/3/86
2-1-1986
B. Farmers

Parliamentary
Correspondent

THE Government is to provide a new subsidy and loans, totalling R1 500 000, during the current financial year for the security of farmers in 'designated areas'.

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

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

A further R24,5 million has been budgeted for 'designated areas' compared with R12,8 million provided for this purpose during the 1985/6 financial year.

No details of the new amounts were provided in the estimates but they are

expected to be devoted to improving the security of farmers living in areas such as the Northern Transvaal where a number of landmine explosions have taken place recently.

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

Another new item in the vote is R550 000 for farm labourers housing.

N. M. M. C. U. U.

3/20.
STAR

4 men die in violent Boland weekend

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

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

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

Mr Stemmet Brown (28), of the farm Dondora, Paarl, died of stab wounds late on Friday night. A 19-year-old man has been arrested.

On Saturday morning Mr Adam Appolis (23) died of stab wounds sustained in a fight on the farm Spioenkop in the Montagu district. A man has been taken into custody.

Mr Johan Volmoer (23) died in a similar incident on the farm Hoogland in the Zeerust district that night. A man and a woman are in police custody.

Two people died in the Zeerust district after drinking wine from a coldrink bottle which had apparently previously contained poison.

A police spokesman said Mr Gert Kalmeyer (44) and Mr Petrus Muller (38), of the farm Die Vlakte, were given their usual quota of wine by the owner of the farm. The men apparently poured the wine into a coldrink bottle. Sapa.

Nowhere to live for families

Own Correspondent

MARITZBURG. — Thirty-four families due to be evicted from a farm adjoining the Hlobane mine near Vryheid today have no alternative place to live, according to the Association For Rural Advancement (AFRA).

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

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

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

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

Cape Times 10/4/86 (4)

'Revolution' on Karoo farm

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

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

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

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

Pay tribute

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

Many people visited Mr Kingwill's farm to see and pay tribute to what he and his workers had done. They include Salope Thema, first editor of the *World* newspaper, Soweto ac-

ready for work. I gave the orders. I expected instant obedience, no arguments."

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

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

'Dictatorial ways'

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

Many changes followed.

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

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

MARIANNE THAMM



The Rev Willem-Jan van der Laag, producer of *Promise of the Veld*.

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

ZB MOLEFE

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

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

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

The IUF welcomed the

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

The organisation slammed attempts to "combat the growth of representative, democratic and non-racial trade unions by or-

ganisations such as the Inkatha movement".

The IUF accused Inkatha president and KwaZulu Chief Minister Gatsha Buthelezi of "seeking to substitute loyalty to tribal politics and to his personal leadership for the loyalty each worker owes to his class and to the labour movement as a whole".

The recent violence against trade unionists also came under fire from the IUF: "We also note with anger and horror the reports of assassinations, torture and imprisonment of unionists and democratic activists in the so-called 'homelands' of Transkei, Ciskei and most recently Bophuthatswana," it said.

'Step up the pressure against SA'

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

The International Union of Food and Allied Workers' Union, which met in

Geneva recently, accused governments which were encouraging investment in SA of "complicity in the crisis facing South Africa".

The IUF also condemned the "uneven response" from some South African trade unions to calls for interna-

tional action against apartheid.

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



Farmer killed children

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

Gideon Benjamin van der Watt, of Ver-eeniging, ran the children down with his bak-kie on his farm.

Mr Justice F C Kirk-Cohen ordered the sen-

tences to run concur-rently and suspended half of the sentence for five years because of Van der Watt's age and ill health. This means he will serve 2½ years.

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

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

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

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

Advocate slams labour rulings

STAR
23/4/86

Sheryl Raines

A leading labour advocate has called on the legal profession to take a stand against the exclusion of many categories of workers from the benefits of the Labour Relations Act.

Mr Tim Trollip last night made the appeal during an address to the Friends of the Law School at the University of the Witwatersrand.

He said farm labourers, domestic servants, many State employees and others were currently excluded from the ambit of the Labour Relations Act (LRA).

"The State has essentially chosen to place itself above the law. However, neither the State nor we as a society will escape the power implications of so large a segment of our country's labour force," Mr Trollip said.

He said Section 2 (2) of the LRA provided that the act did not apply to persons employed by the State.

The Wiehahn Commission report had recommended that collective bargaining rights be extended to public sector employees and that compulsory arbitration be substituted for the right to strike in the public sector. So far nothing had been done to extend these rights to Government and provincial employees.

POWER DYNAMICS

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

"Good lawyers concern themselves as much with power as the law," he said. "Lesser lawyers, or perhaps lawyers badly instructed by clients rush off to courts for ex parte interdicts to stop workers burning down factories or to evict sit-in strikers."

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

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

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

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

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

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

"For them the challenge must be to endeavour to understand issues from the perspective of labour and to come to impartial judgment," Mr Trollip said.

Man dies in fight with farm workers

ARG 92
25/4/86
4

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

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

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

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

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

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

Another fight developed, a shot was fired and Mr van Niekerk was stabbed and beaten to death. — Sapa.

'Boost for rural development'

WJH
2/20
4

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

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

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

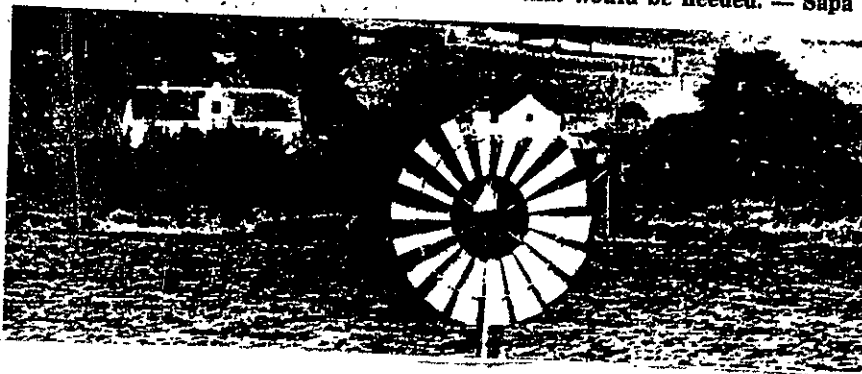
This development would be accompanied by a demand for agricultural

products.

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

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

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



17/1/90
Hunt for
farmworker 4

Crime Reporter

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

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

Colonel Eddie Snyman, police liaison officer for the South Western Districts, said there was an argument at Jouberts-kop, Laingsburg, about 5pm on Friday between the worker and Mr Andrew Erasmus.

(20) (4) (206) (206)
AFTER INFLUX CONTROL

FIN. MAIL 10/5/86 How blacks see it

The abolition of influx control is unlikely to result in greatly increased workseeker migrations to the urban areas — in the present economic climate, at any rate.

Unemployed blacks roaming the streets in Johannesburg believe that country people who would want to come to the towns to seek work — now that the pass laws no longer apply — will be discouraged by the fact that jobs are not available.

It will be interesting to see what impact the new deal will have on black farmworkers (and the agricultural sector). Traditionally among the lowest paid, they now have the freedom of movement to seek better prospects in the city. This would seem to place them in a much better position to extract higher wages in a sector where unionisation is currently the subject of an investigation by the National Manpower Commission.

The *FM* spoke to some urban unemployed blacks. They say fellow blacks in the homelands will know, mainly from the radio, that influx control is dead. But this will not make much difference to them because they already know there are no jobs in the towns. If jobs, but no accommodation, were available, workseekers, particularly those with relatives and friends in the townships, would turn up in large numbers, they claim.

Ordinarily, blacks loathe staying in the "kitchens," they point out. However, circumstances often force them to do so, living with friends in domestic service.

A number of factors have caused the plight of the folk wandering through the streets in search of casual labour, but with nowhere either to sleep or eat. Some are victims of the economic recession, people who say they became jobless when the companies for which they worked unexpectedly closed down, or retrenched workers. Others have been frustrated by old-style pass law measures forbidding them to take up jobs on the basis that they did not qualify to work in the city.

Matome Lekala is a 40-year-old father of five from Zandfontein, west of Pietersburg in the northern Transvaal. Lekala, now one of the "street people," was once a happy, proud worker. For six years, he tells the *FM*, he worked for a car dealer in Jeppe while staying at George Goch Hostel.

"But about two years ago, we were told by our employer that there was no longer any work for us. The firm was closing down. It was the beginning of my troubles. My family had depended on my earnings for a living,

now I no longer had any job nor could I find another," Lekala says.

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

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

Farm workers 'defenceless'

CAP Times 13/2/88 4

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

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

Strike

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

Mr Poole said existing labour laws did not protect farm workers

against victimization nor were they allowed to participate in a legal strike.

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

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

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

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

Conventions

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

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

necessary amendments.

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

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

Contract

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

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

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

The motion was carried by a majority vote.

	(b)	(c)	(d)
West Rand Area Development Board	648,82	Government Printer	
Western Cape Area Development Board	690,85	Government Printer	
Western Transvaal Area Development Board	676,96	Hoofstadpers Ltd (trading as Aurora Printers)	
Northern Transvaal Area Development Board	552,60	Government Printer	
Northern Cape Area Development Board	762,83	Hoofstadpers Ltd (trading as Aurora Printers)	
Oranje Vaal Area Development Board	789,15	Hoofstadpers Ltd (trading as Aurora Printers)	
Owagwa Government	4 029,13	Government Printer	
Lebowa Government	10 533,15	CTP Book Printers (Pty) Ltd	
KwaZulu Government	2 804,35	Government Printer	
KaNgwane Government	3 446,31	Government Printer	
Gazankulu Government	3 755,84	Government Printer	
KwaNdebele Government	8 355,53	CTP Book Printers (Pty) Ltd	

FRIDAY, 30 MAY 1986

Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs: 2075 2076
Ruacana hydro-electric scheme
MR STOFBERG
 842. Mr L F STOFBERG asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs:

- (1) (a)(i) What amounts have been invested in or spent on the Ruacana hydro-electric scheme by the State, State institutions and other local institutions with the permission of the State and (ii) in respect of what specified period is this information furnished, (b) what percentage of the total investment in the said scheme do these amounts represent, (c)(i) in what manner are these amounts being repaid and (ii) what amount has been repaid;

(2) (a) how much electricity has been supplied by this scheme in each year since it was put into operation and (b) what was the planned supply in respect of each such year;

(3) at what price was this electricity supplied in each of these years?

THE MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS:

- (1) (a) (i) R251 million.
 (ii) 1964 to 1978.
 (b) 54,1%.
- (c) (i) No final agreement has as yet been reached regarding the manner in which the amount will be repaid, negotiations between the parties concerned are, however, being proceeded with.
 (ii) Falls away.

(2) (a)	Thousand kWh	(1) No. At this stage it is not possible to say when the consultations will be completed, as the agricultural sector is a very large and diversified one and quite a number of bodies have to be conferred with.
1980/1981	454 116	
1981/1982	547 124	
1982/1983	865 000	
1983/1984	1 259 891	
1984/1985	1 463 831	
1985/1986 (9 months)	743 413	

(b) The planned supply is estimated at 1 000 million kWh.

(3) Average price of electricity prices at an average load factor of 70 per cent:

Apr 1978 to Feb 1980—3,82 c/kWh
 March 1980 to March 1981—4,32 c/kWh
 Apr 1981 to March 1983—4,87 c/kWh
 Apr 1983 to Aug 1983—5,14 c/kWh
 Sept 1984 to Jun 1986—4,73 c/kWh
 Jul 1986—5,39 c/kWh

(2) (a) Consultations have not yet been completed.
 (b) The release of the report will be considered in the light of the progress which is made with talks with organised agriculture in particular.

(3) Yes.

(a) Consultations with various interested parties.
 (b) Consultations are at present under way.

Qwen 2077
Farm/domestic workers
MR P H P GASTROW
 1043. Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower:

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 19 on 11 February 1986, consultations concerning the report of the National Manpower Commission on the working conditions of farm and domestic workers have been completed; if not, when is it anticipated that they will be completed; if so, (a) when and (b) what organisations and persons were consulted in this regard;
- (2) whether the report has been released; if so, when; if not, (a) why not and (b) when will it be released;
- (3) whether any action is to be taken in connection with the findings of the Commission on this matter; if not, why not; if so (a) what action and (b) when?

THE MINISTER OF MANPOWER:

1069. Mr W V RAW asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:
- (1) (a) How many aircraft of each type were purchased by the South African Airways in each of the latest specified five years for which figures are available and (b) at what price in each case;
- (2) (a)(i) how many aircraft of each type were sold in each of the above-mentioned years and (ii) at what price in each case and (b) what was the (i)

Aircraft

and I think the hon member also knows the law on that aspect. I can see no possibility that that part of the system will be changed. That is how it is done classically and it is also fair to do it in that way.

Q. 2095
DR M S BARNARD asked the Minister of Agricultural Economics:

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 761 on 7 May 1986, a decision has been taken regarding the application to extend the use of the chemical daminozide in the Republic; if not, when is it anticipated that a decision will be taken; if so, what was the decision;
- (2) whether any countries have (a) prohibited the use of this chemical and/or (b) found it to be harmful to human beings; if so, (i) which countries and (ii) when in each case;
- (3) whether his Department took any steps to collect data on the effects of daminozide on human beings prior to purchasing this chemical for use in the Republic; if not, why not; if so, (a) what steps, (b) when and (c) with what result;
- (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:

- (1) No, the Interdepartmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Man against Poisonous Substances (INDAK) will have further discussions on this matter on 9 June 1986.
- (2) No.
- (3) The Department does not purchase the chemical. The Registrar of Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies obtained all the relevant information before he granted the original registration of the chemical.
- (4) No.

HoA

Chemical daminozide

*5. Dr M S BARNARD asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

- (1) Whether this Department received a request from the Interdepartmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Man Against Poisonous Substances for a toxicological evaluation of the chemical daminozide; if so, (a) when and (b) what progress has been made in this evaluation;
- (2) whether an evaluation report has been (a) completed and (b) made available to the above committee; if not, when is it anticipated that it will be completed; if so, (i) when in each case and (ii) what were the findings concerning this chemical;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

- (1) Yes
 - (a) 6 December 1985.
 - (b) The chemical has now been evaluated after additional information was received from the Interdepartmental Committee on 23 April 1986.
- (2) (a) Yes.
 - (b) Yes.
- (i) 23 April 1986 in each case.
- (ii) The report is confidential and has a direct bearing on an application which has been made to the Registrar of Fertilizers Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies, and which is at present being considered by him.

I am not prepared to disclose any information which the Registrar is by law precluded from giving.

31/7/86 Q. 2097
HANS VREDE Small claims courts
*6. Mr P R ROGERS asked the Minister of Justice:

- (1) (a) How many persons applied for cases to be heard in the small claims court in the magisterial district of Cape Town in the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available and (b) from which magisterial districts were these applications received;
- (2) whether any applications were turned down; if so, (a) for what reasons and (b) which magisterial districts were involved;
- (3) whether he intends establishing a small claims court in the magisterial district of Wynberg; if not, why not; if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

- (1) The information which I furnish is for the period 1 February 1986, the date on which the Small Claims Court was established, to 30 April 1986.
 - (a) 558 persons.
 - (b) The Cape, Wynberg, Goodwood, Bellville, Simonstown, Somerset-West, Malmesbury, Stellenbosch and Knuts River.
- (2) Yes.

(3) No. I recently introduced legislation to amend the Small Claims Courts Act, 1984 (Act 61 of 1984) so as to enable me to establish a court for more than one magisterial district. After promulgation of the amendment it will be possible to extend the area of jurisdiction of the court at Cape Town to include amongst others the magisterial district of Wynberg. It would also be possible to establish individual courts.

31/7/86 Q. 2098
HANS VREDE Immaculata High School
*7. Mr P SOAL asked the Minister of Defence:

- (1) Whether any members of the South African Defence Force took any action at the Immaculata High School in Diepkloof, Soweto, on or about 14 May 1986; if so, (a) what action, (b) why, (c) who authorised this action and (d) what was the rank of the officer in command;
- (2) whether any items were (a) damaged and (b) removed from the school during this action; if so, (i) what specified items and (ii) why;
- (3) whether any teargas was fired on the school premises; if so, (a) where and (b) why;
- (4) whether any persons were detained on this occasion; if so, (a) how many and (b) why;
- (5) whether this was a joint operation with the South African Police; if so, (a) why and (b) what was the rank of the officer in command of the operation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (1) Yes. On two occasions.
 - (a) A combined SA Defence Force and SA Police cordon and
- On 14 May 1986.

HoA

Steelpoort farms cutting back on black labourers

27/5/86 STAR 333

4

By Hannes de Wet

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

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

"I have already invested in machine-

ry and made other arrangements to switch from farming peanuts and corn to cattle," he said.

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

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

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

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

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

NO COMPLAINTS

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

"Our own workers told us that."

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

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

"In any event, I know of other spots in the country where black workers are being paid much less than in Steelpoort," Mrs van der Berg said.

Pedis in standoff with farmers

SOPHIE TEMA

POOR wages, brutality and ill-treatment lie at the root of simmering conflict between blacks living along the border of Sekukhune and nearby Steelpoort farmers.

This week, blacks angrily spoke of the "shabby manner" in which farmers treated their labourers, allegedly paying them a wage of R26 a month.

And farmers spoke of a fast developing war between them and blacks in the area caused by what they termed "gominunist agitators".

Lebowa police chief Col Phillip Moloto said he had received no reports from farmers and only got such information from newspaper articles.

The farmers claimed the "agitators" were United Democratic Front (UDF) members from Lebowa who demanded a R1 000 a year "ANC pass" from the farmers to allow them to enter the homeland safely.

They said the security situation

was volatile and threatened to drive them off their land.

The farmers said they had become easy prey to raiding "radical communist agitators" who regularly crossed the border on sabotage sorties.

But Boskloof and Malekane villagers, all Pedis, said the misunderstanding between the farmers and their workers had nothing to do with politics "but had more to do with the attitudes of the farmers".

They said the farmers were settled in the area which was previously the royal kraal of Chief Sekukhune the Great — while black people had been resettled elsewhere.

The villagers said: "We do not deny that there are 'rebellious' youths in Lebowa who are opposed to the homeland and the government's policies, but we deny that they had anything to do with us and the farmers. "We have been working for these

farmers for many years. They paid us poverty wages and we dared not ever ask for an increase.

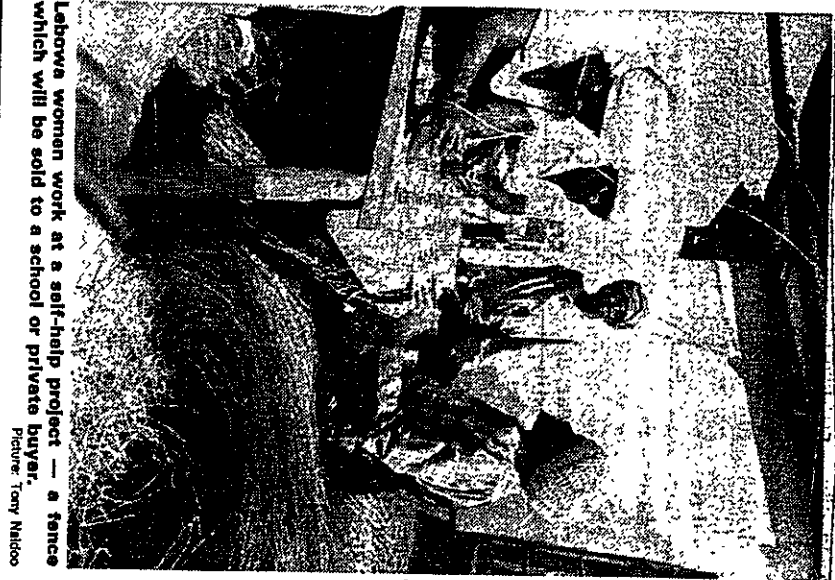
"Some of us have also been brutally assaulted and sometimes humiliated. For fear that we would lose our jobs, we never reported these incidents to the police.

"But we realised that the longer we worked for the farmers the greater advantage they took of us. And when unrest broke out in Sekukhune, we were threatened by the youths — some of them our own children — for allowing ourselves to be used by the farmers."

The villagers said that if farmers had been harassed by gangs, the police would have acted immediately if such incidents had been reported to them.

And although farmers claimed blacks were being incited by the African National Congress and the UDF, villagers barely knew of the two groups' existence.

They said the brutal treatment they received from farmers was solely responsible for the prevailing problems.



Lebowa women work at a self-help project — a fence which will be sold to a school or private buyer. Picture: Tony Naidoo

Bus DAY. 6/6/86



Convict farm labour crisis

THE phasing-out of convict farm labour from September, recently announced by government, has plunged farmers in the Berg River Valley into crisis.

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

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

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

It would cost many thousands of rand to replace these labourers, and the move

comes on top of the poor crops harvested after unfavourable weather conditions.

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

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

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

Farmers had built the prison outposts and maintained them with their own funds, he said. — Sapa.

11/6/78

11/6/78

11/6/78

Prison labour on farms on way out

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

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

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

A government spokesman says Australia

Own Correspondent

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

The spokesman says only about 4% of farmers are still using prison labour.

Worker camps planned for rural areas

Prison labour on farms to stop

16/6/86.
SMBL
4

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

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

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

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

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

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

The decision to act now was prompted by pressure from im-

porters overseas.

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

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

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

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

NO RIGHTS

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

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

The Minister of Agriculture, Sarel Hayward, believes there are "many merits" in proposals

that "areas be created where workers can live as a group to enable farmers 'to draw' labour".

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

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

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

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

Farmers hope that the date for the scrapping of prison labour will be extended. If not, they want money from the Government to assist with the change.

t and Politics

Durr: ^{CAF-Trans} ^{18/6/86} Use of tot system (4) 'illegal' (10)

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

It was illegal to use liquor, the so-called tot system, in the place of wages, the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr Kent Durr, said yesterday while replying to a question from Mr Graham McIntosh (PFP Maritzburg North).

Mr Durr said his department had not received any representations or complaints regarding the supply of liquor to employees as part or in lieu of their wages or remuneration.

Mr McIntosh asked Mr Durr whether he was not aware of the use of the tot system on Western Cape farms and whether he believed the law should protect these people.

Mr Durr replied that it was illegal to give workers liquor in lieu of wages.

"As far as I am aware the department has not received any complaints," he said.

However, the Liquor Act was being completely rewritten and Mr McIntosh was welcome to make recommendations.

o courts

the termination, combating and prevention of public disturbances.

"There can be no doubt whatsoever that the Internal Security Amendment Bill put the individual citizen at the mercy of the executive and denies him effective access to the courts with which to protect his basic freedom as a citizen," Mrs Suzman said.

Mr. T. J. 246/86
Farm worker electrocuted

Staff Reporter *(4)* *(12)*

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

A Boland police spokesman, Major Frank Alton, said yesterday that Ms Lena Jantjies, 28, who lived and worked on the farm De Glebe, near Piketberg, had been cleaning the dairy when she died.

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

Police are investigating.

NOTICE *

effect from 30th
1986 our Circulation
Department will have a
telephone number.

No. 51 0003

at the times

Lack of funds stops farm job scheme

20/7/81
4

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

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

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

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

It is not known at this stage whether the scheme will be resumed. — DDC

Cape Times 17/7/86

'Communication unchanged' (4)

Political Reporter

MANY wine farmers in the Stellenbosch area still communicated with their labourers in the same manner as they did at the turn of the century, long after slavery was abolished, says a researcher at the University of Cape Town, Ms Pam Scully.

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

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

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

Today farm labourers were still not protected by legislation governing industrial relations and were subjected to the Masters and Servants Act of 1856.

Several papers dealing with the historical aspects of the Western Cape focused on the continuity of trends from the colonial to the post-colonial period.

Mr V Bickford Smith of UCT's history department, in his paper "Cape Town's dominant class and the search for order 1891-1902", described this class as "ordering their society according to the criteria of race and respectability".

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

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

DP 19/7/86

Unions for farm workers — MP

Dispatch Reporter

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

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

Mr Moorcroft said: "I believe the report is now before the South African Agricultural Union for comment." He believed it was not favourable to farmers.

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

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

Mr Moorcroft suggested that farmers draw up a code in co-operation with responsible farm workers.

ECAU: farmers should prepare for trade unions

DAILY DISPATCH
4/7/86
4

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The council supported the following decisions taken at the meeting:

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

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

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

It was also revealed at the meeting that the R15 million allocated for job creation for the period 1986-87 had been exhausted by the middle of May.

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

resolved that representations be made to the government requesting that the allocation of funds to agriculture be explained and that additional funds be made available for agricultural job creation.

The council felt that agriculture was in a better position than local authorities to appropriate the funds productively and cost-effectively for certain projects.

The council felt that agriculture should, to a greater degree, be involved in the planning and allocation of funds.

Smaller municipalities, the meeting heard, received up to R1,5 million for this purpose while agriculture received only R75 000 for the entire Transvaal region.

The general council

The Treaty of Louwsburg

Sunday Times

(4) 3/8/86 Farmers and black farmworkers in a conservative district — which is reported to be an ANC entry route into South Africa — have joined together in a rare pact which aims to settle grievances between the communities.

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

The Ngotshe co-operation agreement will be signed this week by the Louwsburg Farmers' Association and their mainly Inkatha-supporting workers.

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

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

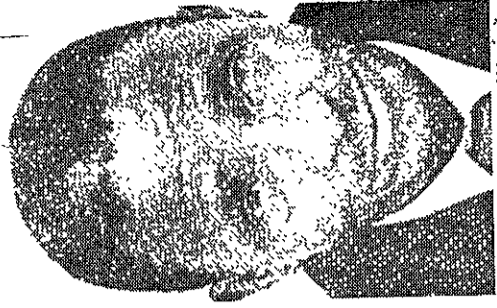
It all began when black community leader David Masuku visited the chairman of the Louwsburg Farmers' Association, Tjaart van Rensburg, early this year.

"I have been the induna of the Louwsburg township since 1968. Last year, while I was working for a trade union in Durban, a group of men from the Ngotshe area came to see me to ask if I would become their spokesman and take their grievances to the white farmers," said Mr Masuku.

Chiefs

The major problem for blacks in the area was that since the late '60s farmers had been forcing Zulu families to leave their land. They had nowhere to go and Kwa-Zulu would not accept them.

"They were black people who had been born in Louwsburg and whose fathers and grandfathers had lived there. Even some of the chiefs were told to go and there was nobody to speak for them," Mr Masuku said.



DAVID MASUKU
The middle-man

Farmers and their black workers join hands in historic peace pact

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

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

"We have different cultures attitudes and ways of thinking. If you don't communicate you won't understand.

"Mr Masuku was born and grew up in Louwsburg. I too was born in Louwsburg. My grandfather originally started this farm. Mr Masuku and I have known each other all our lives — but we never really communicated with each other.

Friends

"Now I can say that we are good friends working towards the same objectives," said Mr van Rensburg.

The farmers of Louwsburg built a new sports ground

after a complaint that there was nowhere to play sport. They're also working on providing more facilities in the town and improving the standard of schools.

"The people have said they want more land for housing and we're looking into that," said Mr van Rensburg.

Blessing

As part of the pact, Mr Masuku will be employed full-time to deal with grievances and problems which arise. His salary and office rent will be paid out of a fund to which both the farmers and the workers will contribute.

"One can feel the change in the area. I am so glad this has happened. It is like a blessing from Heaven that all has gone so well," Mr van Rensburg said.

Mr Masuku agreed: "There is a lot of bitterness among black people about past wrongs. But we must look forward, not backwards. We must negotiate and work with the white farmers."

By DENYSE ARMOUR

afraid. He did not want to approach the white farmers. But after some thought and prayer, he accepted the task.

"I said to them that we black people had been born in Louwsburg like them, but we were being chased from our land. I suggested looking for some land for people to move to when they had to leave the farms.

Happy

"Mr van Rensburg went to speak to the other farmers and they agreed. Even the three chiefs who had left the area would be allowed to come back," Mr Masuku said.

Mr van Rensburg is also happy about the arrangement, and has put in a lot of hard work over the past three months persuading farmers to back the scheme.

"We are a conservative community and it wasn't easy. But now I'd say we have about 90 percent support from both sides," he said.

Farm workers are stranded

ABOUT 90 Food Beverage Workers' Union members fired by Vaal-based National Poultry after a strike recently, are "holed up" in the union's offices — homeless and out of work.

The workers were dismissed after they went on strike in protest against the dismissal of four fellow workers. They were also evicted from a farm owned by the company on the outskirts of Meyerton.

By LEN MASEKO
Labour Reporter

The dispute has resulted in the disruption of schooling for the workers' children, who attended school at the farm.

The manager of the company, Mr Bill Smith, said the workers were dismissed after a work stoppage during which the workers damaged thousands of rands worth of property. The

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

See page 27/81
Affect

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

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

Most of the workers claimed they earned a

minimum of R40 a week and worked under deplorable conditions.

They also want their union to be recognised. "I am feeling very uncomfortable since I came to this place. I long for my children who cannot go to school because we have no accommodation on the farm anymore," one worker said.

Cusa's Vaal region official, Mrs Magdeleine Mathlare, said they intended taking the matter to court.

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

A spokesman for Farm Fare, Mr Martin Fallon, said the dispute was an "internal matter". He would not comment further.

Farmers in indaba-type pact with their workers

The Argus Correspondent

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

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

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

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

Although the Ngotshe agreement has been spearheaded by white farmers, the concept itself was the brainchild of a

black former union worker and community leader, Mr David Masuku.

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

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

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

"I realised there was a desperate need for us and the whites to sit down and discuss our mutual problems."

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

The pact, known as the

Ngotshe Co-operation Agreement, will be officially launched on August 8 at a ceremony in Louwsburg.

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

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

The Ngotshe agreement has five main objectives:

- The recognition of the need for group inter-relationships.

- The guaranteeing of security for all in the area which is a known ANC infiltration route.

- The improvement of labour relations and the safeguarding of the traditional way of life of the Zulus.

- The development of the area and the creation of jobs to cater for surplus labour.

- Improving morale in the general depressed economic and social climate.

Mr van Rensburg said they

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

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

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

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

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

A dispute between a farmer and a worker invariably resulted in the worker's dismissal.

CP rejects moves for farm labour union

(4)
DD 4/8/86

Dispatch Correspondent

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Inkatha poses a very serious problem," he said.

CP rejects 'Indaba' union for farm workers

Own Correspondent
DURBAN.— The Conservative Party has rejected recent moves here to establish a trade union for black farm, labourers and domestics, saying it would be used purely for political ends, which would eventually lead to chaos.

An Indaba-type pact between black workers and white farmers is due to be signed in Northern Natal this week.

According to Mr Casper Uys, a sheep farmer and member of the CP executive, farmers are already hard pressed by the ailing economy.
"A union would only worsen matters," he said. Another farmer who is a CP member warned the CP congress that he would halve his workers and replace them with readily available machinery if a union was formed.

"Unions become monsters," warned Mr Uys, using Australia as an example.
In South Africa the unions would be black, and used for political means which would use any small incident as an excuse for action over so-called unfair labour practices.
The rejection of the union by the party was wholeheartedly supported by the members and it was

voted that the CP congress look, in detail, at the party's labour policy and current legislation affecting labour practices.
From the floor, Natal farmer, Mr Adrian Kriel asked that CP leaders "look into" the recently formulated peace pact between the farmers of Louwsberg, near Vryheid, and black workers.
A representative of the Natal Agricultural Union

had approached other farmers with the same proposal which he claimed had been put forward by Inkatha.
In a bid to beat moves by Inkatha — believed to be aimed at beating the union plans of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) — Mr Kriel says farm owners were asked to sign up their farm workers as Inkatha members.
A similar offer was taken

up with enthusiasm by the Louwsberg farmers, he said, and a meeting was now scheduled for Friday to formalize the agreement.
The pact would include negotiation on security matters, and an increase in black housing in the area.
Mr Kriel said: "This is the beginning of a union in disguise without President P W Botha lifting a finger to prevent it."
He suggested that "work-

ers' committees" be formed to achieve the same purposes and urged farmers to make conditions favourable for their workers so that there would be no need for either Cosatu or Inkatha plans.
"Our CP leaders must approach the Natal Provincial Administration for us, about these moves."
"Inkatha poses a very serious problem," Mr Kriel said.

'Sleep-in' called off

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

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

The union has been pressing for a 50-percent wage increase, but management stuck to a final offer of 7,5 percent.

By late Friday afternoon, the premises had been vacated.

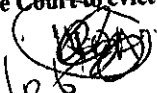
Simultaneously, Farm Fare was granted an urgent interim order in the Rand Supreme Court to evict the workers from its premises.



④

Sawefan

4/8/86



Fruit sanctions and the future

Staff Reporter

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

The DFB general manager, Mr Louis Kriel, announced that 2,5 percent of the board's business would be affected by the sanctions package proposed by six members of the Commonwealth group in London. The countries which favoured sanctions included frontline states and both Canada and Australia.

Estimate

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

A conservative estimate of five persons in a family brought the total number of dependants on this labour force to about 1,25 million people, he said.

About 95 percent of this work force were blacks and coloureds.

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

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

'Disappointed'

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

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

He said that Australia's aim in supporting sanctions were "transparent" as it would only gain in the deciduous

fruit world market while the poorer frontline states will have to pay the price for sanctions.

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

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

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

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

"We are trying to send off as much as we can before any crunch comes."

6/8/86

N.M.

Govt urged to speed up recognition of farm labourers

Labour Reporter

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sympathetic

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

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

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

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

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

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

to 22 with scores
 the African and the
 Congress and the
 in the
 22/5/86

R67 666 damages for loss of eye

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

The Supreme Court heard that Mr Willem Johnson, 35, had earlier lost the sight of his left eye when he was stabbed in 1982. Medical evidence was that his right eye

was completely ruptured and unsalvageable after the foreman's attack on March 31, 1984. He is now completely and irreversibly blind.

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

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

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

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

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

The letter said Mr Miussehnelmer could afford to pay only R50 a month to Mr Johnson. Mr Justice Friedmann said

Mr M A Albertus, instructed by C E Macdonald, appeared for Mr Johnson. The respondent was not represented.

INSIDE

Aircraft	12	Business	12-13	Court Roll	12	Motors	14	Sport	19-20
Amusement	16	Cinema	6	Crossword	10	Parliament	4	TV	2
Births, etc	15	Classified	15-19	Editorials	10	Racing	4	Weather	2
Bridge	10	Column	9	Focus	6	Radio	16	Women's	6
Burger	14	Comics	16	Horoscope	16	Shipping	14	World Report	5

The Facts correction service ☎ 24-2233 (Monday to Friday) Cape Times, Box 11, Cape Town (Registered at the GPO as a newspaper)

TOMORROW
Funfinder

(scribble) W/M 16/9/86 (scribble) (4)

Strike likely to affect milk deliveries again

Labour Reporter

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

Miss Rene Roux, branch

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

'During the next week Fawu will fight the extension of an interim Supreme Court order aimed at pre-

venting union officials from doing various things that might result in a boycott of Clover products,' she said.

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

'Wholesale drivers who had voted in favour of strike action were intimidated into driving trucks with scab van assistants.

One driver was singled out and suspended for not working and this had the desired effect on the other drivers.

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

Mr Ray Floweday, divi-

sional manager of Clover Dairies in Durban, could not be reached for comment yesterday but a spokesman for the dairy said they considered the strike illegal and added that the figure of 1 600 workers Fawu claim are on strike at eight Natal plants was 'nowhere near' correct.

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

Employers urged to help rural communities

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

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

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

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

"The exercise of social responsibility by major employers within such rural communities should involve forms of assistance and development counselling in the communities."

Supreme Court
Reporter

A STELLENBOSCH
farmer accused of murder told the Supreme Court yesterday that he shot a worker's brother

because he was afraid the man was going to assault him with a knife and fork he had been using to eat.

Mr Cornelius Beneke, 58, of the farm Micro Loma, has pleaded not guilty.

Mr Beneke's son Pierre said the family was eating supper when a worker, Mr Stephanus "Faans" Botha, said his brother Marthinus was at his house threatening to assault him. Marthinus had been banned from the farm because he had previously assaulted his brother.

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

Mr Beneke grabbed the plate of food away from him and again told him to

Case first 20/9/86

Feared cutlery attack, fired

leave. The man sat up and Mr Beneke fired "a warning shot" into the bed.

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

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

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

The trial continues.

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

380 farm tenants told to leave land

Pietermaritzburg Bureau

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

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

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

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

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

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

The only other places available are the Qudeni (near

Nqutu), Compensation (near Bulwer) and Waaihoek (near Ladysmith) resettlement camps — all of which are between 100 km and 160 km from Vryheid — at which they will be allocated residential rights only and will not be allowed to keep livestock or grow crops.

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

Frankland, a resettlement area at Port Shepstone, is the only place in which they could be resettled and maintain their agricultural lifestyle — but it is more than 450 km from Vryheid.

No legal right

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

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

Palmietfontein tenant Mr Mpendu Mthembu, 77, said: 'I was born on the farm. My father and grandfather were born, bred and died here. We know nothing else.'

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

Farmers dig in against union for labourers 4

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

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

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

"There is a strong resolution that Cosatu will spear-

By ELSABE WESSELS

head a national farmworkers union," a Cosatu spokesman said in Cape Town this week.

"While we are not yet ready to launch such a union, the formation of it has always been a priority for Cosatu."

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

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

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

"It is important for the SAAU to take a long hard look at farm labour conditions

and policies," he said.

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

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

Reason

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

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

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

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

Evidence of the "extreme poverty" was contained in a study conducted by the combined NGK congregations of Stellenbosch.

CAPC 10/10/86

Maputo to 'resist' ban on workers

24

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

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

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

'Destabilizing'

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

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

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

lems.

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

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

Meanwhile, the ban brought angry reaction from trade unions.

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

'Arrogant action'

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

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

BB 4

By JENNY CULLUM

TWO HUNDRED combat teams are fighting swarms of hoppers as farmers face a locust outbreak which threatens to be worse than last year's devastating plague.

The hoppers are hatching out in the Cape Midlands, the Karoo and northward towards Kimberley.

Early signs are that damage may exceed the previous trail of havoc when millions of rands of grazing and crops were destroyed.

Efforts are being concentrated on killing newly hatched hoppers while they are still on the ground before the adult locusts fly away to invade other areas.

Already, early in the season, 66 anti-locust units were busy in the Eastern Cape and Midlands, 33 in the Karoo and another 99 in the Kimberley area, said Mr J L Vosloo, the Department of Agriculture, Economics and Marketing's Director of Soil Protection in Pretoria.

Millions of hoppers have hatched after widespread rains which followed a long period of drought, creating ideal conditions for locusts.

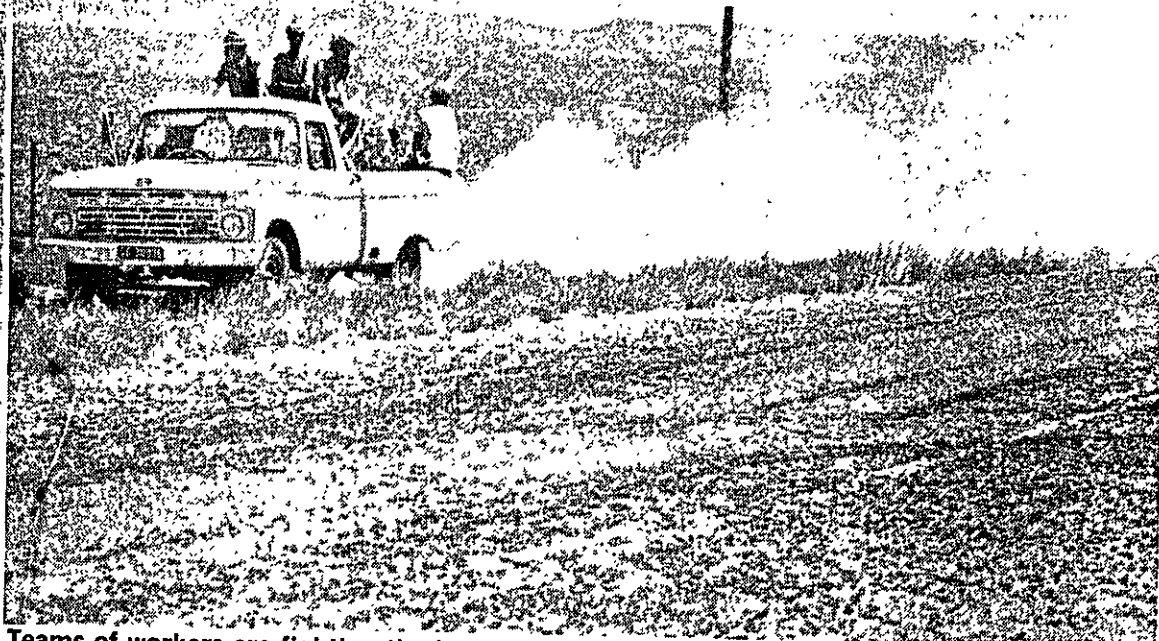
Among areas where hoppers have been reported and are being destroyed are Aberdeen, Bedford, Colesberg, Cradock (eight teams), Graaff-Reinet, Hofmeyr, Jansenville, Middelburg (10 teams), Tarka and Noupoort.

"The position at this stage looks more serious than at the same time last year," said Mr Vosloo.

"It is about what we expected, as it is the third year of the seven-year cycle of locusts and will be one of the more difficult years."

It is vital that farmers immediately report hopper hatchings so they can be sprayed while were still on the ground.

Vast new locust plague threatens E Cape farmers



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

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

Swarms on the wing devastate crops and grazing.

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

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

Mr Vosloo.

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

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

stage.

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

Four species of migratory locusts are threatening the African continent this year and experts are predicting a serious outbreak in at least nine heavily affected countries of the

Sahel, including Niger, Mali, Chad and Senegal.

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

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

Board, union clash

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

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

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

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

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

19/10/86
18

Delefer

CAP. Times 15/10/86 4 (209)

Farmers may keep their Mozambicans

Own Correspondent

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

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

On the eve of a possible meeting between mining-house representatives and

government on the repatriation of Mozambican miners, mining sources said yesterday they welcomed any concessions government is prepared to make, saying it would not be easy to replace the Mozambicans at short notice.

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

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

Eastern Transvaal farmers are being given until November 30 to legalize their labour by obtaining six-month permits from the Department of Home Affairs, with the op-

From Page 1

CAP. Times 15/10/86 4 (209)

E Tvl concession

tion of renewal for a further six months.

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

This follows reports yesterday that immigration offices in Komatipoort were still giving visas to Mozambican workers with contracts to work in SA. On the question of the thousands of Mozambican refugees pouring into SA, Mr Van Zyl said SA does not regard them as refugees, according to the United Nations definition, but as "displaced persons with family ties within SA borders".

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

□ Samora the survivor under siege — page 14

Govt gives Lowveld farmers Mozambican worker

15/10/80
GAS DWT
THI
4

GOVERNMENT appears to have backed down on the expulsion order against Mozambican workers where Eastern Transvaal farmers are concerned.

The Department of Home Affairs has told the farmers their 17 000-strong Mozambican labour force may remain.

On the eve of a possible meeting between mining house representatives and government on the repatriation of Mozambican miners, mining sources said yesterday they would welcome any concessions government was prepared to make because it would not be easy to re-

place the departing workers at short notice.

However, Director-General of Home Affairs, Gerrit Van Zyl said 65 000 mineworkers would be phased out gradually.

"That is if the political and security position remains as it is now. The door is still open to Mozambique. It's up to them to rectify the position, particularly concerning ANC activities," Van Zyl said. Eastern Transvaal farmers, who have become an increasing problem for government because of Conservative Party

DOMINIQUE GILBERT

pressure, are being given until November 30 to legalise their labour requirements by obtaining 6-month permits, with the option of renewal for a further six months.

Van Zyl said the decision was taken earlier this year.

"My department and the Department of Manpower made the agreement with Lowveld farmers in July, not knowing about last week's clampdown. It is only logical that we do not go back on our

word," he said.

He said Lowveld farmers had traditionally looked to Mozambique for labourers, who were a stable workforce.

On the question of the thousands of Mozambicans pouring into SA, Van Zyl said SA did not regard them as refugees in terms of the UN definition, but as "displaced persons with family ties within SA borders."

"They were in dire need and received attention in Gazankulu and Kanyigwane. They were not in refugee camps, he said, but had been welcomed by the govern-

ments of the national states which allowed them to move about freely and to settle in the territories.

"They may be repatriated when the situation across the border improves and becomes stable again," Van Zyl said.

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

"If an illegal immigrant is discovered during the course of normal police duties such a person will be arrested," said a police statement.

Farm labour comes under the spotlight

Labour Reporter

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

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

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

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

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

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

Farm workers have been ex-

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

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

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

Reserve Bank probe of 'irregularities'

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

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

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

'End group areas tension in Cape'

Political Correspondent

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

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

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

SURPRISING

The party's leader, Mr Bill Sutton, said Mr Botha seemed to be speaking in general terms when he referred to Woodstock.

He said it was surprising that he had done so in view of the President's Council investigation into the Group Areas Act which would be completed soon.

But he said Mr Botha had left wide open the question of what should happen to the Act.

Mr Sutton advised people in the Woodstock area not to be too upset as he did not think that the group areas process would continue.

● See Page 15

Bosses act on 4 000 illegals

DIANNA GAMES

BKS 3/11/84

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Van Zyl said the 1,3m illegals which it was estimated still lived in SA did not include the 65 000 Mozambican miners mentioned in Business Day yesterday, as they had valid contracts.

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

Citizens of TBVC countries did not require work permits to work in SA.

NR 615 4/11/66

Fisherman ⁽⁴⁾ lost overboard off Saldanha

Staff Reporter

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

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

WENT TO HELP

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

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

A National Sea Rescue Institute boat searched without success.

OUR MONEY

Buthelezi should rather turn wine into water

globe skip page (4)

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

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

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

According to a Stellenbosch academic, the average farmworker gets R23,50 a month. One wonders what

Buthelezi lives on in one week!

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

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

According to research by the London-based Anti-Slavery Society, during the

harvesting season from December to April, one can find many children employed as cheap labour. The families of these children are too scared of losing their only meagre source of money to demand their children's rights.

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

Buthelezi should help these workers win their right for a living wage and decent working and living conditions. - PIETER MALGAS of Stellenbosch.

Farmer says he's feeding unpaid workers

By Adele Baleta

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

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

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

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

Mr van der Merwe said: "I have had to feed the men on mealie meal for the past two weeks so I may as well carry on. I can't leave them to starve. You can't live on maize alone and so in exchange for

some shovel work around the farm, I am supplying the men with three solid meals a day".

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

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

"I was told to liquidate my assets but I refuse to do this. I have property which I will not give up. I am penniless and if I give up everything I will walk out with nothing except the pants I've got on," he said. "I have never not paid my men, and I will not leave them unpaid," he said.

Mr van der Merwe said he would continue to help the workers as long as the matter was settled soon.

US firms want to help farm schools

By Glenda S. ...
Several United States companies have pledged to take over Government responsibilities to upgrade farm schools in South Africa.

They are concerned at the lack of teachers, classrooms and educational facilities. An investigation by representatives of the companies has laid the

blame for the state of the schools on the Department of Education and Training (DET).

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

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

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

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

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

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

● There was no electricity.

● There was a shortage of classrooms.

● On an actual ratio there was

one teacher to 45 pupils.

● Libraries and laboratories were urgently required.

Most farm schools only have classes up to Std 6.

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

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

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

Register Mozambican workers, farmers urged

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

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

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

More details on registration procedures and venues are available from Mrs Rika Human of the Southern Lowveld Farmers' Union at Nelspruit 22680.

CME Traits 16/10/86

(4) ~~222~~

Farm soccer 'plan' upsets residents

By PETER DENNEHY
Municipal Reporter

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

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

"They have not applied for permission from the Divisional Council," she said. A Divco spokesman said he had

heard of the controversy, and complaints had been received. An inspection had been held in response to the complaints, but no sign of soccer facilities had been found, he said.

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

Mr André Badenhorst, manager of Buitenverwagting Wine Farm and chairman of the Constantia Association for Community Development, said the six major farms in the area had formed the asso-

ciation to uplift the quality of life of their 90 families of workers, partly through providing sports facilities.

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

"There are no neighbours in the immediate vicinity of this field. People who do live in the area have the advantage of looking out over these beautiful farms, but they must realize that there are people living and working on them."

A

These workers commute for 5 hours each day

By MIKE MABUSELA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Those with cars chose not to use them as the train was cheaper. They said the R148 cost of a monthly ticket was much cheaper than the R30 people spent on petrol for each return trip.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Farmers told of trade unions

Dispatch Reporter

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

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

Quoting the Wiehahn report, Mr Thomson said those who did not fully understand proper relations would be swept

along inevitably by the process of change.

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

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

"It embraces the whole aspect of rural development."

Aspects farmers should consider were:

- A workload of not more than 12 continuous hours with reimbursement for overtime.

- Meal intervals and public holidays.

- Certificates of employment and termination of services.

- Sick leave.

- Job security.

Farmers would have to develop better management techniques.

They should also make certain that the farming community could bargain together as a group.

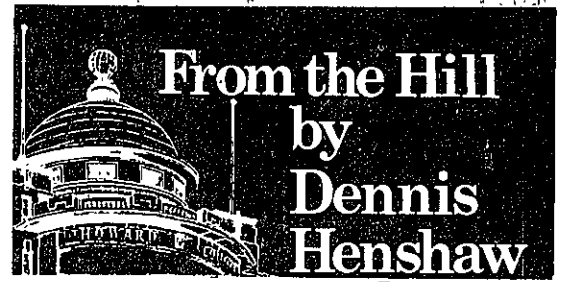
Mr Thomson said: "There is no need for farmers to go through the total agony of industry. You can learn from their problems and mistakes and put together an acceptable package."

He said farmers should get together and formulate minimum conditions and guidelines.

Call for drastic switch to improve lives of labourers

Subsidies for farm workers not farmers?

(4)
N/M 20/11/86



IN its September issue Reader's Digest's leading story was headlined *South Africa's Harvest of Shame* and dealt with the plight of many South African farm labourers. DENNIS HENSHAW talked to Prof W L Nieuwoudt, head of the Agricultural Economics department of Natal University (Pietermaritzburg), who is urging the Government to make the drastic change of scrapping farmers' subsidies to provide money for increased wages and improved living conditions for farm labourers.

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

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

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

He says bluntly: 'Subsidies are going to farmers who don't need them; 75% of agricultural subsidies go to farmers who earn more than R400 000 a year.'

Better package

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

'We recently met the

Agricultural Union (S A A U) in Pretoria and forcefully made the point that the emphasis must be shifted from land to labour.'

The Government, he said, had agreed to assist farmers with housing for their labour, but to the limit of 10 houses a farm. Funds were available in the past but were not taken up, and nothing was spent on housing in 1985. The Government had now come up with what looked like a better package.

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

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

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

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

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

Support for views

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

In the past couple of years, said Prof Nieuwoudt, there had been a reduction in farm labour, but with the

present tremendous price of machinery he was certain the trend would be reversed.

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

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

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

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

A member of Prof Nieuwoudt's Agricultural

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

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

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

4) (2) BU > DAP! 28/11/76

SAAU to see govt on housing scheme

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

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

The union has appealed to farmers to use the scheme to enable the utilisation of funds that have

MICK COLLINS

been set aside.

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

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

Outlining the scheme, he said

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

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

"Further loans of R300 each are available for water and elec-

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

"Under the scheme, an applicant is authorised to erect or upgrade a maximum of 10 houses."

Application forms are available at the nearest magistrate's office or from the Department of Agriculture, Private Bag X118, Pretoria, 0001.

The safety film with a five year manufacturer's warranty.

Tape and Allied Products Division
3M South Africa (Pty) Ltd
P.O. Box 10465
Johannesburg 2000
Tel. No: (011) 922-9111



CSIR Advertising © Bates Linde

Farm workers wages average R32 a week

UNION ORGANISATION HAMPERED BY THE FARMER

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

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

Grievances aired at the meeting include:

- Wages of between R15 and R50 a week.

"In 1985 farm workers in the Western Cape earned R32 a week on average. Sometimes wine is regarded as part of the wage, although payment in the form of alcohol is illegal. However, there is no law against freely dispensing liquor to workers."

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

Housing is tied to employment and "is used to control workers."

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

• Worker organisation is hampered by the farmer.

"The farmer's readiness to invoke trespass

laws makes it difficult for unionists to get on to farms to recruit members. Workers may face dismissal or victimisation for attending meetings off the farm or for seeking legal advice."

- Child care is not available.

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

- Working conditions

are not controlled by law.

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

- Education is below standard.

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

- A vicious circle of debts controls the worker.

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

"Focusing on the specific problems of farm labour, the grievances aired at the meeting have an authenticity born from the experience of working closely with these people over a long period," the *Indicator SA* report says.



BLIND singer Steve Kekana... was petrol bombers attacked hi



CITY PRESS
4

Power to the people ... in bundus

10/12/86

ESCOM is to spend an additional R25-million on rural electrification this year to supply about 78 800 customers by 1987.

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

Maree says the additional amount made available is desirable to meet the rapid

increase in the demand for electricity on the platteland. This demand is a direct result of the changes in the tariff structure from January 1986 which either abolished the payment of extension charges or reduced them significantly.

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

CITY PRESS
A 2 C

Power to the people ... in bundus

10/12/86

ESCOM is to spend an additional R25-million on rural electrification this year to supply about 78 800 customers by 1987.

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

Maree says the additional amount made available is desirable to meet the rapid

increase in the demand for electricity on the platteland. This demand is a direct result of the changes in the tariff structure from January 1986 which either abolished the payment of extension charges or reduced them significantly.

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

Plan for rural education is presented to Minister

By Susan Fleming

27/11/86
SOME A report outlining plans to improve black education in the rural areas has been presented to the Minister of Education and Development Aid, Dr Gerrit Viljoen.

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

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

Recommendations included:

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

AGRICULTURE - LABOUR

1987

JAN - ~~NOVEMBER~~ DECEMBER

By S'BU MNGADI

THERE is only one high school in Natal to cater for the province's 300 000 farm labourers and their families, says Natal University's quarterly publication, *The Indicator*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Catch 22 for 'Cinderella' children on the farms

travelling costs, said Ardington.

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

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

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

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

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

Where the farm was situated closely to a part of KwaZulu and there was no nearby farm school, a farm worker might send his chil-

dren to school "across the border".

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

Ardington added that there was no doubt that black children on commercial farms were "educational cinderellas".

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

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

A Catch 22 situation existed in that there was little hope of these children being absorbed into their farms' workforce yet farmers frequently denied them the education that would enable them to get employment elsewhere.

CITY PRESS 11/1/87

4

1

Kalk Bay fishermen can catch, sell squid

CAPE TIMES 13/1/07 4
Staff Reporter

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

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

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

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

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

Land-locked sea

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

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

Boost for farmers (4)

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

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

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

"A further amount of some R120 million will also be made available for various other assistance programmes to the agricultural sector." — Sapa

DD
102
87

Dam extension plans for fruit farms

Political Correspondent

IN a major boost to the Western Cape deciduous fruit industry, the government yesterday proposed R6,38 million in extensions to the waterworks for irrigation in the Groenland Irrigation District near Grabouw.

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

The proposed extensions, outlined in a Department of Agriculture and Water Supply report tabled in Parliament yesterday, will entail increasing the capacity of Eikenhof Dam by 3,0 million cubic metres, raising the output of the pump system and upgrading and extending pipelines.

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

Call 1016 18/2/77

Missing fisherman presumed dead

Supreme Court Reporter

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

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

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

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

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

Mr Justice E L King presided. Mr J Marais, instructed by Field and Sims, appeared for Mrs Williams.

Cape Times 19/2/87

(4) 35

'Farmer shot pastor' claim

By CHRIS STEYN.

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

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

Farmer questioned

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

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

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

Police said that he then ordered the congregation — about 16 men and women — outside.

He fired another shot into the group

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

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

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

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

'Tragic loss'

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

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

Farmer may be charged today

By CHRIS STEYN

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

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

Yesterday the farmer's wife said her husband was "out in the fields" when the Cape Times telephoned the farm house.

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

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

Police said he then ordered the congregation outside.

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

w/k ABG 21/2/87

Wee

Cape group up to eyeballs in debt — Bloom

By TOM HOOD, Business Editor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Investigations

After his investigations the board disclosed Chilean borrowings of R60-million — a figure that rocked shareholders and showed the group's debt had mounted to R161-million, the repayment of which was unmanageable.

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

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

- Borrowings of R27-million reported to a directors' meeting on February 14, 1986, "were actually at a level of R52-million";

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

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

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

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

- A major investigation was launched into Ovenstone subsidiary Premier Wire after an optimistic chairman's statement about financial problems turned out to be "cloud cuckoo-land" and R3,8-million had to be written off.

The meeting approved by a large majority the sale of property interests Ovdeco Holdings for R23-million — 17 percent below the book value — to Ovbel, a new company headed by former chairman Mr Andrew Ovenstone.



Mr Tony Bloom

Debt trauma for Ovgroup

CMT TMS 21/2/87

(4) 32

SHAREHOLDERS agreed to sell Ovgroup's property and construction interests to a new company, Ovbel, headed by Owenstone, for R23 million after new chairman Tony Bloom told them there was no other way Ovgroup and Oil could survive.

Bloom said that without the sale Oil's interest-bearing liabilities would total R121 million of which R72 million was in long-term borrowings, R36 million in short-term borrowings and R13 million in bank overdraft.

He said that if overseas debt was included, the total debt was R163 million of which R88,2 million was interest-bearing debt and the rest current business transaction debt.

It was only because of the support they were receiving from the Premier Group, which held 43% of the

Debt crept up on the Owenstone Group (Ovgroup) and Owenstone Investments (Oil) "like an anconda from behind", former chairman Andrew Owenstone told about 200 shareholders and their representatives at a meeting in Cape Town yesterday.



BY ANDREW D'ANGELO

shares, that Ovbel and Oil were holding a general meeting to consider the sale instead of "sitting at a creditors' meeting".

They could continue to exist only by selling off either their fishing or their property and construction interests.

Telling shareholders that they were "lucky that there is a company

of the stature of Premier willing to take up the reins and steer them out of this mess", Bloom said there had been no full disclosure of the amount of debt to the board or its auditors.

Overseas debt had not been consolidated with South African debt, to appear on the balance sheet, although some of it had appeared as a possible contingency.

It had taken him "months to unearth the facts", after he had repeatedly told the board to reduce their level of borrowings when it was thought these totalled only R27 million and had urged them to sell off assets in order to do this.

Bloom said the company's attorneys were now investigating whether any of what had happened was actionable.

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

He said that after the full extent of the debts had been discovered it was decided to sell the property and construction interests because they

To page 16

P.T.O

were operating in a depressed market.

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

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

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

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

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

He thought this would take five or six years.

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

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

Bloom said SSFE ended the 12 months to December with taxed profits of R1,5 million. The current value of its assets was far higher than the book value of R7,8 million.

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

"On the international side, the group has a modern and well-equipped factory in an area where the resource is reasonable and well managed.

"Its profitability depends on world

fishmeal prices and, of course, the presence of fish.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The sudden weakening of the rand meant that "\$10 million became \$30 million".

Ov's gold

Ave

48.7

55.7

62.8

69.6

77.3

87.1

100.0

118.6

136.1

153.2

159.1

it
je
ig
te
ne
e-
to
s.
it-
id
ht
il"
3A
nd,
in
an
re
ce
er
se
n-
ts
rd
l.
ed
e-
e-
A
A
1
RI
AI
A
10
RI
AI
AI
19
RE
At
At

tions had been granted as at the latest specified date for which figures are available;

(2) whether the figures in respect of each

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

	(1) (a)	(ii)	(b)	(2)
Northern Cape	276	0	276	decrease
Western Cape	1 106	0	11 106	increase
Eastern Cape	3 875	0	3 875	increase
Natalia	158	0	97	increase
Southern Orange Free State	1 514	0	1 482	increase
Orange Vaal	1 276	0	1 356	increase
Central Transvaal	115	0	681	decrease
Northern Transvaal	370	0	115	increase
Western Transvaal	3 199	32	2 769	increase
Highveld	5 345	0	5 345	increase
East Rand	8 151	0	8 151	increase
West Rand				

National Manpower Commission

327. Mr E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Manpower:

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 1043 on 30 May 1986, consultations concerning the report of the National Manpower Commission on the working conditions of farm and domestic workers have now been completed; if not, (a) why not and (b) what remains to be done to complete this investigation; if so, (i) when and (ii) what organisations and persons were consulted in this regard; whether the report has been released; if so, when; if not, (a) why not and (b) when will it be released;
- (2) whether any action affecting the working conditions of farm and domestic workers is to be taken as a result of the findings of this Commission; if not, why not; if so, (a) what specified action and (b) when?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER:

- (1) No.

HOA

First/third-class passengers

328. Mr A SAVAGE asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

What was the total number of (a) first and (b) third-class passengers transported by the rail services of the South African Transport Services in each of the four main metropolitan areas of the Republic in the 1985-86 financial year?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

	(a)	(b)
Cape Town ...	41 285 218	123 165 623
Johannesburg	39 705 185	222 675 028
Durban	4 409 685	106 326 837
Pretoria	3 592 807	83 940 157

Loss

329. Mr A SAVAGE asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

Whether the South African Transport Services made a profit or sustained a loss on rail commuter services in the 1985-86 financial year; if so, (a) what was the amount of such profit or loss and (b) (i) in which areas and (ii) in respect of which services was the profit or loss the highest?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

A loss was sustained.

- (a) R546 million.
- (b) (i) All areas.
(ii) Third class.

Unemployed persons

330. Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower:

How many White, Coloureds and Asians, respectively, were registered as unemployed in each inspecorate area as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

HOA

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER:

	Whites	Coloureds	Asians
Bloemfontein	1 523	627	—
Cape Town ...	4 156	16 035	36
Durban	4 635	2 519	11 465
East London ...	706	1 098	31
George	395	1 430	—
Johannesburg	10 292	3 762	871
Kimberley ...	262	1 194	10
Port Elizabeth	1 894	4 780	72
Pretoria	2 328	303	54
Total:	26 191	31 748	12 539

Note: These figures are as at 31 December 1986.

Firearm licences

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

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

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

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

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) Yes. (a) and (b) Fall away.
- (2) No, formal testing or demonstration is required at this stage.

meritorious service

SAK 146 26/2/87 (4)
Leave to appeal granted

BLOEMFONTEIN. — Robert Maarman and Piet Kruger have been granted leave by the Appeal Court to appeal to a full Bench of the Cape Supreme Court against convictions for culpable homicide. Their convictions arose from the death of a farm labourer, Mr Hans Jacobs, at Rawsonville, on February 1, 1986. Each was sentenced to five years imprisonment, of which half was suspended for Mr Maarman and three-and-a-half years suspended for Mr Kruger.

Billings

Unions carry on

20/3/81
B. Bang (4)

ALAN FINE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reports

Fisherman severs foot — airlifted from trawler

From KEN VERNON
Argus Bureau

ARGUS 9/3/87
40 (187)

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

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

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

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

NEARLY IN FUNNEL

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

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

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

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

● Picture, Page 3.

Arm caught in conveyor machine on farm

Hopes dashed

Schoolboy's dream of being doctor shattered

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

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

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

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

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

An Industrial Aid Society counsellor, Mr Martin Monyela, said

By LEN MASEKO

Godfrey — like thousands of other casual farm labourers — was not covered by the Workman's Compensation Act (WCA). The society, therefore, intended to take Godfrey's case to court.

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

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

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



GODFREY (left) points to his injured hand while his mother, Maria Mabaso, and his uncle, Mr Norman Mabaso, look on.

4

Power sharing works on some wine farms

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

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

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

Changes in race relations actually began some 15 years ago when Krone's wife,

Mary, suggested they train the farm's rugby team, which became highly successful.

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

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

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

Another wine farmer, Sidney Back, said

he felt farmers had "an obligation that stretches beyond that of merely paying wages".

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

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

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

"We were called a bunch of communists," Mary Krone said. — Sapa-Reuter.

Unemployed — with nine dependants

Dispute over dismissed labourer

like
t van

By Inga Molzen

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

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

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

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

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

The board said they would file legal papers on

the labour dispute, but the farm workers have not been informed of any new developments.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Farmers wooed while workers are ignored

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

The general secretary of the Orange Vaal General Workers' Union, Mr P Masiya, said that while farmers had been placated with R237 million in government aid, the findings of the National Manpower Commission (NMC) had been frozen.

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

The NMC report was completed and handed to the then Minister of Manpower, Mr Fanie Botha, in October 1984.

"No one cares that farmworkers are exploited," said Mr Masiya.

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

They reflected the need to correct abuses such as the use of child labour on farms, eviction of families, low wages and poor working conditions, lack of bar-

gaining rights and a lack of compensation for injuries.

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

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

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

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

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

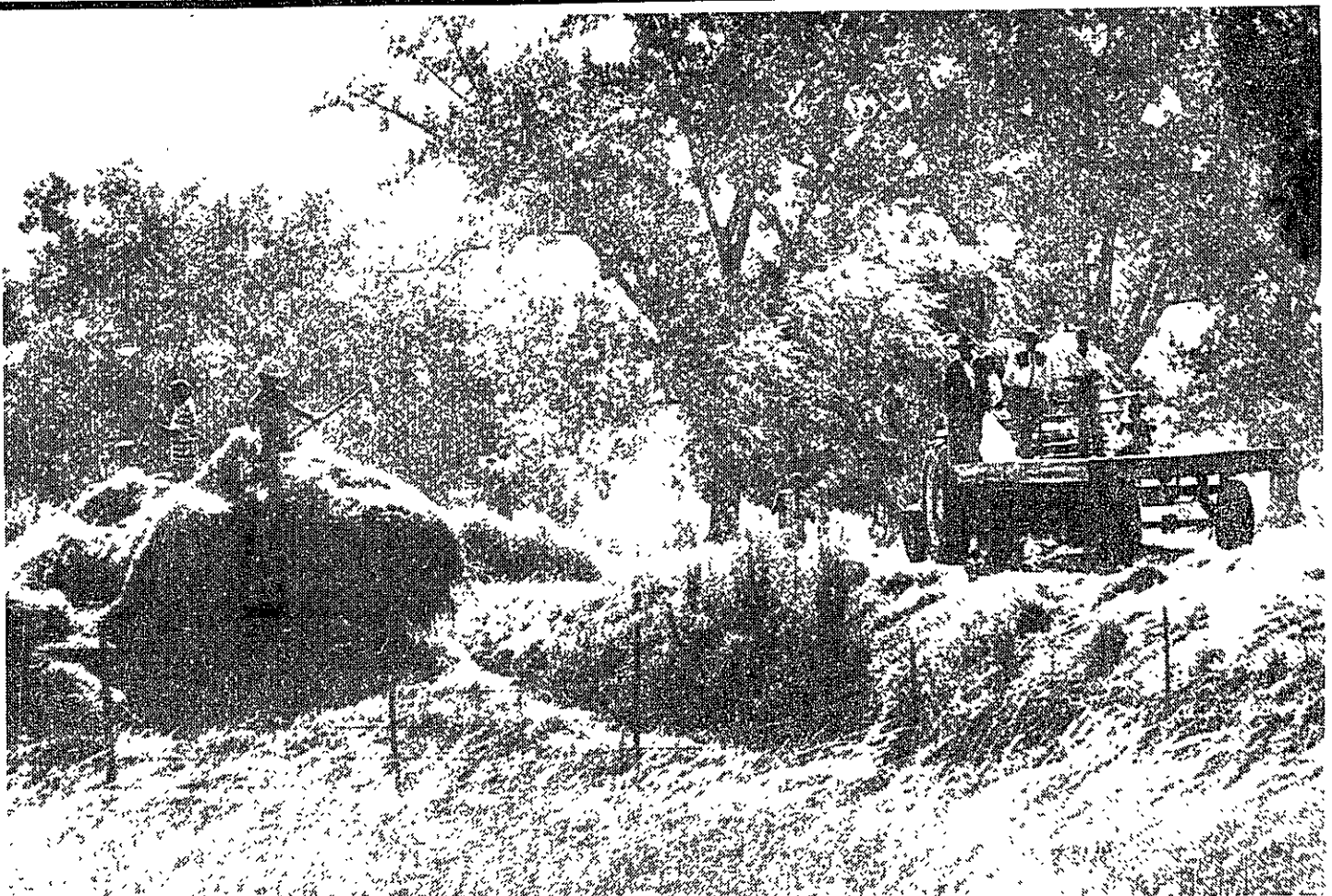
He said ongoing nationwide consultations with organisations were "sensitive, intensive and wide-ranging".

The "diversity" of the agricultural sector had also delayed negotiations, he said.

~~VERULAM INDIAN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION~~

~~Head Office: P.O.Box 288, Verulam. 4340~~

~~Registered for: Indians employed in the Local Authority Undertaking as undertaken by the Municipality of Verulam in the Municipal Area of Verulam.~~



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

Frederiks honoured by Wits

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

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

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

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

R10-m 'allocated for black farming'

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

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

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

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

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

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

'Liberals will influence events'

The Star Bureau
LONDON — South Africa's "liberals" will have their moment to influence events in the country "when the new National Party Government resumes its reforms", the *The Independent* newspaper said today.

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

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

M

FO C

At the U.
Citizens. I
we now gi
on new Fi
We believe
go some v
your inco
United Bra
our invest

Period

12 months
13-18 months
19-23 months
24-36 months
37-60 months

(4)

Scourge of the Winelands

THE DOP system became illegal in 1963 under the Liquor Act.

The act says that "No person shall supply any liquor to any person in his employ as wages or remuneration or as supplement thereof".

The penalty for this as laid down by the act is a fine not exceeding R1000 or a jail sentence of not more than six months.

If at any time five years before a conviction, the person was convicted of any offence under the Liquor Act, the penalties may be doubled or the court may sentence the person to prison for not more than 12 months.

By SAHM VENTER

FARM workers are frustrated and angry.

They are bitter about their low wages, part of which they say is paid in dop. But they know that if the dop is taken away their wages won't be increased by much.

Some farmers pay their workers as little as R2 a week and some up to R50 a week, but in most cases men get

R25 a week and women R15 a week.

Mothers have to take tiny babies to the fields and put them under a bush while they work.

The bottle of dop at the end of a long hard day is welcomed by Mr X because he is really tired.

"We get no holiday, except for maybe a week off to hang around the farm. Our money hasn't changed for years," he



said.

Mostly people are frustrated because they believe there is nothing they can do. They are terrified of angering the farmer. Some farmers have been known to beat up complaining workers or throw them off the farms.

"The young people are talking a lot about going to another place, but they don't always get the chance," said Mr X.

He paid the price for complaining to the farmer that picking grapes for 8c a basket was not enough. He was kicked off the farm, without his wife and children.

His wife works in the farmer's kitchen and is being forced to remain there with their children. So Mr X has gone to another farm to earn a living.

He sees his family at weekends when they visit him.

Dop system OK at times'

SOUTH REPORTER

FARMERS providing wine in limited quantities to labourers for enjoyment with food, particularly after work, are participating in "a normal, civilised, centuries-old practice whereby wine farm labourers share in the fruit of their toil", a KWV executive said this week.

Mr T Pegel, chief personnel and communications executive of KWV in Suiden Paarl, said the dop system was "obsolete."

"We believe this system is and sometimes dug up and drawn out of context by critics to create misconceptions."

Many farmers in the Stellenbosch-Paarl area have stopped the dop system according to the Rural Foundation.

But the system on the farms in areas surveyed by SOUTH was "very disappointing", Mr H Bailey, public relations manager for the Rural Foundation, said.

A survey last year by the Rural Foundation showed that 25% of farms still practise the dop system.

Meanwhile MOIRA LEVY reports that farmworkers are for the first time being organised into a trade union, in spite of legal constraints.

The Food and Allied Workers Union (FAWU) has started organising on farms

The Labour Relations Act bans farmworkers from joining unions, but according to an organiser, the workers are ignoring that ruling

Labourers on farms in the Groot Drakenstein, Stellenbosch and Grabouw, are joining the union. A union organiser said at Groot Drakenstein alone there were about 400 members out of a workforce of between 500 and 600 workers.

FAWU is negotiating recognition agreements at the Anglo American farms in Groot Drakenstein and with the bosses at Farm Fair in Stellenbosch

A union organiser said FAWU already had majority membership at these farms.

It was the formation of Cosatu and the launch of FAWU in the Western Cape that opened the way for organising farm workers, the union organiser said.

FAWU was encountering obstacles at other farms

"At Grabouw we are not allowed on the farms. Farmers tell us their workers don't need trade unions. They claim they provide their workers with houses, and that the conditions are good."

Farmworkers 'trapped'

FARM workers are trapped in roles resembling the old slave-master days, according to the Rev Reggie Boesak, of the Montagu NG Sendingkork.

Workers were dependent on the farmers for dop. They ran up big bills with the farmer which they could not pay off because of their small salaries. But they were terrified of the farmers and felt powerless to act against them, Mr Boesak said.

Buying food and other goods from farmers on tick meant debt. And this debt got bigger and bigger.

Most workers could not read or write so they often never knew whether they had finished paying the debt.

It was not impossible for a worker to be in debt to the farmer for the rest of his or her life, said Mr Boesak.

"The workers then can't go away or do anything about the situation. They are totally

under the farmer's control".

The dop system had played an enormous part in creating this dependency. Even if the system ended, workers would still feel the need to buy their own wine in town.

"The wine they get on the farms is moss - it is the sediment of the wine, which makes them very sick.

"Because of the trouble farmers are getting over the system, they change from time to time. One farmer will say that he will give you R25 cash a week, and the dop will make up R5, so you are supposed to be getting R30 a week.

"One farmer decided not to give dop anymore, so that he could tell me he had stopped the system. But he now sells the dop to the workers and takes it off their wages," Mr Boesak said.

"In my Bible studies, I am trying to educate people to believe that they need not fear anything or any person, that they are as good as anyone else."



Rev. Boesak

Mary lives with a bottle a day

MARY is 11 years old. Her parents are farm workers. She hates the system that provides them with a bottle of wine every day.

She hates the way the dop makes her parents fight at night. She hates the system that keeps her parents on the Philippi farm, going to shop once a year at the supermarket 6km away.

And she hates the corrugated iron shack without a front door which she, her three brothers and sisters and parents must live in.

She hates her life. "I'd be very happy if the farmer took the bottle away for good," she said.

Her parents drink the dop as if they are drinking coffee, she says.

Mary wants to be a doctor. She doesn't want the trapped life of her parents.

But her mother, Mrs S, who looks 20 years older than her 39 years, believes children take education for granted. She never went to school and started working on farms at

the age of 10.

Mrs S starts work every morning at 6.15 and finishes at 6pm, if there is no overtime. She is paid R25 a week and her husband gets R30 a week. They do all their grocery shopping at the farmhouse, in a "shop" run by the foreman's wife, "a devout Christian".

Mrs S knows the goods are expensive "But what can I do? The children must eat."

After they have bought food "on tick" from the farm shop, and neighbouring farms, there is nothing left by Monday.

What does Mrs S think of the dop system? "Sometimes it is a bit deurmekaar. The welfare workers sometimes take the babies away".

She looks forward to her bottle of wine every night because of the "moegheid". Every night, after work and cleaning, chopping wood and cooking, she has her bottle.

"We want to get away, and we will," Mrs S says with determination "But the most important thing today is to make a living."



Church is one of the only forms of relief for weary farmworkers who walk for miles to get to their places of work. Religion plays a large part in their lives.

The 'place of weeping' still has some tears

A LAW 30 years old has been dusted off to ensure farm labourers remain among South Africa's most vulnerable workers, following the abolition of rural influx control.

According to the Association for Rural Advancement (Afra), at least 1 200 people are threatened with eviction from their homes on white-owned farms in the Weenen, Vryheid, Hlobane and Richmond districts of Natal.

The section of the Development and Trust Act of 1936 which used to regulate the rights of black people to live and work in white rural areas was scrapped last year. But, Afra argues, the restrictions have been replaced by those of the Illegal Squatting Act of 1951.

The government White Paper on Urbanisation which spelt out post-influx control policy stated this act would be "suitably adapted to protect the ownership rights of landowners".

The Illegal Squatting Act makes provision for the eviction of farm workers and labour tenants after court convictions for squatting or an enquiry and directive by a magistrate. A policeman, local authority official or representative of the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning can also order their summary eviction.

Afra says labour tenants are particularly vulnerable, as the system is illegal. Labour tenancy continues to operate, however, as small private labour reserves. White absentee landlords use their farms solely to house tenants and give them access to grazing and ploughing; in return, the tenants are required to work away from these homes on their landlords' commercial farms, for little or no wages.

Afra says in Weenen — featured in the film *Place of Weeping* — a number of families have been evicted after disputes with landlords over livestock reduction.

The farmers say conservation authorities are ordering them to reduce their tenants' livestock because of the severe erosion on the farms. Afra says the tenants are fighting threats of reduction. As they receive no wages, their stock is a major source of social security and a vital source of income.

The report cites the example of Toto Mlambo, who has received no wages throughout the nine years he has worked on a commercial farm in Weenen. His five children are also expected to work without pay on weekends and holidays. In return, he has been given some land on a labour farm for a home and to graze his cattle, but has no ploughing rights.

In December, Afra says, Mlambo and seven other Weenen families were told to reduce their stock. They said they would agree only if they received wages or a ration allowance as a substitute. The farmer refused to listen to their grievances and gave them two weeks to get off the farm.

In Vryheid, 32 labour tenant

In the town of Weenen, featured in the anti-apartheid film 'A Place of Weeping', farm labourers have been evicted after disputes with their landlords. The pattern is repeated all over the country.
By JO-ANN BEKKER

families on six farms have until next month to leave their homes. Afra says although they have been given no reasons, all six farms are owned by one man who apparently wishes to "join them into a single management block and streamline the labour force".

Consolidation has been a general trend in the country's agriculture, Afra states. Between 1970 and 1985 the size of farms in South Africa increased by 47 percent, while the number of farm units decreased by 54 percent.

In the Richmond area, six families of labour tenants have been evicted by a new owner who wishes to convert the farm into a private game reserve.

Afra said changes of farm ownership were often accompanied by farm labour removals. "New ownership often means increased capitalisation and mechanisation; and new owners feel less inclined to deal with the welfare and control of a large labour force. Relationships with families, that have often been built up over a number of generations, are disregarded."

In the Hlobane coal mining area, the 400 people facing eviction include labour tenants and rent-paying families who have moved there to be close to the breadwinners working in the collieries.

Linah Mahlobo, 56, has been living on a farm in the area for 17 years. A widow, she has three children who attend school there. Her fourth son was working on the mine at Hlobane until he lost his job during a strike.

She had been paying R30 a month, but is classified as a squatter and has no legal protection against eviction.

According to Afra, between 1948 and 1982, at least 300 000 farm workers and labour tenants were evicted from white farms in the Natal region.

Farm workers are still expressly excluded from the provisions of the following acts:

- Labour Relations Act of 1956 which controls trade unions and employer relations and all machinery for settling disputes.

- Wage Act no 5 of 1957 which regulates wages and conditions of service in industries outside the Labour Relations Act.

- Unemployment Insurance Act.

- Basic Conditions of Employment Act which provides minimum standards for working hours, leave and notice.

Afra says while the Food and Allied Workers' Union has started a farm-worker project, "problems of access to farm workers and their vulnerability to victimisation and dismissal are formidable".

Letters

CAPE TIMES 14/4/87 (44)
**Tot system report
not factually correct**

From DIRK MARAIS (Montague):

WITH reference to the report in the Cape Times on April 4, in which the name of Montagu & Ashton Gemeenskapdiens (MAG) was mentioned, the organization's executive would like to make the following statement:

The MAG bears no responsibility for the placing of the article as the organization had no knowledge of its existence.

The particular people (namely Dawie Bosch and Lala Steyn) who were referred to as being personnel members of the MAG, have since the end of 1986 not been on the staff. They didn't have permission to speak or give interviews on behalf of the organization, as a decision was made two years ago in which it was decided that press statements could only be released by the Management Board.

Although the Management Board of the MAG is itself very strongly in favour, and advocates the abolition of the system in which farm workers receive drink (tot-system); The executive distances itself from the contents of the report, in that it is the opinion of one person and further, is not factually correct.

The executive offers its apology to the numerous farmers in the Montague and Ashton area that are working for better conditions for workers on farms and trust that it is clear that the MAG was neither responsible nor gave its approval to the article.

The executive would further like to bring it to the readers' attention that Mr Flip Jooste (Oom Flip) was unaware that the interview would be published in the Cape Times and did definitely not give his approval for that purpose.

[The article was reprinted from the Black Sash magazine of February, 1986, with the permission of the Black Sash, whose field worker Philip van Ryneveld, conducted the interview with Mr Flip Jooste (Oom Flip). — Editor, Cape Times.]

Taking keenness a little too far

④ C/Pers 9/14/87

CP Correspondent

A FARM labourer has been given a suspended sentence for looking after his employer's property so well that he killed someone who apparently tried to steal the farmer's vegetables.

Isaac Zungu, 36, was convicted of culpable homicide in the Durban Supreme Court this week and sentenced to four years in jail, suspended for five years.

During October last year, Zungu was working as a labourer on a farm outside Durban when he discovered a group of armed people stealing vegetables.

He managed to catch one of the group, Matshotshweni Wilson Ngesi. He hit him on the head and attacked him with a grass slasher.

Zungu then took the would-be vegetable thief back to the farm, tied him up and told the story to his employer.

Judge Friedmansaid Zungu had not intended to kill Ngesi and, in fact, it seemed he did not think he had done so, or he would not have tied him up.

Zungu had a number of previous convictions but the judge said it was ironic that, after being convicted of matters relating to dishonesty, Zungu was now faced with culpable homicide charges for trying to protect his farmer-employer from the dishonesty of others.

SE AKTEURSGILDE

Information Available

the interview, which makes their sound
motional supplement.

Cape Times 23/4/87

4

Tot report did not reflect facts

From PIERRE VENTER (Montagu):

I REFER to the article in (Cape Times, April 4) under the heading "Oom Flip and the Tot System".

On my behalf and that of the Montagu farming community I wish to take the strongest possible exception against the inaccuracies contained in and the downright false impression created by this report.

The following statements are completely false:

1. That all the farmers in Montagu practise the tot system, especially six dops per day, as alleged by the farm worker. In fact, there is today a relatively small percentage of farmers who give any wine at all.

2. That a farm worker looking for work, first asks: "How much mos the baas gives". This is such obvious nonsense that it deserves no comment at all.

3. The labourer alleges that he was paid R2 per day and your report ends with the following: "n Goeie boer is 'n boer wat meet betaal. En hulle betaal almal dieselfde."

This creates the impression that not only baas Pierre, but all farmers are paying R2 per day. I challenge Miss Steyn and Mr Bosch to name the "baas Pierre" or any farmer in Montagu who is paying R2 per day.

I find it unbelievable that a report like this could be published without the facts having been verified before hand.

Signature

Fawu denies scab allegations

THE Food and Allied Workers Union has dismissed allegations that it sent its members to a fruit canning factory in East London to replace dismissed workers as "utterly false".

Fawu was reacting to National Union of Food Workers' allegations that Fawu sent members to work at Langeberg in East London while workers were locked out.

Workers at Langeberg were locked out and dismissed on April 7 following a wage dispute and the company was accused of using coloureds as scab workers.

NUFW general-secretary Lulamile Mati said that the coloured operators were members of Fawu who were brought in from Mossel Bay.

"As a trade union, Fawu has no right to send workers to Langeberg," Mati said.

Fawu general-secretary in Cape Town, Jan Theron, said in a statement this week: "Fawu deplores scabbing and will not allow its members to be used to train scabs, whatever union was involved."

Theron said the NUFW alleged that 700 scab workers had been hired and that operators were brought in from Mossel Bay.

He said he immediately undertook an investigation into the matter and it was established that no Fawu members had left Mossel Bay for East London.

"I was then informed that the operators concerned were from Langeberg's parent factory, which turned out not to be the case," he said.

Wine farms remain hooked on dop system

CAC Toms 11/5/87

By WILFRED SCHÄRF

THE tot system on the wine farms of the Western Cape remains a widespread labour practice and has resulted in a dependent, docile and disorganized rural labour force.

In spite of the 1963 prohibition on paying labourers in wine, the majority of farmers have continued to violate the law. Although the farmers pretend that the tot is given to labourers as a gift, it is understood by most of the labourers I interviewed to be part of their rightful reward for labour.

The few who do not partake in the tot (usually the "bekeerders" — ie devout Christians) are usually paid a little more than the drinkers. Two points that underscore this perception are that overtime and weekend work is often "paid for" in liquor and that punishment of labourers who break the farmer's rules frequently involves a choice between pay deductions or the withdrawal of tot rights.

Many workers augment the tot by purchasing wine. This absorbs between 10% and 40% of their weekly wages. It has a profound impact not only on the labourers themselves, but also on their women, children and unborn children.

The daily intake of high amounts of liquor is virtually certain to have rendered a very high percentage of the rural working class dependent on or addicted to it for more than a century! This dependency virtually pre-determines the level of mental and emotional support the men or women can give their families. This alone would constitute a searing indictment of the tot system. But it is often accompanied by below-subsistence wages, coercive management and poor housing.

Strait-jacket

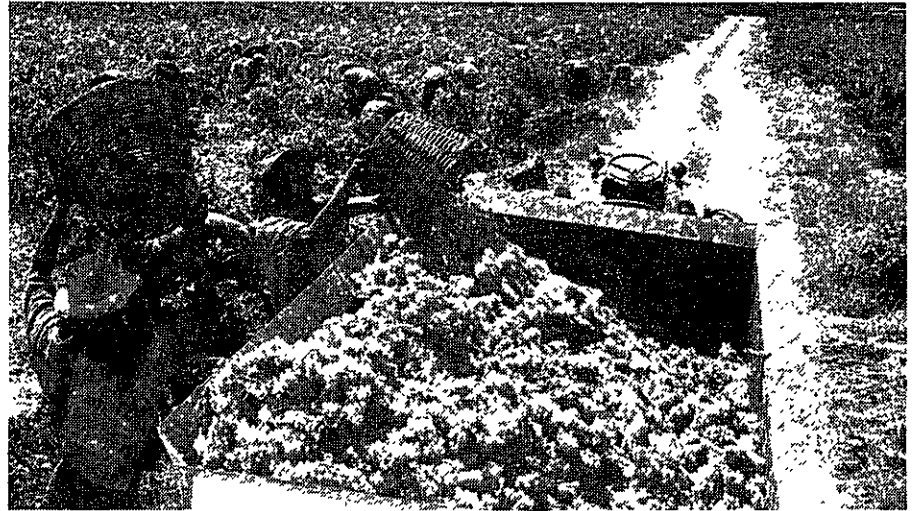
Farm labourers are virtually locked into a farm-related residential and employment strait-jacket. This has considerable implications for the degree of control the farmer can exercise over their behaviour.

There is a substantial difference between the wages of farm labourers and those of town or city workers. In 1984 the average wage paid on 18 farms surveyed in the Somerset West/Stellenbosch area was R26 a week for ordinary labourers, compared with the R45 minimum urban wage in the building industry (the most common alternative to farm labour). Farmers correctly argue that most farm labourers receive free housing, services such as water and occasional farm produce, in addition to wages.

It should be borne in mind, however, that other factors also influence the comparison. As is well known, farm labourers have barely any legislative protection. Service organizations are still waiting on the publication of a Manpower Commission report into labour legislation for farm workers, which was completed in 1984.

The monetary value of unemployment insurance, pension benefits, bonus payments and the lack of leave benefits all detrimentally influence the position of farm workers in comparison to city workers.

For the labourers themselves, the tot serves to mask the boredom of a dead-end working life. On most farms the scope for upward mobility is extremely limited. There is usually also very little acknowledgement for length of service.



Labourers on a Western Cape farm.

The ease with which free liquor is obtainable and the absence of other forms of recreation or endeavour, merely facilitate the slide into hopelessness and escapism.

The tot system does not need to be a central feature of labour relations. The changes in wine-farming techniques since the late 1970s demand a more skilled labour force, leading some of the more business-minded and liberal-minded farmers (currently estimated to constitute 15% to 20% of wine farmers) to move, or attempt to move, away from the tot system.

It deserves mention that over the years, even during the phase of labour shortages, there were some farmers (even wine farmers) who did not administer the tot, yet had no labour-supply problems.

Research over the past 10 years has shown a substantial diminishing of the amount of liquor dispensed, from the average of five tots and a bottle a day to a single "dop" during the day and a bottle at night. This lesser amount is still habit-forming, however, and is prolonging the destructive social effect of the tot on the farms. The number of farmers heeding recommendations from the Agricultural Union and the Rural Foundation to abolish the tot altogether seems to be growing. Not all of them have succeeded. One of the problems experienced during attempts to abolish the tot has been the labourers' refusal to work without it or leaving the farm when it isn't reintroduced.

'Upgrading'

Looking back over the history of the tot system from the perspective of the mid-1980s, one may be lulled into thinking that it is a mere rural aberration, rapidly disappearing. Yet a closer look shows that its impact on both the rural and urban population of the Western Cape is not limited to the past and present, but will continue to exert its influence well into the first decades of the 21st century.

The tot system has contributed to shaping a substantial percentage of the farm workers and their families. Many workers who drink would be shed from the farms by the process of mechanization and "upgrading". They will probably continue their drinking lifestyle in the townships and squatter areas of the cities.

Farmers who tried to abolish the tot system have been disillusioned by the workers' response. They are, however, realizing now that it requires a comprehensive change of basic assumptions as well as a broad-ranging change in the entire lifestyle on the farms. Most importantly, it requires a revised attitude and approach to the labourers, an acknowledgement of their humanity and their potential ability to take responsibility in the work situation and their lives.

Farmers who have succeeded in detotting the labour force have done so by a broad spectrum of changes including:

- The establishment of worker committees;
- Improving the physical environment, notably housing;
- Paying higher wages and no tot;
- Establishing recreational alternatives to drinking;
- Allowing social workers to perform their services among the labourer families;
- Arranging pension schemes, unemployment insurance and life insurance for the labourers and introducing a written labour contract;
- Encouraging acquisition of formal skills.

The achievement of these objectives may well be a considerable way off, and dependent on the fortunes of the liquor industry in the difficult economic conditions of the late 1980s. They require considerable capital investment, time and energy.

(Wilfred Schärf is a lecturer at the Institute for Criminology, UCT. This is an extract from a chapter which has been prepared as part of the following work of the Commission on the Development of the Wine Industry and Development of the Wine Industry.)

SOUTH SCOPE

Farm Workers Unite

By MOIRA LEVY

LESS than 18 months after the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) announced its intention to organise farm workers, an affiliate has made several major strides in the field.

Critics were sceptical when the Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu) started organising farm workers.

Some of the challenges Fawu faced was the exclusion of labourers from the protection of the Labour Relations Act. Farm workers are also denied trade union rights and have not been systematically organised before.

Often the most vulnerable and exploited sector of the labour force, they are being squeezed off the land by growing mechanisation and by the move towards farming monopolies that employ less labour, moving their smaller workforce from one farm to the next within the conglomerate.

The workers risk losing not only their jobs, but the roof over their heads and the little subsistence they can get from the small plots they are sometimes allowed to till.

All of which makes the overwhelming response to Cosatu's efforts at organising among farm workers all the more significant.

The Western Cape region of Fawu took up the challenge less than a year ago.

They have a recognition agreement signed with Farm Fare chicken farms, and another pending with the grant Anglo American farms at Groot Drakenstein.



Union organiser Mona Petersen with Groot Drakenstein farm labourer Jan Muller
Picture: MIKE HUTCHINGS

At the Anglo American farms membership among the fulltime workers was virtually 100 percent, a union organiser said. About 400 farm workers have joined the union.

Ms Mona Petersen, a local shop steward, said Anglo American was at the moment determining whether Fawu had majority support, a routine step towards official recognition.

Contact had also been made with individual farmers, where the response had ranged from sympathy to downright hostility, she said.

But Petersen and veteran trade union organiser Mrs Lizzie Abraham, agreed the task of organising farm workers in 1987 was a far cry from the old days when the Congress

Alliance affiliated South African Congress of Trade Unions (Sactu) unions were chased from the farms by "boere with shotguns".

Today giant monopolies like Anglo American have experience of trade unionism, she says, and the farm workers understand as they never did before the strength they will gain "as hulle saamstaan".

Petersen says the farm labourers were first approached by Fawu through their wives who are employed at the fruit canning and bottling factories in the area where the union has a long history.

"We asked them to let their husbands know that we wanted to speak to them. Then we went to visit the

farms after hours.

"The response was very good from the start. They all filled in membership forms. All the men working on the Groot Drakenstein farms have joined the union," Petersen said.

SOUTH spoke to several men living and working on the farms in the Groot Drakenstein and Pniel area.

All had joined the union, and all agreed Fawu could do more to better their working conditions than any of them could achieve on their own.

"If the workers come together in the union, we can fight for better conditions and a better future," Jan Visser, a farm supervisor, said.

Their grievances are many. Top of the list was the fact that the workers

often have to work in the rain.

They are given protective clothing, "but you have to wear two or three of these plastic overalls, and even then the rain gets through," Jan Muller said.

A fellow worker, Ivan Sias, explained: "You don't feel it so much when you are young. But when you get old you feel all the years of damp that never left your bones".

And they protest about their paltry salaries. Weekly pay ranges from R35 to R53 for labourers.

Other grievances include that they do not get bonuses, or overtime pay during the season when they work longer hours, or proper holidays, or more than 10 days paid sick leave each year.

And they resent having to call the farmers baas, they said, "as if he is the Father. We could just as well call him Meneer".

Mrs Dinah Groenewald had just joined the union, and she was not afraid to say so, she said.

She works every day, seven days a week, from 7.30 or 8 in the morning until 5pm, with only a one and a half hour lunch break.

"We are given no food, no break for breakfast."

All day Mrs Groenewald tends the pigs, feeding them, cleaning out their stalls and attends to the sows in labour.

For this she earns R76 a week. She complained that she was trained to perform castrations, but her salary was not increased to include her new skills.

But what does belonging to the union mean? Mrs Groenewald sums it up: "It has given us pride."

Years of damp 'never leave your bones'



MRS KATRINA JAARS laughs with embarrassment when she tells what school children employed on the farms during their vacations earn, for it is almost as much as she gets each week.

The children of the farm labourers who are 15 years or older sometimes

tend the fields or assist the men with the heavy labour when they are not at school.

For that they get R30 a week to add to their family's coffers. "It's a lot, ne," Mrs Jaars, 43, said.

She works from eight in the morning — breaking only for one hour for

lunch — watering, weeding and clearing the land until five each day, as she has done for four years.

For this she earns R37 a week.

But she is not really complaining. Her troubles really start during the off-season, when for six months of the year she has no work at all.

Then her husband has to support her and their four children on his salary of R53 a week.

The Jaars family live in a "very old house made of stone". In the winter it's freezing, Mrs Jaars said. But she doesn't like to light a fire because it makes the children cough.

Health

She worries about her family's health. Worst of all are the winter months when her husband works day after day out in the rain.

"It bothers me to see my man working in the rain like that. That kind of damp stays in the body."

Her friend Mrs Ann Alexander is concerned about the fumes that her husband, a tractor driver, inhales on the job. "It is the poison (in the pesticides). He feels it in his chest."

Both women said their husbands have joined the union, and they back their decision. Already they have seen the difference, they say.

If the men stand together, they are not afraid to ask for something. "The women must also stand together," Mrs Jaars said.



Mrs Katrina Jaars (back) with her friend, Mrs Ann Alexander.



Mr Johannes Alkaster

'Arm broken by policeman'



The accused: Sergeant Hermias Rossouw, left, and Detective-Sergeant Gert Jacobs.

Tygerberg Bureau

KUILS River farm worker Mr Johannes Alkaster, who claims to have seen two policemen dragging his friend, Mr Dawid Morris, behind a tractor, told the Regional Court, Parow, that one of the policemen broke his arm with a "heavy blunt weapon".

Mr Alkaster was giving evidence yesterday at the trial of Detective-Sergeant Gert Johannes Jacobs, 30, of Rusthof Farm, Kuils River, and Sergeant Hermias Cornelius Rossouw, 35, of Herte Street, Kraaifontein.

They have pleaded not guilty to charges of culpable homicide following the death of Mr Morris on November 2 last year, and have also pleaded not guilty to charges of assaulting Mr Alkaster.

Their defence counsel, Mr HC Trisos, said Sergeant Jacobs, of the Brackenfell police, would acknowledge there was a fight between himself and Mr Morris after Mr Morris allegedly attacked him with a panga.

The policemen would also say they tied Mr Morris to the tractor's tow-hitch by his hands in order to transport him, "as he was not in a fit state to walk", and that Mr Morris fell off.

Multiple injuries

Medical evidence from Tygerberg Hospital was that Mr Morris died of multiple injuries. He had a lacerated liver and kidneys, heart damage, a ruptured colon, two fractured ribs, a fractured thorax and other injuries.

Mr Alkaster said that about 10pm that Saturday night he left his room to investigate shouting and saw two men assaulting Mr Morris.

He identified Sergeant Jacobs as one of the two men striking Mr Morris with large, heavy sticks. Mr Morris was lying on the ground and did not fight back.

Mr Alkaster was then also assaulted with a "heavy, blunt weapon" by Sergeant Jacobs, who warned him to "take your foot off this farm at once".

Mr Alkaster said he worked on the farm for eight years, had a right to be there and paid rent for his labourer's cottage. However, the assault frightened him so much he fled to a chicken coop.

Heavy rope

From the chicken coop he saw the policemen tie Mr Morris to the tow-bar of a tractor with a heavy rope.

Mr Morris was "lying quietly, not making a sound". Even though it was dark and he did not see details of his face, he knew it was Mr Morris as he saw his watch gleaming. The farm also had lights outside.

He saw Sergeant Jacobs driving the tractor with Mr Morris being dragged behind it. Mr Morris was attached to the tractor by his feet and was dragged face down for 200 to 300 paces to the adjacent farm, Bella Vista, Sergeant Rossouw was walking behind, he said.

During cross-examination by Mr Trisos, Mr Alkaster denied Mr Morris could have attacked the two policemen with a panga.

The hearing continues today.

Man dragged face down by tractor — witness

Capt. Trisos 3/6/87
Court Reporter

A WITNESS told Parow Regional Court yesterday that he had fled and hid in a chicken coop after two policemen had broken his arm.

He said that while hiding he had seen the same policemen tie another man to a tractor and drag him, face down, along the ground.

Mr Johannes Alkaster was giving evidence in the trial of Detective-Sergeant Gert Johannes Jacobs, 30, of Rusthof Farm, Kuils River, and Sergeant Hermias Rossouw, 35, Herte Street, Kraaifontein.

The policemen have pleaded not guilty to culpable homicide.

They are accused of causing the death of Mr Dawid Morris by hitting him, tying him to a tractor and dragging him.

They also denied assaulting Mr Alkaster with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

Mr Alkaster said he had heard a noise outside his

To page 2

From page 1

Policemen

Capt. Trisos 3/6/87
house. He saw the two policemen hitting Mr Morris with sticks. He had approached them.

The witness said Sergeant Jacobs had hit Mr Alkaster with a stick, breaking his left arm.

"I ran to a chicken coop and I saw the two accused passing the coop carrying Mr Morris. His feet were dragging and they put him by the gate."

Sergeant Jacobs fetched a tractor and the two tied Mr Morris's hands to it. They dragged him, face down, to an adjoining farm, Mr Alkaster said.

Defence counsel Mr H C Trisos, for both the policemen, said Sergeant Jacobs would say that he tried to subdue Mr Morris, who attacked him with a panga.

Because Mr Morris could not walk at that point, they had tied him to the tow bar of a tractor, in a sitting position.

Sergeant Jacobs continued driving and did not see that Mr Morris had fallen from the tractor but Sergeant Rossouw had jumped off when he noticed this, Mr Trisos said.

Mr Niklaas Bekers, 18, told the court that he, Mr Morris, Ms Mary Williams and Ms Sara Hendricks had walked to the neighbouring farm to fetch Ms Williams's son.

While he and Mr Morris waited at the fence, two people came out of the bushes with torches and hit Mr Morris. It was too dark for Mr Bekers to identify the assailants or their weapons. After hearing a shot, he ran away, he said.

Ms Williams, Mr Morris's common-law wife, said she had gone to fetch her 12-year-old son with the group and as she walked through the fence she heard hitting noises and ran to hide.

Her husband had been all right when she left him at the fence and she denied that he owned a "panga".

She denied that the group had gone to the farm to take care of "pimpers" (police informers) who had caused a friend's arrest for trespassing.

Ms Hendricks, one of the group, said she had watched from behind bushes as two men assaulted Mr Morris with sticks.

The hearing continues today.
Mr J C Botha was the magistrate. Mr J Luckhoff prosecuted.

4/16/87
4/16/87

Tractor death: (4) Court (4) told of injuries

Court Reporter

THE findings of a pathologist who performed a post-mortem on a man who was allegedly dragged behind a tractor by two policemen, was consistent with allegations that he had been dragged and beaten, Parow Regional Court heard yesterday.

Dr S A Siroka, a State pathologist at Tygerberg Hospital, was giving evidence in the trial of Detective Sergeant Gert Johannes Jacobs, 30, of Rusthof Farm, Kuils River, and Sergeant Her-mias Rossouw, 35, of Herte Street, Kraaifon-tein.

They have pleaded not guilty to culpable homicide in that on November 1 they caused the death of Mr Dawid Morris, 35, by hitting him, tying him to a tractor and dragging him for a distance on farm ground.

They also denied assaulting Mr Johannes Alkaster with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

Fractures

Dr Siroka found that Mr Morris died of multiple injuries which included a fractured sternum, two fractured ribs, deep-seated lacerations of the liver, lacerated kidneys, bleeding to the right side of the scalp, a ruptured colon, and fresh lacerations to the upper abdomen, the back, upper arm, the right shoulder and the right hand.

She said that blunt force was used on Mr Morris, but she could not say how much. The marks on his back could have been caused by scraping along a rough or sharp surface.

Cross-examined by counsel for the defence, Mr H C Trisos, she said the wounds could have been inflicted by a blunt or sharp instrument. She said that if the man had been dragged face down, she would have expected abrasions on his face. Mr Morris had had a swollen eye.

In a statement handed in to the court, Sergeant Rossouw said he and Detective Sergeant Jacobs

Rossouw said he and Detective Sergeant Jacobs had gone the farm Rotterdam to investigate some "trouble". He had seen a man stealthily approaching Detective Sergeant Jacobs with a "panga" and he had "floored" him.

Panga

Detective Sergeant Jacobs then grabbed the man and took the "panga" away from him. "The youngster (Jong) was lying on the ground and I told him to get up and he said he would try." Detective Sergeant Jacobs came back with a tractor and tied Mr Morris's legs to it with rope.

Sergeant Rossouw climbed on to the tractor and later noticed the rope trailing and realized Mr Morris was no longer tied to the tractor. He jumped off and later ran after Detective Sergeant Jacobs, shouting at him to stop.

Sergeant Rossouw denied that he had helped Detective Sergeant Jacobs tie Mr Morris to the tractor.

At a previous hearing, Mr Alkaster said he saw the two policemen hitting Mr Morris with sticks. He had approached them and asked them what they were doing.

Detective Sergeant Jacobs hit Mr Alkaster with a stick, breaking his left arm.

"I ran to a chicken coop to hide and I saw the two accused passing the coop carrying Mr Morris."

'Beaten'

Detective Sergeant Jacobs fetched a tractor and the two tied Mr Morris's hands to it with a rope. They dragged him, face down, to an adjoining farm, Belle Vista, he said.

Three other witnesses said they saw Mr Morris being beaten.

Warrant Officer Johannes Thiant said he had been called to the farm just after midnight and Detective Sergeant Jacobs had come out of a narrow alley with two other men, dragging Mr Morris.

He said Mr Morris had smelled of stale alcohol. He later realized Mr Morris was unconscious and called an ambulance.

The hearing was adjourned to July 20.

Mr J C Botha was the magistrate. Mr J Luckhoff prosecuted



LABOUR BRIEFS

Seven unions evicted from EL offices *South*

SEVEN trade unions in East London affiliated to Cosatu will take legal action contesting the legality of their eviction from their offices in the city.

The unions were served with notices on May 26 to vacate the offices in Fleetwell House in East London by June 20.

The notice, served by a firm of attorneys acting for the owners, Fleetwell Company, said: "Our clients have been compelled to take this step because of the recurring fires in the building, as a result whereof the property is no longer insurable and our clients face a considerable risk in the event of a conflagration."

Last year the offices were destroyed by fire. This year, during the Cosatu protest against the whites-only elections, fire broke out in the building damaging the offices of the union and the South African College for Higher Education (Sached) offices.

A spokesperson for Cosatu in East London said: "The notice given by the owners clearly show their stand that they do not care even if the workers could not operate from the offices. This is unwarranted and clearly shows collaboration of the ruling forces."

— Elnews.

Anglo workers 'still waiting'

By MOIRA LEVY *South*

FARMWORKERS at Anglo American Groot Drakenstein farms, who have joined the Food and Allied Workers Union (FAWU), have been waiting more than two months to hear if management has agreed to recognise their union.

And they are starting to get worried about the delay.

A union organiser said management at Anglo American farms was counting the number of signed-up FAWU members at the Groot Drakenstein farms as a prelude to possible recognition.

Talks between management and the union began more than two months ago where workers put forward their

demands: a 40-hour working week; a shed where workers can eat their lunch on rainy days; a basic wage of between R80 and R90 a week; fair advance warning of disciplinary action; overtime pay when workers have to be on standby during weekends; improved relations between foremen and labourers.; May Day as a public holiday; holiday pay in separate envelopes; ten days sick leave; holiday bonuses for 10 days a year; pensioners who have been employed at the farms to be allowed to keep their homes.

A spokesperson for Anglo American said the company was involved in negotiations with the union and had "no comment at this stage".

Union member can't resign

A SOUTH African Transport Services (Sats) worker has claimed that despite his efforts to resign from the in-house Black Trade Union (Blatu) his resignation forms are returned to him over and over again.

Mr M Mrawusi said in a letter to SOUTH that he and his colleagues have repeatedly tried to resign to join SARHWU, but "each time we send in our resignation forms, Blatu sends them back".

He said workers employed by Sats have no choice but to join the company union. Most workers sign membership forms because they "think its all got to do with employment. You only realise that you have become a member of Blatu when you see the 50c deducted from your pay every month".

Mrawusi challenged the union and Sats to hold a secret ballot to determine the extent of worker support.

Inkatha 'undermines' Cosatu

TWO academics from Natal have argued in a paper presented to a recent conference at the University of the Witwatersrand that Inkatha is trying to boost its campaign to undermine the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) by organising farmworkers in rural Natal.

Gerry Mare and Georgina Hamilton write in the paper that one of the aims of the Ngotshe Corporation agreement, signed by Inkatha's Uwusa and white farmers in northern Natal last August, was to undermine Cosatu's plans for a union of farmworkers.

The press hailed the agreement to negotiate issues like intergroup relations, security and labour relations as being in the same co-operative spirit as the KwaZulu indaba.

But the researchers quote Inkatha Secretary General Oscar Dhlomo as saying that the Ngotshe agreement would obviate the need for unions in the area and that "if a union did move in he would rather it be Uwusa".

Mare and Hamilton say Inkatha stands to gain in the short term from the chance to recruit "the notoriously inaccessible African population on white farms". — Agenda Press Services.

se
ot,

South
4-9/6/87
South
4-9/6/87

Wine worker drowns
in fermenting must

Staff Reporter

A wine-cellar worker at Root-berg Cellars, Robertson, drowned when he lost his balance and fell face downwards into a vat of fermenting must. His identity is being withheld until his family has been notified.

(4)

NEWS 4/16/87 C.D. [Signature]

Police charge docket not logged, trial told

Tygerberg Bureau

A POLICE docket charging a Kuils River farm worker, Mr Dawid Morris — who died the following day from multiple injuries — with trespassing and possessing a dangerous weapon, was never entered into the police station logbook, a police desk sergeant told the Parow Regional Court.

Sergeant Bertus Hendrik Sertera was ordered by another Kuils River policeman, Warrant-Officer Christian Thiart, not to register the arrested man's docket.

Warrant-Officer Thiart said in evidence yesterday that he fetched the arrested farm labourer from Rotterdam Farm, Kuils River, on November 1 last year.

He gave the order not to enter the new docket — which did not bear Mr Morris's name — "until I could discuss this case with the station commander."

Sergeant Sertera and Warrant-Officer Thiart testified yesterday at the trial of Detective-Sergeant Gert Johannes Jacobs, 30, of Rusthof Farm, Kuils River, and Sergeant Herminas Cornelius Rossouw, 35, of Herte Street, Kraaifontein.

Not guilty plea

The two have pleaded not guilty to culpable homicide following Mr Morris's death on November 2 last year. They have also pleaded not guilty to assaulting another farm worker, Mr Johannes Alkaster, on November 1.

The two policemen, who were off-duty at the time of the incident, are accused of causing Mr Morris's death by "hitting him and dragging him behind a tractor".

Sergeant Sertera said yesterday that when the "arrested" Mr Morris was carried into the police station from the police van about 12.30am on November 2, he "appeared to be unconscious".

"I noticed blood and dirt on his clothing and his head, and also on his chest, and saw sand in his hair," he said. The man had "smelt slightly of stale alcohol".

An ambulance ordered from Tygerberg Hospital arrived about 15 minutes later, he said.

A new docket, which was completed and sent with the arrested man from the farm by Detective-Sergeant Jacobs of the Brackenfell cattle-theft unit, was not entered into the police station logbook but was kept in the charge office, with a panga brought along with Mr Morris, "until the station commander was informed of the case".

Wounds described

Dr S A Siroka of the State pathology department told the court yesterday that Mr Morris had died of multiple injuries, including a "deeply lacerated" liver and torn kidneys, heart damage, a ruptured colon, fractured ribs, a fractured thorax, and two broken bones in his lower left leg.

She also said the "fresh lacerations" and extensive scraping marks on Mr Morris's upper torso and shoulder "could have been caused by scraping along a rough or sharp surface".

Some of the other injuries to Mr Morris could also have been caused by a blunt instrument "with a rough surface", and his swollen left eye could have been caused by dragging over a rough surface, she said.

Dr Siroka agreed with the defence counsel's contention that a rough-surfaced panga, handed in as evidence to the court, could also have caused the injuries.

She had not found any marks on the legs which could have been caused by ropes. However, if Mr Morris had been shod, the rope marks might not have shown up, she said.

The hearing was postponed to June 22.

Mr J C C Botha was on the Bench. Mr J W Lückhoff appeared for the State and Mr H Trisos for the two accused.

W/Mail
5-11/6/87
4

Down on the farms, Inkatha in union drive

By EDDIE KOCH

INKATHA has boosted its campaign against the Congress of South African Trade Unions with a recruiting drive among farmworkers in parts of rural Natal, say two Durban-based researchers in a paper presented at a Wits University conference.

Gerry Mare and Georgina Hamilton argue that one of the aims of the Ngotshe Co-operation Agreement, signed by Inkatha and white farmers in northern Natal in August last year, was to undermine plans by Cosatu to build a union for farmworkers.

The press hailed the signing ceremony at the Louwsburg rugby field as an occasion in which rugged farmers and bare-breasted Zulu maidens rubbed shoulders in the same co-operative spirit as the KwaNatal Indaba. But the researchers say the real motivation of both parties was to contain signs of growing militancy among farmworkers in the region.

The NCA's published aim was to set up a forum to negotiate issues such as improved inter-group relations; security in an area known to be an ANC infiltration route; job creation and improved labour relations.

A less public intention emerged six weeks later when Inkatha secretary general Oscar Dhlomo met the newly-elected chairman of the Ngotshe Cooperation Committee, Tjaart van Rensburg.

The paper reports him as saying Inkatha had never been interested in trade unions, but that members' dissatisfaction with Cosatu had led to the formation of the Inkatha-backed United Workers's Union of South Africa a few months earlier.

"He felt that the agreement would obviate the need for a trade union, but if a union did move he would rather it be Uwusa."

Then early this year farmers in the Richmond district of Natal visited Louwsburg to discuss "some form of accord which would prevent the influx of irresponsible trade union movements that would break down the present predominately good relations which exist on most farms ..."

Such attempts to replicate the NCA are in line with South African Agricultural Union policy to oppose Cosatu's plans to unionise farmworkers, say Mare and Hamilton.

"In some ways the Ngotshe Co-operation Agreement is not far removed from what agricultural capital generally feels to be its major concerns: To prevent the expansion of trade unionism (of any description, but especially the Cosatu variety) into farming areas".

The paper also examines fears by Inkatha and white farmers that impoverishment of farm labourers and the breakdown of chiefly authority could strengthen the UDF and provide ANC insurgents with support.

Mare and Hamilton say Inkatha stands to gain in the short term from the chance to recruit "the notoriously inaccessible African population on white farms".

But Inkatha's alliance with white farmers could restrict the organisation's ability to challenge poor conditions farmworkers labour under and could lead to the kind of rebuff that many organised industrial workers in Natal appear to have given Uwusa.

"The short term gain of access to farm labour for recruiting purposes may in the longer term lead to massive disillusionment from yet another constituency." — Agenda

DURBAN — Hundreds of Tongaat sugar farm labourers are expected to take part in a 45km protest march from Tongaat to Durban on Monday to highlight grievances over working conditions.

The demonstration is being organised by the Sugar and Allied Workers' Union, an affiliate of the SA Allied Workers' Union, Saawu, which organised a similar protest in the North Coast town last week.

Saawu's Natal chairman Isaac Ngcobo said the workers would

LB Day 11/6/87 (L) (L) (L)

Sugar men plan march

Own Correspondent

hand a letter to Archbishop Denis Hurley asking him to intervene in their dispute with Tongaat-Hulett over pay and conditions.

However, a final decision on whether to go ahead with the protest would be taken at a meeting of workers in Tongaat on Sunday.

The workers wanted Hurley to intervene because, Ngcobo alleged, earlier attempts to seek a meeting with Tongaat Hulett chairman Chris Saunders had been blocked.

Tongaat/Hulett's PRO chief Ron Phillips said he was surprised a protest was being contemplated when negotiations were still under way.

18/6/87

B/Day

~~18/6/87~~ 4

Workers turn to unions for change on the farms

A QUIET revolution is taking place in the SA countryside. Despite government and farmer antipathy, farmworkers are increasingly turning to trade unions to spearhead their demands for higher wages and better working conditions.

An announcement by Premier subsidiary Farm Fare that it was signing a recognition agreement with the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) is seen as proof that farmworkers are at last coming in from the cold.

Breakthrough

"It is an important breakthrough for farmworkers and we will be looking ahead to signing more agreements," Fawu president Chris Dlamini said.

"We hope to cover more of the farms. The reason we decided to organise workers is that they have been exploited for years and have worked under disgraceful conditions — wages are far below the standard of living. That is deliberate because the farmers want to own workers to exploit them."

PATRICK BULGER

Yet Dlamini stresses that much of the impetus for trade union organisation has come from workers themselves, and not union leadership.

Farm labourer organisation is not new to SA. In the 1920s, the Industrial and Commercial Union, and later the ANC, gained huge farmworker backing, especially in the eastern Transvaal.

In the case of the Farm Fare agreement, Fawu has a strong following in that company's processing plants.

"We believe that workers in firms dealing with farms would serve as a legal lever to help farmworkers," Dlamini said.

In other words, while farmworkers are not covered by the Labour Relations Act which accommodates the collective bargaining process, their counterparts in allied sectors are.

This puts them in a position to compensate for the lack of legal protection offered farmworkers.

This legal protection has been a

long time coming. A National Manpower Commission report on farmworkers completed in 1984 has been put firmly on the shelf.

And the SA Agricultural Union remains adamant that the structure of the agricultural sector does not lend itself to trade unionism.

"We have lost any hope that the farmworkers' lot will be improved through new laws. The strength of the farmworkers themselves will achieve that," Dlamini said.

Militancy

Rising farmworker militancy has not only been reflected in Fawu's efforts to organise workers. Farming implement companies have jumped on the social upliftment bandwagon.

Government has indicated it is looking at ways of improving the lot of labourers with housing subsidies.

In Natal, the Inkatha-backed United Workers Union of SA has been organising farmworkers, and the SA Allied Workers' Union has established a strong presence on sugar estates.

Number of

n & Stewart Inc.

A3329

GREY-PHILLIPS, BUNTON, MUNCE & BLAKE 82027 1 HP

Care 10/15 23/10/87

Philippi

children

underfed

(4) ~~23~~ ~~23~~
study

Staff Reporter

ALMOST half the children studied in the vegetable farming areas in and around Philippi suffer from malnutrition.

According to a study delivered at the recent conference of the Epidemiological Society of Southern Africa by Dr S Whittaker, 41% of the children surveyed were found to be malnourished on a weight-for-age scale, the accepted South African medical means of measurement.

Of the 156 children in the study, 29% had had cases of diarrhoea in the first year of their lives sufficient badly to warrant hospitalisation, while 26% had been underweight at birth.

The study, which looked at the prevalence of malnutrition and associated socio-economic ills of the farm workers' children, also found that more than a third of the families surveyed had recently had a case of tuberculosis.

Dr Whittaker found that the average wine consumption of the 129 families surveyed on 23 of the 90 vegetable farms in and around Philippi was 48 litres a month. Half the parents of the children in the survey had no higher than a Std 1 level of education and only 19% were legally married.

Getting organised

Labour strife on Tongaat-Hulett's north coast canefields underlines an important development: union-backed demands for labour reform have reached SA's farms.

Countrywide, farmers have reluctantly accepted the need for some reforms to working conditions. But the prospects of organised agriculture willingly conceding the looming issue of formal recognition of unions and the procedures regulated by the Labour Relations Act (LRA) are remote.

The sound and fury of the Tongaat-Hulett dispute extends to such smokescreens as an attack by the SA Allied Workers' Union (Saawu) on the KwaNatal Indaba, and threats of protest marches to Archbishop Hurley's house in Durban.

But stripped of rhetoric, the issue central to Saawu's representations on behalf of 800 seasonal cane cutters is formal recognition of the Farm Workers Union, an associate of Saawu.

Talks on grievances raised by workers are taking place, and Tongaat-Hulett's Ron Phillips says while these talks are on the company will issue no statement. However, Phillips emphasises the talks relate to working conditions.

Isaac Ngcobo, Natal chairman of Saawu, told the *FM* this week the talks were leading nowhere and unless union demands for

recognition were accepted by July 5 the threatened march was likely to take place. Workers, he said, wished Archbishop Hurley to intervene and argue their case with Tongaat-Hulett management.

Currently farmworkers are excluded from the provisions of the LRA, which means they cannot use the collective bargaining or dispute resolution machinery provided by the Act. Belonging to a union is not prohibited but is an academic exercise anyway since the union would not formally have access to the machinery of the Act.

Farmworkers are also currently excluded from protection afforded under the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, which means their conditions of employment are governed only by common law. The huge wage differential between urban and rural workers is attributed in major part by unionists to this lack of protection.

The SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) admits that reform of agriculture's employment practice is inevitable and is negotiating with government amendments to the Basic Conditions of Employment Act. However, it believes farmers are not ready to accept the LRA in any form.

Since the enactment of the Industrial Conciliation Act in 1924, agriculture has been excluded from most labour statutes, with the exception of the Workmen's Compensation Act, the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act, and the Manpower Training Act. The historical explanation, according to SAAU Deputy Director Hans van der Merwe, is that agriculture's production demands differ fundamentally from those of industry and commerce.

However, the cautious view now expressed by the SAAU is that the situation is "dynamic."

No doubt contributing to this change of heart was the inquiry by the National Manpower Commission (NMC) into the merits of extending labour legislation to farmworkers (and domestics). Organised agriculture was a major lobbyist during the NMC's two-year inquiry. Its report was presented to government in December 1985 but to date remains unpublished.

At the SAAU congress which followed the NMC report its general council was mandated to "investigate certain adaptations" to labour practices. A report-back is expected at this year's congress in Durban and is likely to focus on amendments sought to the Basic Conditions of Employment Act to make it acceptable to agriculture.

Key issues, says Van der Merwe, involve changes to provisions dealing with maximum working hours, sick leave and leave arrangements to accommodate the seasonal production demands of farmers.

But the LRA, which institutionalises rights of trade unions and negotiation and dispute procedures is "not acceptable in its present form and at this point in time." It would introduce "mechanisms of communication that agriculture is not familiar with and will not fit in," says Van der Merwe.



Farmworkers ... sowing recognition

This hesitancy is criticised by labour lawyer Chris Albertyn of the University of Natal's Centre for Socio-legal Studies. Albertyn suggests farmers should accept the inevitable and reform while they hold the initiative rather than be forced to reform when it might not suit them.

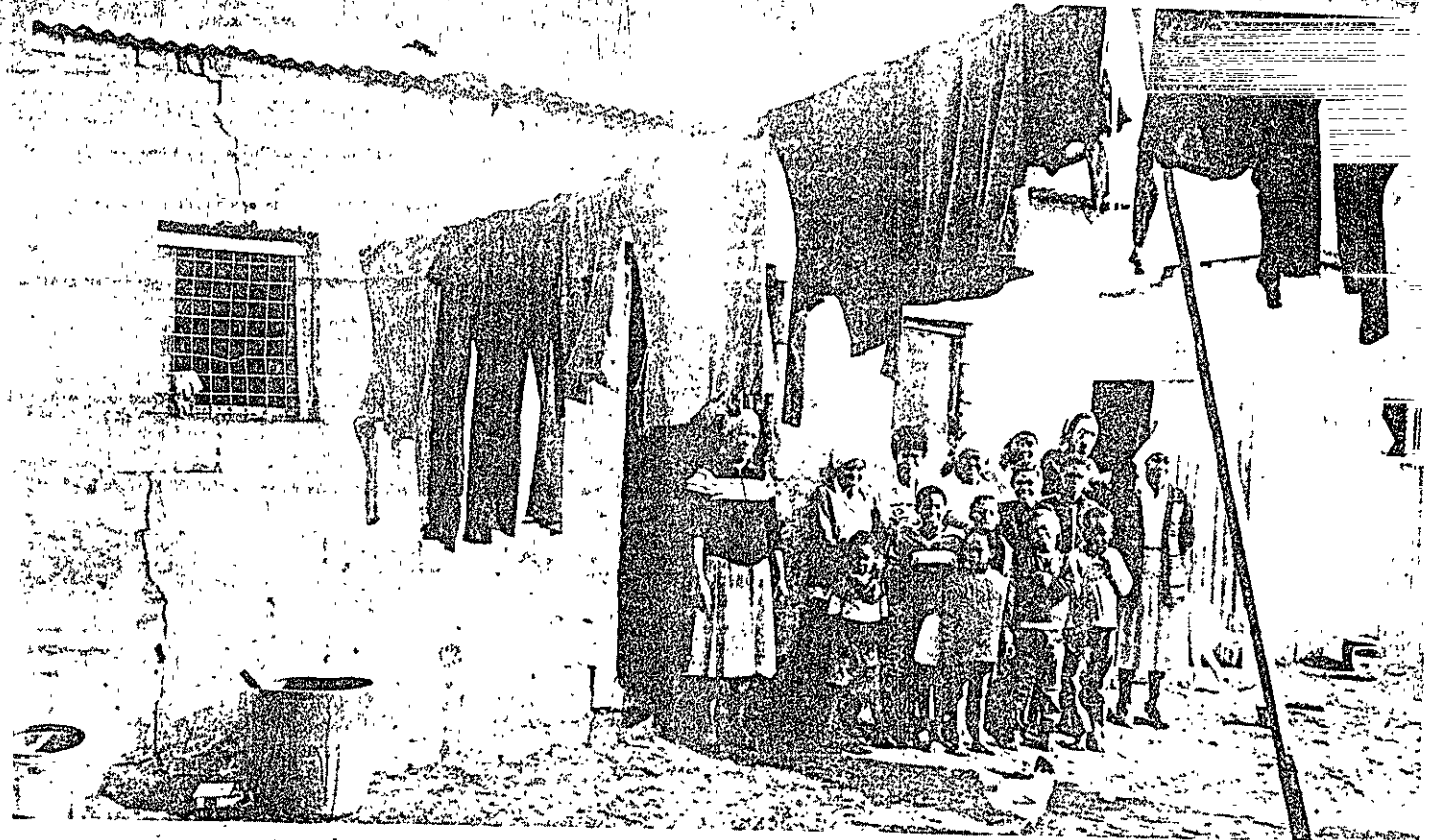
There is no question that pressure on farmers to acknowledge unions is likely to mount. A Cosatu founding resolution commits the congress to unionising farmworkers and domestics and the current dispute between cane cutters and Tongaat Hulett management may prove to be only the first salvo in what is likely to become a long campaign.

SOUTH
2-7-7/87

4

Down-and-out Philippi farmworkers are

Giving up the fight



A small group of women and children who live on various farms in Philippi

By GEORGE HILL

PHILIPPI farmworker Arthur, 46, has long ago given up the fight for a living wage.

Even though he now works in a toy factory on a Philippi farm where he lives, life has not changed. Wages are still low and he and his fellow workers are still on the "dop" system.

You look into his blood-shot eyes, his unkempt grey hair and the place he calls home and realise that

the workers get a bottle of wine. If they work on a Saturday they get two bottles of wine and no money. There are nine people in his family who share a one-roomed pondokkie and a caravan. One of Arthur's children goes to the Dietrich Moravian Primary School. Working hours are from 8am to 5pm.

On a second farm we met Marthinus who was visiting friends. He worked on

Arthur has worked on the farm for 10 years and earns R37 a week

he and his family have accepted their fate without much resistance.

The "house" is surrounded by old cars and the place resembles a junk yard. Arthur and three of his four children work as joiners in the toy factory. Although they are not qualified to do the work, they taught themselves and boast that they can be seen as artisans.

At the factory they make educational toys and desks for creches and other institutions. Arthur has been working on the farm for 10 years and earns R37 a week.

Every night after work

a nearby farm for 10 years as a farmhand and earns R28 a week. He starts working at 7am and stops 12 hours later.

If he gets up at four in the morning to go to the market he earns an extra R2 a day. He is so busy working that he could not check whether his children were attending school regularly because they sometimes roam around from farm to farm.

If they work with him in the afternoon they get R1.50. Marthinus is grateful when they assist because the money they earn helps pay doctors bills.

On a third farm we met



Mr William Nonyukel, 57, a worker on a farm in Philippi, once owned his own farm in Transkei

another worker who is employed at a pressed flower factory for R30 a week.

He is not satisfied with his work but has four children at school.

At this factory they get a litre wine a night.

Also on this farm we found another worker who earned R30 a week. He said that if his 15-year-old daughter did not help him he would not be able to survive.

He does not complain about the R35 he gets a week because he has no dependents. He had his own farm in Transkei but drought forced him to sell his land.

Jakob Johnson worked in a wood factory in King William's Town for R50 a month and is also satisfied with the R35 a week he earns.

His children are working on surrounding farms and he only supports his wife.

Some farmers are selling water to the labourers at 10c a 25-litre drum

On the farm Sondehof we met a worker and his wife. They have five children and worker, who has been working for 18 years, earns R45 a week. His wife earns R30.

The owner of Sondehof, Mr F Ellmann, approached for comment this week, said: "Nobody tells me how to run my farm and how I treat my workers. If you write anything about me, I'll take further action."

On the farm Klein Geluk two men were busy chopping wood for the week.

Mr William Nonyukel, 57, has been working on the farm for 17 years as a farmhand

"If I don't take wine at night I get R40 a week so most of the time I don't take wine because the extra money is always a help."

Mr Thabiet Abduragman, who runs a mobile shop in the area, said some farmers were selling water to the labourers at 10 cents a 25-litre drum.

According to some of the workers they do not get fresh water if they cannot pay for it.

The chairperson of the Philippi Farmers Association, Mr Gerard Gerstner, said his association was established for farmers and "not to help farmworkers".

Tot system at Cape factory

3-7/87 *Septu* (4)

By GEORGE HILL

WORKERS at a toy factory in Philippi are on the tot system, a SOUTH investigation this week found.

The factory, situated on a farm, manufacture toys for many educational institutions.

The workers are recruited from farms in the surrounding area where the outlawed tot system is still a common practice.

Five workers employed by the firm confirmed they received a bottle of wine each night as payment.

One worker interviewed, a former farmhand, said he earned about R35 a week. Others said they earned between R25 and R30 a week.

They said they were given two bottles if they worked on a Saturday but no extra pay.

The factory is situated in a brick and corrugated iron structures.

The manager of the firm, Mr H B Connolly, when contacted by telephone, said the wine was given to the workers at their request.

He later denied this was a practice at his factory.

An attempt was later made to interview him at the factory where he denied the firm employed anybody but himself, his daughter and brother-in-law.

Clearly visible, however, was a receptionist and some of the workers inside one of the buildings. He also refused to divulge wage details and insisted SOUTH disclose the names of the workers interviewed.

A spokesman for the Department of Manpower said strict regulations applied when any building was used a factory.

Corrugated iron buildings were considered a fire hazard and specific rules applied.

He said the toy factory described would be subject to the Furniture Industrial Council agreement which stipulated, among other things, a wage structure and made provision for benefits such as pension and medical aid.

• **Philippi farmworkers are giving up, page 6.**

Man blinded in kitscop shooting

BOTH eyes of a Beaufort West man were removed at Tygerberg Hospital after he was allegedly shot by a "kitskonstabel".

The shooting incident involving the blind man, Sydney Yabo, 22, is said to have taken place between 8 and 9pm on Saturday, June 20.

Said Yabo: "I was coming home from the dance hall. I saw some children throwing stones. As I rounded the corner, I felt my eyes burning. I don't know what happened to the children."

He was also shot in the mouth, nose and ear.

Yabo, training at a college in Beaufort West to be a carpenter, said his mother was very sad and disappointed.

The police said: "A special constable in the Beaufort West black township was attacked by black males. Bricks and stones were allegedly thrown during the attack."

"The special constable fired three shots with a shot gun in defence of himself and his property. One person was wounded and taken to Beaufort West hospital."

• **Attacks on Karoo kitscops, page 2**



Sidney Yabo in Tygerberg Hospital this week

Picture: BEN KARLIE

Govt illegitimate, says S

3-7/87

SOUTH CORRESPONDENT JOHANNESBURG. — The South African Council of Churches (SACC), representing 4,5-million Christians, looks set to declare the Botha government "morally illegitimate and constitutionally illegal".

The SACC's national conference was asked in Bosmont, Johannesburg, in

the report of outgoing general secretary Dr Beyers Naude its views on the government's legitimacy and legality - and to "indicate the steps to be taken" if this decision were approved.

The decision would have major consequences for churches in South Africa if approved.

The debate followed a deci-

sion by the World Council of Churches in Lusaka last month — backed by an SACC delegation — that the use of force to overthrow apartheid is morally justified.

And in his report to this week's conference, Naude says the growing political, social and economic crisis in South Africa is to intensify "All these developments as

CAP 6 Trimp 6/7/87 (4)

'Trespassing' labourer ordered to leave farm

JOHANNESBURG. — A 60-year-old farm labourer and father of eight children, Mr Witbooi Kubheka, was found guilty last week of trespassing on a farm in the Eastern Transvaal. He was born and raised on the farm.

Mr Kubheka was also ordered to leave the farm, City Press reported yesterday.

Mr Kubheka appeared last week before magistrate Mr M J Prinsloo at the Diekiesdorp police station.

The station commander of the police station, Sergeant Dawid Buckle, prosecuted. The case was adjourned to the following day and later transferred to Wakkerstroom Magistrate's Court, where Mr Prinsloo found him guilty.

The temporary owner of the farm, Mr Pieter Pienaar, told the court he had ordered Mr Kubheka to leave his farm on three occasions, but that he had refused, City Press reported.

Mr Pienaar said he wanted Mr Kubheka to leave the farm because he refused to work for him. Mr Kubheka told the court that he was old and sick and had sent his three sons to work for Mr Pienaar.

Mr Pienaar said he sent the three away because they often visited Soweto and he did not trust them.

CAP 6 Trimp 6/7/87

Lesotho, SA swap reps

MASERU. — Lesotho and South Africa have agreed to exchange resident representatives, opening a new chapter in relations strained by mutual hostility before the 1986 military takeover in Maseru.

Pretoria opened a trade mission in the Lesotho capital, Maseru, on June 1 after the two states signed a pact last April to normalize relations and exchange envoys.

"I can say without hesitation that this represents an improved relationship between our countries," South Africa's trade representative, Mr Ghemus J J Geldenhuys, told reporters. — Sapa-Reuter

up
linl
rea
wro
Sh
rec
inte
In
mar
got
eno
wha
Mi
imp
He
aid
towa

Be
fo
THE
tisem
able,
Frid

included on the list of

City Press, 6/7/87 (4)

Trespassing labourer ordered to leave farm

JOHANNESBURG. — A 60-year-old farm labourer and father of eight children, Mr Witbooi Kubheka, was found guilty last week of trespassing on a farm in the Eastern Transvaal. He was born and raised on the farm.

Mr Kubheka was also ordered to leave the farm, City Press reported yesterday.

Mr Kubheka appeared last week before magistrate Mr M J Prinsloo at the Diekiesdorp police station.

The station commander of the police station, Sergeant Dawid Buckle, prosecuted. The case was adjourned to the following day and later transferred to Wakkerstroom Magistrate's Court, where Mr Prinsloo found him guilty.

The temporary owner of the farm, Mr Pieter Pienaar, told the court he had ordered Mr Kubheka to leave his farm on three occasions, but that he had refused, City Press reported.

Mr Pienaar said he wanted Mr Kubheka to leave the farm because he refused to work for him. Mr Kubheka told the court that he was old and sick and had sent his three sons to work for Mr Pienaar.

Mr Pienaar said he sent the three away because they often visited Soweto and he did not trust them.

Argus on Saturday.

~~Argus 9/7/87~~

Man hurt in fall at Cape Town docks

Staff Reporter  

A KHAYELITSHA man is making good progress in Groote Schuur Hospital after being seriously injured in a four-metre fall at Cape Town docks.

Mr Jackson Phoisa fell from his perch above a jetty on Monday while working with crayfish traps being unloaded from a trawler.

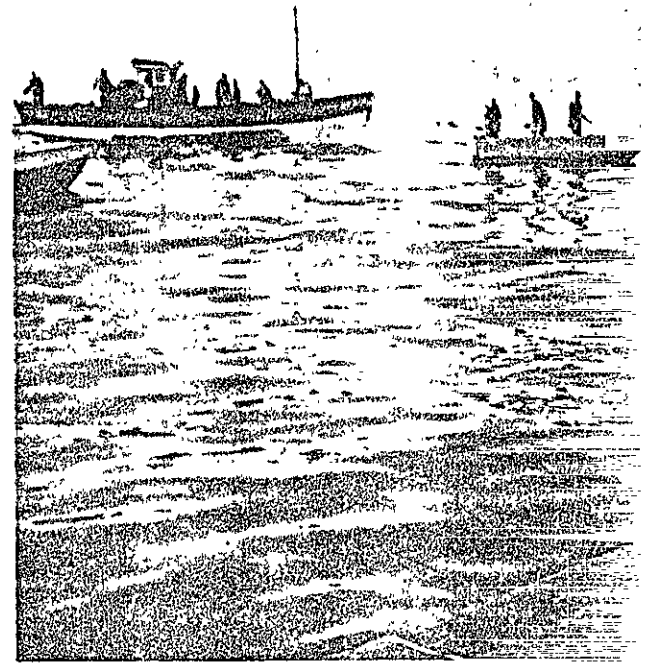
Fishermen see no future for their sons



The crew of the



Yusuf Martin and Moosa Fortune have a smoke break



Sunrise over the Atlantic Ocean and Mr

Report by SAHM VENTER
Pictures by BIEN KARLIE

THE age-old tradition of Cape Town's hand-line fishermen is in deep water

Men whose families have fished in False Bay for generations no longer encourage their sons to become fishermen.

In fact they actively dissuade them. "There is no future in it anymore," said a fifth generation False Bay fisherman.

"Being a fisherman means making barely enough to meet your expenses, let alone making a living.

Cape Town's fishermen are caught in an endless battle against the soaring cost of living and a scarcity of fish.

Almost 50 percent of Kalk Bay fishermen have left the area for other work, according to a leading fisherman in the area, Mr Vincent Cloete.

"Fishing gets in your blood, you inherit certain qualities," said Cloete, whose grandfather's grandfather fished in Kalk Bay. "But we have had a tremendous drain of our young people being sent to school by their parents so that they can earn a better living.

There used to be so many fish in False

Bay that a boat's propeller would chop them up in the water, fishermen say. But fish have become so scarce that fishermen have been known to go by bus to Port Elizabeth in search of a catch. They often fish in St Helena Bay, Saldanha Bay and Dassen Island.

"When there were no fish we used to say the fish have gone to school," one fisherman said. "Now we say they have gone to university."

'It just doesn't seem worth it anymore'

There is no regular wage. Fishermen have to contend with a daily price for their fish. Often a day's wage pays for cigarettes and tackle. Much of the essential fishing tackle is imported.

"My husband often only comes home with R10 a day," a fisherman's wife said.

Most fishermen don't own their own boats. They have to give the owner of the boat "bakspat" — 45 cents out of each rand they earn in a day.

The supply of fish in False Bay has been dwindling for many years, due to trawlers — now banned from the area, climatic changes and holidaymakers and others

fishing from ski-boats as well as the government's concessions to foreign countries.

"The government buys its image at the expense of the fishermen," said Cloete.

"We have been left at the mercy of hawkers. They operate on a daily basis, the same as we do," Cloete said.

Hawkers buy fish for about R4 to R4 50 each and sell them for between R8 and R9 each.

Fishermen are also restricted by the Department of Sea Fisheries permit system which makes it difficult to catch different types of fish.

"Now we just depend on snoek and it is a gamble," Mr Cassiem Emandien said. "They just make the rules and we have to carry them out. They don't consider us," he said.

"The price of fish is much higher than it used to be, but we are struggling against the cost of living," Emandien said.

A fisherman who had just returned from 10 hours of snoek fishing in Hout Bay on the weekend, said he caught 13 snoek which he would sell for R4 50 each. After paying his "bakspat" to the boat owner, R6 for a box of bait and R4 for the lorry fare to and from Kalk Bay, he was left

with R19 85.

Rental in the Kalk Bay flats for fishermen is going up. "What we catch just goes into the house."

Mr Willem Cloete, who lives in Grassy Park, says some days he earns R40 or R2 or R3, and some days nothing. His family survives because they eat fish every day except Sundays.

Cloete who has been fishing for 30 years still talks in pounds. One of the main

Bliterness about boat owners and the 'big boys'

problem is "elke dag is nie vis dag nie". People who don't live at the sea have to fork out R7 or R8 before they even start fishing. And often they don't catch anything.

Even boat owners are struggling. The latest fuel price adjustments has meant that the price of diesel has soared. One man will now pay over R70 for 100 litres of diesel instead of the old R50.

Boat owners are not guaranteed a crew. If another boat is going out to where there may be fish and he does not want to go, then his crew will join another boat.

There are so many reasons for the lack

of fish that nobody . . . Fishermen echo each . . . — everybody is to blame . . .

"When the bigger . . . the West Coast there's a . . . on them. Then the . . . enough crew," Cloete . . .

Mr Ahmed Abrahams pay out R5 for a . . . bait costs between R5 . . . cost R10 and hooks R30 . . . seem worth it anymore."

Abrahams who has . . . nearly 30 years is only . . . cause he is not used to . . . land . . .

So disillusioned are . . . they are talking about . . . but they don't know . . .

"Everything has . . . times," said Mrs . . . father fished in Kalk . . . ago. "Even the fish have . . . in the sea."

The fishing has been . . . church has set up a . . . fishermen's children . . . proud to go there," a . . . Mrs Unity Jacobs said . . . "There used to be Elf . . .

ee

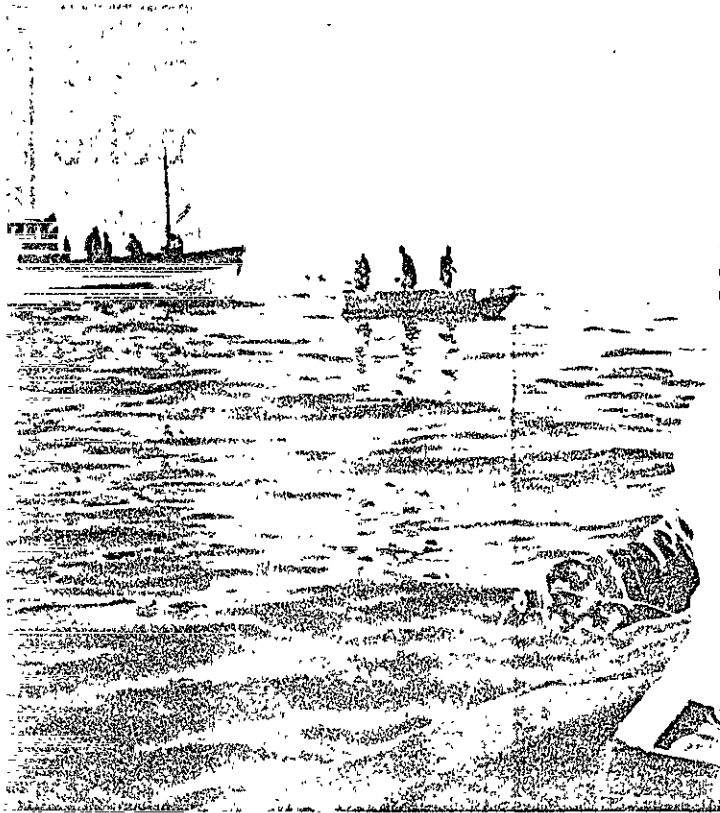
S



The crew of the Taj Mahal return to Hout Bay after an early-morning run



Gordon Menezes takes the hook from a snook



Sunrise over the Atlantic Ocean and Mr Moian Fortune hopes for an early catch



Skipper Allie Fortuin steers his boat out to the deep sea

with R19.85. Rental in the Kalk Bay flats for fishermen is going up. "What we catch just goes into the house."

Mr Willem Cloete, who lives in Grassy Park, says some days he earns R40 or R2 or R3, and some days nothing. His family survives because they eat fish every day except Sundays.

Cloete who has been fishing for 30 years still talks in pounds. One of the main

Bitterness about boat owners and the 'big boys'

problem is "elke dag is nie vis dag nie". People who don't live at the sea have to fork out R7 or R8 before they even start fishing. And often they don't catch anything.

Even boat owners are struggling. The latest fuel price adjustments has meant that the price of diesel has soared. One man will now pay over R70 for 100 litres of diesel instead of the old R50.

Boat owners are not guaranteed a crew. If another boat is going out to where there may be fish and he does not want to go, then his crew will join another boat.

There are so many reasons for the lack

of fish that nobody can pinpoint one. Fishermen echo each other when they say — everybody is to blame.

"When the bigger boats leave to go up the West Coast there's a mad rush to get on them. Then the smaller boats don't get enough crew," Cloete said.

Mr Ahmed Abrahams of Retreat has to pay out R5 for transport to the sea and bait costs between R5 and R6 a box. Line cost R10 and hooks R30 a box. "It doesn't seem worth it anymore," he said.

Abrahams who has been a fisherman for nearly 30 years is only still fishing because he is not used to working on the land.

So disillusioned are some fishermen that they are talking about forming a union — but they don't know where to start.

"Everything has changed in modern times," said Mrs Sophia Ferreira whose father fished in Kalk Bay about 40 years ago. "Even the fish have become modern in the sea."

The fishing has been so bad that a local church has set up a feeding scheme for fishermen's children. "But they are too proud to go there," a fisherman's wife, Mrs Unity Jacobs said.

"There used to be Elf runs and Kabeljou

runs. Now you hardly hear of that anymore," she said.

Her family only survives because she works. "If I didn't work there would often be no food in the house," said Mrs Jacobs, an inspector at a communications equipment firm.

"You can't have a husband whose a fisherman if you sit on your backside at home.

"Times are tough. You can't see what

'When you catch a lot, you're not the favourite'

you are buying for R100 anymore," she said.

"You can't buy anything on hire purchase because you don't know if you'll earn the money to pay it back," she said.

There is no high school in Kalk Bay. The children have to go to Ocean View or Steenberg. "Then there's train fare and bus fare, and that's always going up".

Her sons won't become fishermen ...

"If I can help it". "What the fishermen are doing nowadays is helping their children with their education and letting them see to their own future.

"I can't see them becoming fishermen and raising a family — not on today's money."

Mr Peter Jacobs whose father and grandfather fished in Kalk Bay, said he would teach his sons the finer points of fishing "so they will have something to fall back on — but not to do permanently".

In the 1960s and 1970s "even carpenters gave up their jobs to go fishing".

"Especially in the late 1970s everybody jumped on the bandwagon and the fish became less again.

"What has really hit the fishermen hard is the skiboats," Mr Jacobs said.

"When there are holidays they come and take the snook — and they don't even do it for a living. They can catch the same amount of fish as we do and they can sell it."

Some fishermen are bitter about boat owners and "big boys" who they believe to be manipulating the fishing quota. But the situation is so "delicate" that they don't talk too much about it.

"The old fishermen used to say it was their living. But now it's becoming a busi-

ness," Jacobs said.

Like the tradition of passing the skill down from father to son, the old superstitions are also fading. Only some of the fishermen from older fishing families still refuse to invite bad luck by taking egg sandwiches to sea.

When a fisherman's line got tangled he used to say his wife hadn't combed her hair. And when the fish fell off the line they used to say his wife was still sleep-

'Now they just say they're having bad luck'

ing. Or when a man didn't get a catch, his wife hadn't got up to wash her face. "Now they just say they're having bad luck," Mrs Jacobs said.

The fish are so scarce that petty jealousies have developed between fishermen.

"When you catch a lot, you are not the favourite."

"There's no money in fishing anymore. There are weeks when there's no fish. A family can't cope like that," Jacobs said.

"One can say that the fishing may improve again — but I doubt it very much," he said.

CapE Times 10/7/87
R208 for farm school pupils

Political Correspondent

AN average subsidy of R208 a pupil had been budgeted for pupils at farm schools for the 1986/87 financial year, the Minister of Education and Development Aid, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, said yesterday.

A total of R99 245 000 had been budgeted for the 477 260 pupils registered at the 5 484 farm schools falling under his department, Dr Viljoen said in reply to a written question by Mr Ken Andrew (PFP Gardens).

Each farm school would receive an average of R18 007,42 for the next financial year, he said.

Farm worker 'beaten'



By VUYO BAVUMA

A FORMER Philippi farm labourer claimed he was beaten and two dogs were set on him for eating bread on the job without permission.

Mr Tabiso Mhlomi of Transkei said he suffered leg, head and facial wounds.

He said he planned to institute a civil action against the farmer. The incident happened on May 21.

In an affidavit, Mhlomi said: "I felt hungry one day about 11am after working for six hours. I ate a piece of bread. My employer saw me and beat me with a stick. I suffered head and legs wounds. He said I should be careful about eating without being told to do so."

Mhlomi resumed working but was limping and bleeding.

"Later my employer said he could not tolerate having a limping man on his farm and fired me. I took some time to collect my belongings at my

sleeping place as it was dark," he said.

"My employer arrived and started again to beat me with a stick. I tried run but he set his two dogs on me. They bit me in the stomach, legs and in the back," said Mhlomi.

His R30 wages fell out of his pocket but was stopped by his employer from picking it up, he said.

"I bled profusely from my wounds. I was later picked up by a white lady who took me to Wynberg police station, where I lay a charge."

He was taken to Victoria Hospital, he said, and police took him to the farm where he collected his belongings.

His legal adviser showed SOUTH a copy of a letter sent to the Transkei Consulate saying that Mhlomi's case had been withdrawn.

"I will ask the police why they withdrew the charges against the farm-owner. We are also trying to get hold of Mhlomi's medical report which was sent to the police."



South
16-2/17/87

Mr Mhlomi

Tractor death: Colonel tells of statement

C.M. Tris 22/7/72
Court Reporter

A STATEMENT that a policeman, charged with culpable homicide, had dragged a farm labourer behind a tractor was taken down "word for word", the Parow Regional Court heard yesterday.

Lieutenant-Colonel George Potgieter was giving evidence in the trial of Detective-Sergeant Gert Jacobs, of Rusthof Farm, Kuils River, and Sergeant Hermias Rossouw, 35, of Herte Street, Kraaifontein, who pleaded not guilty to causing the death of Mr Dawid Morris, 35, by hitting him, tying him to a tractor and dragging him on farm land.

They also pleaded not guilty to assaulting Mr Johannes Alkaster with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

Fight over 'panga'

Detective-Sergeant Jacobs admitted hitting the dead man but said it was in self-defence. Both policemen denied dragging Mr Morris behind the tractor. They said he was tied to the tow bar in a sitting position to be transported and fell off.

Detective-Sergeant Jacobs said he and Sergeant Rossouw went to the farm Rotterdam to investigate a disturbance. There Sergeant Rossouw had attacked Mr Morris who was stealthily approaching D/S Jacobs with a "panga".

Detective-Sergeant Jacobs wrestled the panga from Mr Morris's grip, and handed it to Sergeant Rossouw who moved off.

Later Mr Morris attacked him again with the "panga" and a fight ensued. Eventually Detective-Sergeant Jacobs brought Mr Morris under control and fetched the tractor to transport him.

Chicken coop

Colonel Potgieter said he took Detective-Sergeant Jacobs's statement down "word for word". The statement said Mr Morris was dragged behind the tractor for 30 to 40 metres.

Mr Alkaster, the complainant in the assault matter, said he was hiding in a chicken coop after being assaulted by Detective-Sergeant Jacobs.

He saw the two policemen hitting Mr Morris, tying his hands to the tractor and dragging him face down to an adjoining farm, where he worked.

The hearing continues today.

Mr J C Botha was the magistrate. Mr J Luckhoff prosecuted. Mr H C Trisos appeared for the policemen.

AKGUS 22/7/87

'Attacked me like madman' detective

Tygerberg Bureau

DETECTIVE-SERGEANT Gert Johannes Jacobs of Brackenfell described to the Regional Court, Parow, how he had seated and tied a farm worker to a tractor's towbar but failed to notice he had fallen off.

The Brackenfell policeman and a colleague, Sergeant Hermias Cornelius Rossouw, 35, of Herte Street, Kraaifontein, have pleaded not guilty to charges of culpable homicide following the death of Mr Dawid Morris, who was allegedly dragged behind a tractor, and to assaulting Mr Johannes Alkaster on November 2 last year.

Mr Morris died in Tygerberg Hospital of multiple injuries including a damaged heart, lacerated liver and ruptured colon.

Detective-Sergeant Jacobs said in evidence he had transported Mr Morris by tractor as he had been "too tired to carry the man" after a fight with Mr Morris when he had arrested him.

The off-duty policeman, who had been keeping an eye on the Rotterdam farm, near Kuils River, in its owner's absence, had been investigating a row between a group of squatters and farm labourers when he

was allegedly attacked by Mr Morris with a panga.

He believed Mr Morris had been "out to kill me" and he had been defending himself and also tried to arrest him.

"He seemed like a madman, or someone under the influence of something, as my blows with my stick and fists seemed to have no effect on him. He kept coming at me, howling that he would kill me," he said.

"I tried to get the panga away from him, hitting him with my stick on his hands, and also hit him with my fists to try and knock him out."

Feet tied

He said Mr Morris had refused to stand on the tractor to be transported to the farmhouse. Detective-Sergeant Jacobs tied Mr Morris to the tractor's towbar by his feet.

The policeman drove towards the farmhouse to call the Kuils River police, with Sergeant Rossouw standing on the tractor as a passenger.

Detective-Sergeant Jacobs said he had not heard Mr Morris fall off or Sergeant Rossouw shouting at him to stop.

Detective-Sergeant Jacobs yesterday denied having assaulted Mr Alkaster and also denied breaking his arm with a "heavy, blunt weapon".

The hearing continues today.

ARMS 23/7/87

4

METROPOLITAN

I was denied rights — policeman in death case

Tygerberg Bureau

A POLICEMAN accused of culpable homicide after allegedly dragging a farm worker behind a tractor has claimed that police did not allow him to make a statement to a magistrate before his arrest.

Detective-Sergeant Gert Johannes "Jakes" Jacobs and a colleague, Sergeant Hermias Cornelius Rossouw, have pleaded not guilty in Parow Regional Court to charges of culpable homicide following the death of Mr Dawid Morris.

They have also pleaded not guilty to charges of assaulting farm labourer Mr Johannes Alkaster.

Sergeant Jacobs said he had been off duty but keeping an eye on Rotterdam dairy farm, near Kuils River, in its owner's absence.

Statement "inaccurate"

He claimed he had to defend himself against an enraged, panga-wielding Mr Morris while investigating a row between squatters and farm labourers on November 2 last year.

He claimed that his pre-arrest statement to police was inaccurate in many places because Lieutenant-Colonel George Potgieter of the CID in Bellville — who "denied my request to make a statement to a magistrate" — had not taken his statement down word for word.

His superior officer, he alleged, did not read it back to him and did not warn that the document could be used as evidence against him.

Colonel Potgieter has denied these allegations.

Drastic change

During cross-examination yesterday public prosecutor Mr Johan Lückhoff accused Sergeant Jacobs of being the aggressor.

He said: "How do you explain that the deceased underwent such a drastic physical change from the time of your fight and the subsequent transporting by tractor?"

"The medical evidence was that he suffered two broken leg bones, a torn heart, lacerated liver and kidneys and many other injuries, including facial and body lacerations possibly caused by dragging."

Sergeant Jacobs said: "Someone else must have assaulted him after I had left him."

The hearing continues today.



Picture: DOUG PITHEY, The Argus.

SHAPING UP: Fitness fanatics will be out in force during a four-hour aerobics marathon organised by the Cape branch of the South African National Aerobics Association at the Gardens Centre on Saturday. Testing their muscles for the event are, from left, Clive Sussman, Susan Holzer, Harry Casper, Heather Wallace and Alicia Trimmer.

Sea Point to get its own free hopper bus service

Municipal Reporter

THE city's second free hopper bus service is to be introduced in Sea Point next month.

Sponsored by the five main supermarkets in the area — Checkers, Pick 'n Pay, Woolworths, Grand Bazaars and Shopping Spar (Green Point) — the service will run every Friday between 10am and 3pm.

The first trip is on August 7.

"The idea is to assist the elderly, young mothers and domestics to get down to the Main Road, do their shopping and be returned home with their parcels," said Mrs Lydia

Abel, convener of amenities of the Green and Sea Point Ratepayers Associations, which is organising the service.

The trips will be at 10am and noon from Stop 5060 in Ocean View Drive, along Fresnaye Avenue, Kloof Road and Queens Road into Main Road; and at 11am and 1pm from the corner of Kloof Road and Fresnaye Avenue along Ocean View Drive, Buitengracht, Somerset Road and Main Road.

The return journeys will be at 11.30am, 1.30pm and 2.30pm from the Sea Point bus terminus and at 12.30pm from the Spar supermarket.

Saldanha

Sea Harvest CAPE TOWN 25/7/82 strike ends

Labour Reporter

A WORK stoppage at the Saldanha Sea Harvest factory was called off yesterday after the Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu) concluded wage talks with management.

However, many workers did not report for duty yesterday, after they left the premises on Thursday, unaware that negotiations had been concluded.

Workers said about 700 day-shift and 300 night-shift workers struck over pay and other grievances.

The general manager of Sea Harvest, Mr Louis Penzhorn, said only about 180 workers were involved.

Workers had said they were unhappy with their wages, with "smear pamphlets" distributed by management aimed at discrediting Fawu, with the fact that their wages were meant to increase from July 1 and because they were working a three-day week.

31/7/87
**'Real risk
B/day
of violence'**

JENNY BOBERG

COFFEE producer T W Beckett and Company Ltd yesterday brought an urgent Rand Supreme Court application to prevent its 284 striking workers from chasing "scab" labour away.

T W Beckett security manager M Redelingshuys said after the company had reached deadlock in wage talks with Food and Allied Workers Union representatives, the workers went on strike yesterday.

He said workers had gathered at the company's entrance and prevented casual labourers from entering. The workers had disrupted security and there was a real risk of violence.

The matter was stood down until today.

Worker 'dragged behind tractor'

TWO policemen, Detective-Sergeant Gert Jacobs and Sergeant Hermias Rossouw, have pleaded not guilty in the Parow Regional Court to a charge of culpable homicide and assault.

The charges arose from the death of a farm worker, Dawid Morris, and the alleged assault of another labourer, Johannes Alkaster.

Morris died after allegedly being tied and dragged behind a tractor.

In a previous hearing Jacobs claimed he had to defend himself against a panga-wielding Morris while investigating a row between squatters and farm labourers on November 2 last year at the Rotterdam dairy farm.

The case was postponed to August 27 in the Wynberg Magistrates Court.

④ Smith 27/8/87

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837. 838. 839. 840. 841. 842. 843. 844. 845. 846. 847. 848. 849. 850. 851. 852. 853. 854. 855. 856. 857. 858. 859. 860. 861. 862. 863. 864. 865. 866. 867. 868. 869. 870. 871. 872. 873. 874. 875. 876. 877. 878. 879. 880. 881. 882. 883. 884. 885. 886. 887. 888. 889. 890. 891. 892. 893. 894. 895. 896. 897. 898. 899. 900. 901. 902. 903. 904. 905. 906. 907. 908. 909. 910. 911. 912. 913. 914. 915. 916. 917. 918. 919. 920. 921. 922. 923. 924. 925. 926. 927. 928. 929. 930. 931. 932. 933. 934. 935. 936. 937. 938. 939. 940. 941. 942. 943. 944. 945. 946. 947. 948. 949. 950. 951. 952. 953. 954. 955. 956. 957. 958. 959. 960. 961. 962. 963. 964. 965. 966. 967. 968. 969. 970. 971. 972. 973. 974. 975. 976. 977. 978. 979. 980. 981. 982. 983. 984. 985. 986. 987. 988. 989. 990. 991. 992. 993. 994. 995. 996. 997. 998. 999. 1000.

Mystery spade killing

By **AYESHA ISMAIL** *South* 4
MYSTERY surrounds the death of a *30/7-5/8/87*
River farm worker.

Johannes Verhoog, 30, who died in the Eben Donges hospital at Worcester, of severe head injuries allegedly sustained after he was hit on the head with a spade by his employer, a farmer.

The incident happened on July 17. Verhoog died in hospital the next day. Verhoog had worked for the farmer for only a week.

The farmer, interviewed on his farm this week, said he had hit Verhoog in self-defence.

"Verhoog stole some tools, copper wire

More than lekker le

The grou — Pa

A night Syd's P House

There's Tow she thri



Mrs Frances Anne Verhoog with her three children. She was only told of her husband's injuries the day after

Farmer kills labourer with spade

(4) 30/7-5/8/87
South

From page 1
and cables, and was about to leave the farm, when I caught him red-handed.

"He wanted to attack me with a spade, and I hit him in self defence".

According to Verhoog's wife, Frances Anne, she was notified of the incident only the day after it happened.

She said an ambulance driver came to her work on Saturday July 18. He told her that he was taking her husband to hospital and that she had to go with.

She said she found her husband lying on a stretcher in the ambulance and his condition was "so good as dead".

"I thought the only place where I would hear

the right information would be at the police station," she said.

She said a white policeman told her "Hulle beweer Hansie het gesteel. Hy slaan eers vir Hansie, toe roep hy eers vir ons".

A spokesperson for the hospital confirmed that Verhoog was only admitted the next morning at 10.40 am and died at 10 pm that night.

The spokesperson said Verhoog died of severe head injuries.

A spokesman for the Boland police, Lieutenant Neil Bower, said Verhoog's death was still under investigation and so far no one had been charged.

Verhoog leaves his wife and three minor children. He was buried on Sunday from the NG Sendingkerk.

Disabled farm worker loses year-long eviction struggle

By Jo-Anne Collinge

The year-long struggle of a disabled labourer tenant against eviction from the farm where his family has lived for generations ended in defeat this week, when he and all his belongings were cleared off the property in the space of an hour.

The eviction of Mr Witbooi Khubeka from the farm St Helena in the Wakkerstroom district was carried out on Tuesday morning by the owner and police from Dirkesdorp.

A spokesman for the police at Dirkesdorp confirmed that they had accompanied the



Mr Witbooi Khubeka . . . has lost struggle against eviction.

owner during the eviction and said the action was taken in terms of a court order made a month ago, when Mr Khubeka (58) was convicted of illegal squatting.

Mr Khubeka's home was also partly dismantled and he was left at the entrance to a nearby farm, kwaNgema, which is owned by black farmers.

He has spent the last three nights out in the open, sheltered from behind by an up-ended mattress and warned from the front by a wood fire. He gets little sleep because of the cold.

"What do I think now? There is nothing to think . . . nothing to do," he says.

Mr Khubeka was given no-

tice to leave St Helena last year when he and his family were no longer able to provide satisfactory labour to the farmer, Mr Pieter Pienaar.

Since then Mr Khubeka has been arrested and taken to court several times, both trespass and squatting charges.

Mr Khubeka, a frail man with hand, leg and arm in-

juries, was alone at home when the eviction squad arrived, he said. His wife had gone to the doctor and his children were at school.

He thinks his family has heard of the eviction.

But he believes the priority is that the children's schooling must continue undisturbed. "I don't know where the children are but they must stay where they can go to school. If necessary I'll see them only next year."

The school they attend is about 15 km from the farm where Mr Khubeka has been dumped. His livestock, his dogs and his chickens have all been left behind at St Helena.

Will the people of kwaNgema take him in? The matter has not yet been decided. Residents are sympathetic to the frail man dumped in their midst. They provide him with food and hot drinks.

But kwaNgema is itself in a difficult position. It successfully resisted the Government's plans to remove the entire community to various homelands.

kwaNgema's leaders are painfully aware that they are one of the few "black spots" to be reprieved and are anxious not to let their property become overcrowded, thus risking it being declared a rural slum and health hazard demanding clearance.

Even if kwaNgema does give him shelter, it will never be "home", he insists. That feeling is reserved for St Helena where his parents worked and died and were buried.

It is understood that Mr Khubeka's lawyers are considering taking the squatting case against him on review.

Tea farm workers teargassed, court told

MARITZBURG. — An application restraining a State owned farm from evicting more than 900 workers has been filed in the Natal Supreme Court.

This followed after police teargassed the Food and Allied Workers Union (FAWU) members at the Saapekoe Tea Estate in Richmond.

In an affidavit Aaron Sithole said on July 15 they protested against the poor living conditions and low wages at the farm.

"We staged three work stoppages against these conditions. The police gave us five minutes to leave the premises. Then we were bundled into trucks and dumped at Richmond railway station," he said.

They worked an average of 12 hours a day and earn an average of R55 a month.

He said the next day union lawyers advised them to return to the farm.

"At the farm we were asked to write down the names of the workers who stopped us from going to work. After that 35 workers were dismissed," Sithole said.

The court gave Saapekoe until August 14 to respond

—Concord



Witbooi Khubeka and his wife, Edda, move some of their possessions into the field where he lived for a week.

Evicted old man leaves field for temporary shelter

City Press 16/8/87

THE evicted 60-year-old Wakkerstroom man, Witbooi Kubheka, this week moved to a temporary shelter in the area after spending a week living in the open veld.

Kubheka was evicted last week from the farm St Helena, by owner Pieter Pienaar.

Kubheka said he was born and bred on the farm and that he had worked for the previous owners.

Pienaar said he evicted him because he was old and would not work for him.

Meanwhile, the Police directorate in Pretoria confirmed that Kubheka was evicted in accordance with a court order.

The police said the court also ordered police to supervise the removal in order to prevent damage to Kubheka's property and, or possible violence against the parties concerned.

"In compliance with the court order, Sergeant Buckle and a black constable attended the removal.

"Pienaar supplied a truck and employed several farm workers to assist with the loading and removal.

By SELLO SERIPE

"Buckle, though he is the station commander at Dirkiesdorp, is also appointed as the public prosecutor by the office of the Attorney-General.

"Such appointments are in terms of the law and common to smaller towns and places with periodical courts such as Dirkiesdorp," said the directorate.

The directorate also said Buckle did not act as public prosecutor when Kubheka stood trial for illegal squatting in Wakkerstroom.

Earlier, when Kubheka appeared in Dirkiesdorp at a hearing attended by *City Press*, Buckle prosecuted.

Empty farm becomes centre of big wrangle

By SELLO SERIPE

THE farm Holgat has been on the market for several years and the government's recent announcement to expropriate it is due to pressure from local white farmers.

This was said this week by the Transvaal Rural Action Committee which is currently involved in a wrangle with the government over the farm.

At the centre is the Mogopa community, for whom Trac and the SACC's Botshabelo Trust are trying to secure the farm.

They were removed from Mogopa in 1984 because the area was labelled

a "black spot".

Alternative accommodation was provided by the government at Bethany, but residents refused to be resettled.

They feared they would be incorporated into Bophuthatswana.

Recently, the Trac and the Botshabelo Trust had been trying to purchase Holgat, but the State indicated that the farm was earmarked to be developed as an agricultural college.

In its statement, the Trac charged that the government's intention was to avert the immediate occupation of the farm by the Mogopa community.

"We are sceptical whether an agricultural college will indeed materialise and whether the government will leave the land empty, as it has done with Mogopa and many other 'black spot' farms.

"Around Mogopa there are empty farm lands, with ruined houses as the only testimony that thriving black communities once lived there.

"Ironically, one of the ruins near Mogopa is of a demolished mission high school," said the Trac statement.

Referring to the submission by Dr Gerrit Viljoen, Minister of Development

Aid, that Holgat was not suitable, Trac said:

"This exposes the nature of the government's reform policy.

"On the one hand, the government reprieves black spots in the white platteland and on the other hand it says it cannot allow such black settlements to exist."

In his statement, the Minister had also said negotiations between his department and the Mogopa delegation were proceeding, but Trac said it presumed he was referring to the deadlocked negotiations which were initiated last December.

16/8/87 C/Pres (4)

Yengwa was highly re-
specied by a wide range of
... yesterday... follow...
Wednesday night. Four
... the arrest of the 78
... strikers were injured...

Workers challenge tea estate

THE court action by two Sapekoe Tea Estate workers, challenging their eviction from the estate, was this week adjourned for the hearing of oral evidence.

The applicants, Aaron Sithole and Gilbert Mankinyana, claimed in the Maritzburg Supreme Court that they had been unlawfully evicted from their accommodation on the estate without a court order.

The application, which is being opposed by Sapekoe, is being brought as a test case on behalf of other workers evicted after a work stoppage last month.

Judge Page said he was unable to settle the dispute on the papers put before the court and ruled that the cases should be adjourned until September 2.

In an affidavit, Sithole said the dispute had arisen over the workers' dissatisfaction with low wages and because of management's attitude towards the workers since they had become members of the Food and Allied Workers' Union.

Sithole, a shop steward, said Sapekoe management had refused to negotiate with workers, saying they would only deal with an appointed liaison committee.

However, he claimed the committee had become defunct as workers had joined Fawu.

Sithole said that, on July 14, deadlock was reached and workers were told they would be dismissed and evicted if they did not return to work.

He alleged that, the following day, police, acting on instructions of the estate manager, had fired teargas into various buildings on the estate and chased workers with sjamboks as they emerged from the buildings.

He said workers were chased into an office, made to pay R14 or R16, then forced onto trucks which took them to the nearby railway station.

He said many spent the

CP Correspondent

night at the station and were taken back to the estate the following day where they were asked to write down the names of people they believed were



Sapekoe workers Nomusa Mkhize and Maram Nkomane and their children await the result of the court action against the estate's management.

stopping them from working.

As a result of this 35 people, including himself and Mankinyana, were told to leave immediately.

Sapekoe's production manager, Abel Erasmus, said in an affidavit that workers had been told on July 13 that strike action was a breach of contract and strikers would be dismissed.

He also claimed they had been told Sapekoe was a farming operation and was, therefore, not subject to the Labour Relations Act and was not obliged to recognise Fawu.

He claimed workers had been intimidated during the strike and that three workers had to receive medical attention after being assaulted for working. - Concord News Agency.

Farmers mechanising 'just for the sake of it'

High unemployment results in govt plea to agriculture

A PLEA for agriculture to rethink its policies and attitudes towards mechanisation in the light of the high and growing levels of unemployment in SA, was made yesterday by Economic Affairs and Technology Deputy Minister George Bartlett.

Opening an agricultural engineering congress in Mmabatho, Bartlett acknowledged this proposal flew in the face of current thought and trends within the sector.

He said he believed that the level of agricultural mechanisation in a developing country like SA should be inverse-

CHRIS CAIRNCROSS

ly proportional to that country's level of industrialisation.

"I suggest that perhaps many commercial farmers are just mechanising for mechanisation's sake."

Bartlett indicated other sectors within agriculture could do well to follow the example set by the country's sugar farmers, who chose not to go the mechanisation route in the cutting of sugar cane.

Today, 24 years on, there is not a single mechanical cane cutter operating in SA on a commercial basis, and there is also no shortage of labour in the industry.

About 20 000 cane cutters have work in the industry, productivity has reached a high level and the capital cost of replacing workers with machines would probably amount to R100m, he said.

He acknowledged the farming community remained under considerable pressure, and predicted that conditions were likely to get worse before they got better — for some at least.

Bartlett suggested that the survivors would be those who fully understood the true meaning of productivity, the agricultural price formulae mechanisms, and the effect of current tax laws and allowances on these formulae.

Bartlett focused on the major economic dilemma facing farmers, namely that costs were outpacing revenue.

He noted that in 1973 the average cost of tractors in rands per kilowatt was R109. By 1981 this had inflated to R335, an annual compound increase of 15%.

By 1984, this had further increased by 19,3% a year to R568 per kilowatt.

Bartlett said he was unable to identify all the reasons for the hefty increases in tractor and implement prices, but said that the engines provided by IDC-controlled ADE, together with foreign exchange rates, had played an important role.

Barlett maintained tax legislation had also encouraged inefficiency in the use of scarce capital by providing incentives to farmers to buy capital goods.

~~1/1/87~~ B/Dey ~~1/1/87~~ 25/8/87 (4)

48645 27/8/87 (4) (3) (3)

MP's plan for farmworkers' union

A NATIONAL PARTY MP plans to help farmworkers in his constituency form unions before "leftists radicals" do so.

Speaking during the agriculture vote debate in the House of Assembly yesterday, Mr J A Jooste said it was inevitable that the farmworkers would form unions.

"I will go to my farmworkers and help them organise before the leftist radicals do," said Mr Jooste (NP De Aar). He asked the Conservative Party member who had spoken before him: "Does he think they will not organise?"

"You are the leftist radicals," a CP member retorted.

"Do you want black farmworkers in the regional services councils," asked Professor S C Jacobs (CP Losberg).

Speaking after him, Mr W J D van Wyk (CP Witbank) asked the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, to state where he stood on black farmworker representation on RSCs. He asked the Minister to intervene with the Minister of Manpower, Mr Pietie du Plessis, to ensure that farmworkers did not unionise.

Farmers did not want the

blacks on the farms unionised and the blacks did not need it, Mr van Wyk said. — Sapa.

MP ordered out

THE leader of the PRP, Mr Pat Poovalingam, was ordered from the House of Delegates after refusing to withdraw the word "liar".

Chairman of the Ministers' Council Mr Amichand Rajbansi said Mr Poovalingam had tried to get civil servants to apply pressure to a "certain female".

Mr Poovalingam said that anyone who claimed he had done such a thing was "a liar."

~~Handwritten scribble~~
B/Day 28/8/87

(K)

No decision on release of NMC probe

Political Staff

ugh
ers
me
of
rat-
his-
ur-
er-
get
the
irst
t to
eir
ign
een
e to
e of
uch
itu-
rt-
an-
ook
ys-
ent
hat

HOUSE OF DELEGATES — A decision had still not been taken on whether to release the report of the National Manpower Commission (NMC) investigation into farm and domestic workers, Manpower Minister Pietie du Plessis said yesterday.

The NMC investigation, which was gazetted more than five years ago, was appointed to conduct an inquiry into "possible measures to regulate the conditions of employment of farm labourers and domestic workers".

Du Plessis said in reply to a question tabled in the House of Delegates by Mahmoud Rajab (PRP Springfield) that discussions with organised agriculture on possible application of the Labour Relations Act to farm and domestic workers were still in progress.

"Owing to the nature and extent of the consultations and the geographical diversity, it is not possible to give an indication as to when finality will be reached," he said.

The release of the report, if considered advisable, would only be considered once the consultations with organised agriculture had reached finality, Du Plessis said.

ur
to
ls.
S
mes

il services

The Mogopa people prepare for another trek: Back home

EPHRAIM POOE was seven years old in 1913 when he trekked 128km across the Free State with his mother and father, his seven brothers and sisters, 600 of the Mogopa community, and hundreds of cattle and sheep.

"I think it took weeks to get there," says Pooe, now 81. "I remember that every Sunday we stopped and held church services." Discouraged with their work as sharecroppers on white farms, the Mogopa people had pooled some of their livestock and a little cash, and bought two fertile farms from poor white families. On the dry plains 200km west of Johannesburg they built a village of stone houses, schools, stores and churches.

They parcelled out the land among themselves, grew crops and bred cattle "worth up to R900 each", says Pooe. Where the dry dirt track led off to a slightly larger one leading to Ventersdorp, they erected a sign which said "Mogopa". It was home.

But three-and-a-half years ago, the government evicted the nearly 3 000 residents from their land, trucking them and their belongings 280km northwest to Pachsdraai, in Bophuthatswana. Most of them fled to Bethanie, away from a tribal official whom they alleged had struck a dishonest deal with the government, following the mass removal.

On July 29, about 20 residents journeyed from Bethanie to Johannesburg to announce that the community intended defying the government by trekking back to Mogopa, even if it meant being jailed. The return was described by one community leader as a potential "suicide mission".

About 300 trucks will be needed to transport 2 000 people and their belongings.

"We are in a very, very desperate situation," said Lucas Kgatitswe. "Our people have no resources, nowhere to live, they cannot run businesses. There are no pensions, they cannot get jobs. It is just one fine mess created by the government."

Bethanie displays desperation. Tin shacks sprawl over the dry land. Children climb on discarded ploughs, salvaged from Mogopa, now lying like rusted playground items in the dirt tracks. Having lost their land, women now earn R3 a day clearing stones out of fields owned by a Bophuthatswana official.

The refugees say that they often wait three hours at the pipes for water, which costs about 50c a day. Those who cannot afford it collect bucketsful from the river, which has

The Mogopa people have said they will defy the state and go back to the home they were evicted from three years ago.

But the logistics of such a 'suicide mission' are daunting. By ELIZE VAN WYK

caused a health problem.

But above all, community leaders say they are determined to regain land ownership and reject being governed by Bophuthatswana authorities, who have forbidden them to hold meetings in Bethanie.

Pooe's family reached their destination in 1913 just as the government of the day was rushing a law through parliament, banning blacks from owning land in South Africa. In the ever-changing semantics of apartheid, Mogopa became known as a "black violation of the 1913 Native Land Act, as black-owned land within white" South Africa: 83 percent of the country's territory falling outside the 10 "homelands".

And like a blemish on a person's skin, Mogopa needed to be cleared out. It took 71 years for the bulldozers to move in on Mogopa, and it happened when the government's reform programme was being seriously challenged by right-wing opponents.

The residents say they were rounded up at gunpoint and loaded onto buses. As Lucy Mohutsiwa tells it, the nine-roomed stone house built by her father, in which she had been born and where she had raised her three children, was wrecked that morning.

"It was dawn. They (security forces) came into the bedrooms and told us to get out. We refused."

"Then they took everything out to the truck. They broke our doors, sofas and everything. Then they bulldozed our houses as we were leaving." Mohutsiwa's son, Pule, who was 16 at the time, stood against the door blocking the officers' entrance, until they forced their way through.

"They kicked down our doors," said his mother. "They showed me a letter saying we must go to Pachsdraai."

"They surrounded us during the night."

American and European diplomats, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, human rights activists and journalists camped outside the village, barred by the se-



Stuck in the middle of "one fine (government) mess" — Mogopa's exiles meet

curity forces from entering.

Much of the community's possessions were lost in the scramble. Cattle and sheep had to be left behind.

"I went back three days later to sell our cattle, 62 head, and saw a pile of stones where our house had been," said Pule Mohutsiwa. Others sold their livestock at rock bottom prices to local farmers, who drove into the village to bargain with the residents as they were being evicted. "We could not get to an abattoir, because they (security forces) were not allowing us to enter or leave Mogopa," said Samuel Lebethe, 70, who now lives in a shack in Bethanie.

Lebethe claims he sold his 23 cattle for R500 and believes that each one was worth that amount. Until 1984, he says, he earned R6 000 a year, selling 3 000 bags of maize.

During the past 25 years, more than 3.5-million black South Africans have been moved from villages and townships around the country. According to the Black Sash about nine million blacks have lost their South African citizenship in the process.

Mogopa, as one of the few settled, orderly black villages in South Africa, had been a model of rural development for anti-apartheid groups.

Its residents' wrenching move spotlighted the issue of mass removals and led the government to declare an end to the practice.

Yet, the government continues to shunt populations to "homelands" us-

ing other laws, including ones which allow them to expropriate land and to declare blacks without authorised housing illegal squatters.

Eighteen months after Mogopa's destruction, the community won a supreme court decision that the removal had been illegal, since parliament had not approved it. But by that time the government had expropriated the land and had warned them that they would be arrested for trespassing if they tried to move back.

Government compensation to residents has tended to vary in a seemingly illogical way, from R1 971, paid for one man's two houses, one five rooms and the other four rooms, to R24 000 for a seven-roomed house.

They have offered an alternative site to those who had fled to Bethanie. Responding to the group's determination to move back to Mogopa, the Minister of Education and Development, Gerrit Viljoen, said: "The department has offered an alternative settlement area for the dissatisfied Magopas." Two strings are attached to the offer, however: The community will not own the land, and their next village will be incorporated into Bophuthatswana, making the Mogopa people non-South Africans.

The group has turned down the offer. Next, anti-apartheid activists persuaded the group to accept a third solution: To join two smaller displaced communities on a farm called Holgat,

near their original home, which they had bought for R2.8-million from donations raised by European churches. Holgat, an old church mission farm, had been on the market for "at least five years", said a Black Sash official. But early last month, days before the transfer papers were to be signed, the government expropriated Holgat.

They needed the land for a "full-blown agricultural college", said Viljoen, adding that "the government is not in favor of the establishment of a black community such as the Mogopas in an area which has not been earmarked for this".

The Mogopa community had, it seemed, played its last card. "We have to move back, no matter what," said a young activist in Bethanie.

Since the youth's family was driven out of their homes, Conservative Party politicians have defeated government representatives in both the areas of Mogopa and Holgat, in the whites-only elections in May.

About two hours drive south of Bethanie, Mogopa is hard to find. It does not appear on any map of the area and the sign on the dirt track has long since disappeared.

A few metres from the stone rubble of the school a cow, perhaps one of those sold cheaply to the local farmers during those frantic dawn hours in February 1984, stops her grazing to peer at the rare sight of human beings among Mogopa's remains.

Call to involve farm workers

19/87

CAPE TOWN — Proper organisation of farm workers through involvement, such as that promoted by the Rural Foundation, would prevent radical trade unions causing disruption of food production as had occurred on the mines, Mr P. Meyer (LP Vredendal), said yesterday.

Speaking during the Manpower Vote debate, he said the spectre of a massive disruption of the food industry, during grape, apple or grain harvesting times, on the scale of the mine strike, could have far greater consequences.

"People will starve," he said.

Mr Meyer said he had recently visited a farm where the labour force were partners with the farmer. The farmer held meetings with the labourers at which he pro-

duced balance sheets to show them how the profits and losses — in which they shared — were made.

He asked the Minister of Manpower, Mr Pietie du Plessis, to help fund the foundation which needed money for their community workers.

Mr Du Plessis said his department could not contribute directly to the foundation but sponsored training centres for in-job training.

Replying to a question from another member, he said unemployment insurance was a tricky problem which his department had discussed with organised agriculture, without whose cooperation, it would not be workable.

They were now awaiting proposals from the South African Agricultural Union. — Sapa

C
ti
n

Cape Times 1/9/87 (4)

LP man: Organize farm labour to foil radicals

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. — Proper organization of farm workers — through activities such as the Rural Foundation was promoting — would prevent radical trade unions from disrupting production as they had done on the mines, Mr P. Meyer (LP Vredendal) said yesterday.

Speaking during the Manpower-vote debate, he said the spectre of massive disruption of the food industry — during grape, apple or grain harvesting times — on

the scale of the mine strike, could have far greater consequences.

"People will starve," he said.

He had recently visited a farm where the labourers were partners with the farmer — who held meetings with them at which he produced balance sheets to show them how the profits and losses were made, and in which they shared.

He asked the Minister, Mr. Piëte du Plessis, to help fund the foundation, which needed mon-

'Farmworkers need proper organisation'

PROPER organisation of farmworkers would prevent a radical trade union disrupting production as one had on the mines, Mr Petrus Meyer (LP Vredendal), said in the House of Representatives.

Beautiful democracy possible for SA — V d Merwe

SOUTH AFRICANS could look forward to building "a beautiful democracy", the Deputy Minister of Constitutional Planning, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, said in the House of Delegates.

Replying to the debate on the Constitutional Development Vote, he said a survey to ascertain the extent of goodwill among South Africans revealed that:

- Most people believed there was nothing to gain by violence.
- Most opposed all forms of boycotts.
- Most felt there had been significant reforms, although progress had been too slow.
- Most felt blacks and whites could work together in negotiating a constitutional future.

Dr van der Merwe said very few people interviewed supported the idea of the Government running all businesses and factories.

POSITIVE

"On the basis of this I am convinced that we can build a beautiful democracy in South Africa."

In reply to other questions, Dr van der Merwe said the Government was convinced that with a positive attitude it could succeed with new negotiated structures.

He said he hoped the Government would introduce a Bill on the proposed National Council "shortly".

On the KwaNatal indaba, Dr van der Merwe said the Government saw the process as "valid" but believed it had not developed far enough.

"I don't think we should reject it or assume the Government is unsympathetic towards this type of process.

"I think we should get together and talk about it." — Sapa.

Speaking during the Manpower Vote debate yesterday, he said the Rural Foundation was promoting such involvement.

Mr Meyer said the spectre of a huge disruption of the food industry, during grape, apple or grain harvesting, "on the scale of the mine strike" could have far greater consequences than that stoppage had had.

"People will starve," he said.

He had recently visited a farm where workers were partners with the farmer who held meetings at which he produced balance sheets to show labour force how the profits and losses were made.

Sponsored training

He asked the Minister, Mr Pietle du Plessis, to help fund the foundation, which needed money to fund community workers.

Mr du Plessis said in reply that his department could not contribute directly to the Foundation but that they sponsored training centres.

Replying to a question from another member, Mr du Plessis said unemployment insurance was a tricky problem which his department had discussed with organised agricultural labour without whose co-operation it would not be workable.

They had had a number of discussions and were now waiting for the Agricultural Union to come back to them with proposals. — Sapa.

'Negotiation is the key'

IN confrontation politics, there was no hope for the political parties or the population groups of South Africa, the Chairman of the Ministers' Council in the House of Assembly, Mr F W de Klerk, told the House.

Replying to debate on the Parliament Vote, he said the policy of the Government was to institute change through negotiation politics, not through confrontation.

Mr de Klerk said Conservative Party members spoke with bitterness and sourness in marked contrast to the Chief

Whip of Parliament, who had a difficult job in attending to the needs of all three Houses and did it with a "love for Parliament".

The CP, with their aggression ("kragdadigheid") were the greatest danger to white sovereignty.

"It is time you came to accept the new dispensation," said Mr de Klerk.

"We will destroy it yet," Mr Koos van der Merwe (CP Overvaal) interjected.

"You will not be doing South Africa a favour," Mr de Klerk replied.

It was necessary to maintain order, he said. Not doing so would threaten the institution of Parliament.

"We are not threatening Parliament, we are threatening you," Mr van der Merwe interjected again.

Mr de Klerk noted that the Progressive Federal Party had not taken part in the debate and he said he therefore surmised they were happy with the way things were being run.

The vote was approved without objections. — Sapa.

Mace 'unjustly replaced'

THE House of Assembly's original gold mace, symbol of the Speaker's authority since South Africa became a republic, had been unjustly replaced by one of three replicas presented to each of Parliament's three Houses, the chief whip of the Opposition, Mr Frank le Roux, said yesterday.

He said the original mace "is the property of the House of Assembly.

"We, as the Conservative Party, demand it back."

The loss of the mace was yet another symbol of the sun setting on white sovereignty in South Africa, he said.

Mr le Roux later noted 16 of the 17 Cabinet Ministers and 14 Deputy-Ministers held seats in the House of Assembly but "day after day there is a huge empty gap in the ministers' benches during debate.

The absence of the ministers was part of the Government's increasingly dictatorial attitude and contempt of the House. — Sapa.



In brief ...

THE National Party Government had chained itself to coloured people and Indians in the new constitution, had thrown away the key, and was now in trouble, the Chief Whip of the Opposition, Mr Frank le Roux, said in the Assembly.

Referring during debate on the Parliamentary vote to the Cabinet resignation of Labour Party leader the Rev Allan Hendrickse, he said: "The NP has painted itself into a corner." — Sapa.

The Legal Aid Board paid out R2 047 724 in legal costs in the four months up to July 31 this year, the Minister of Justice, Mr Koble Coetsee, said in the Assembly. — Sapa.

South African Transport Services had made an ex gratia payment of R35 947 to creditors of a private catering club run by its employees in Bloemfontein, the Minister of Transport Affairs, Mr Eli Louw, said in the House of Delegates. — Sapa.

It cost an average R1.1-million to construct a kilometre of single carriageway two-lane national road over flat terrain and as much as R6-million a kilometre to build a dual carriageway road over mountainous terrain, the Minister of Transport Affairs, Mr Eli Louw, told the House of Delegates. — Sapa.

The Minister of Education and Culture, Mr Piet Clase, told the Assembly he was holding talks with rectors of eight technikons about a policy for the admission of non-whites. — Sapa.

Damage of at least R7.6-million was caused to railway coaches during the strike by South African Transport Services employees this year, the Minister of Transport Affairs, Mr Eli Louw, said in the Assembly. — Sapa.

'Inform public on Parliament'

THE public should be more extensively informed about the functioning of Parliament, the chief whip of Parliament, Mr Alex van Breda, said in the Assembly.

Speaking in the Budget debate on the parliamentary vote, he said substantial allocations were voted by Western parliaments to ensure their activities were brought closer to the people. — Sapa.

ONE-TIME 2/9/87 (4)

Draft laws for farm workers

HOUSE OF DELEGATES. — Draft legislation to protect agricultural workers could be expected in the foreseeable future, the Minister of Manpower, Mr Pietie du Plessis, said yesterday.

Replying to the debate on the Manpower vote, he said discussions taking place within the agricultural industry were complex and had not been completed.

"I can't say when discussions will be finalized, but it is probable that draft legislation will be ready in the foreseeable future," he said.

Mr Du Plessis was responding to points raised by Mr Mahmoud Rajab (PRP Springfield), who said the protection of the Labour Relations Act should be extended to agricultural workers.

Consensus

As matters stood, farm workers enjoyed protection neither under this Act nor under the Basic Conditions of Employment Act.

He said it had been reported that in Natal and the Transvaal, children were being forced to work on farms for up to six months a year in exchange for being allowed to live there.

Replying, Mr Du Plessis said he shared concern for farm workers.

He said employee-employer relationships on farms were different to those in the industrial sector. Many farm workers were unskilled.

Because of the nature of agriculture, the matter should be treated with trust and consensus rather than coercion, he said. → Sava



C/Rep
6/9/87

Farm union in historic agreement

By SELLO SERIPE

THE SA Allied Workers' Union recently made a breakthrough when it signed a recognition agreement with a Bergvlei poultry farm.

The 90 labourers, on whose behalf the agreement was signed, are employed by the Bergvlei Chicks and Poultry farm near Kyalami, and at its two other farms, Bronkor and Hillcrest in Bronkorspruit and Natal respectively.

They are members of the Farm Workers' Union - a Saawu affiliate.

A surprising clause in the agreement is management's recognition of May Day and June 16 as paid holidays.

The SA Labour Relations Act does not provide any protection to farm labourers.

Last month Saawu signed another agreement with a Durban-based firm, Dek, which also offered the union shop-stewards an office on the company premises.

According to Saawu coordinator Shadrack Mkhwanazi, Bergvlei Chicks and Poultry management also agreed to increase the labourers' monthly income by R87 in two phases, with R60 retrospective to July 1.

"Saawu is the first trade union in SA's labour affairs to sign an agreement with management on be-

half of farm labourers.

"This is a historic event and there is no other union which can claim to have won recognition for farm-workers before," said Mkhwanazi.

The labourers will also be entitled to an annual 12-day sick-leave.

Meanwhile the union also reached an agreement on Monday with the Alberton City Council regarding a wage dispute which resulted into a week-long strike in July.

The matter was heard before the Industrial Council.

Saawu represented 700 members of the Municipality Workers' Union.

Initially the union demanded a 47 percent across-the-board increase for the workers but, following negotiations with shopstewards, lowered it to 15 percent.

Mkhwanazi said the union had demanded a 47 percent increase because the union believed that unclassified workers earned as little as R120 monthly.

"We lowered it after management showed us the wage scale which was confirmed by the workers," he said.

The council chairman, Johan van der Merwe, confirmed that they reached agreement.

The council had also promised to work with the union on matters affecting the workers.

of the General...
ARGUS 9/9/87

250 fired at Sea Harvest after stoppage

Labour Reporter

ABOUT 250 workers have been dismissed from Sea Harvest at Saldanha following a work stoppage, according to a union spokesman.

The spokesman said that since last month members of the Food and Allied Workers' Union had been in dispute with the company over wage increases due to have been introduced in July.

They were demanding pay parity with employees of the company's major competitor.

"Last week we told management we wanted to hold a report-back meeting with members last-

ing one to two hours," he said. "They won't allow us facilities at the factory, so it was due to be off the premises. But they threatened to take action against the union if the meeting went ahead."

He said that while negotiations were taking place on Monday the workers heard about the company's attitude towards the meeting and refused to return to work after lunch.

"Management, without going through the shop stewards, gave the workers an ultimatum to return at work in 10 minutes. When they refused to accept this about 250 were fired," he said.

Then the night-shift refused to work and the bulk of the factory has been on strike since.

According to Mr L Penzhorn, a director of Sea Harvest, the workers were dismissed when they refused to return to work after their lunch break on Monday.

"The workers were clearly in breach of their contract and we dismissed them."

Mr Penzhorn said the 250 posts would not be filled immediately.

"At the moment it is not necessary because the factory is running well without them," he said.

"We might have to fill some of the vacancies at a later stage."

The border farmers who have to be tough just to survive

This way of life is not for the faint-hearted

By Hess Cumming

The farming life on South Africa's northern border in the Messina district is not for the faint-hearted. A landmine or mortar blast could, at any moment, bring it to an end.

But the farmers in this remote area are a tough breed. They have accepted the security risks as part of the cost of the opportunity to make a living on the border. Many of them are ex-Rhodesians and have faced worse insecurity and violent disruption before.

Perhaps it is this experience which makes many of them habitually alert, constantly on the lookout for signs of illegal entry from Zimbabwe. They are able to spot suspicious spoor instantly, tell you how old they are, whether they belong to local people and where they are heading. Precautions to safeguard their families

have become a way of life.

Travelling after dark is kept to a minimum, which inhibits their social life. The last task before sunset on most farms, is to "sweep" their roads with old tyres tied behind a tractor. The tyres leave a smooth surface, making it easy for trained eyes to spot any indication that a landmine may have been planted during the night.

Most view their economic situation, rather than security, as the main threat to their continued stay. They are far away from the markets, roads leave much to be desired, labour is difficult to come by and to top it all, the drought continues.

Mr Kees Smith of the farm Alyth on the border west of Messina says farmers should be subsidised to transport produce to markets on the Reef, alternatively processing industries in the area should be subsidised. "Mining is playing a diminishing role in the stability of the region. Farmers must be helped to farm intensively

in order to maintain a strategic community," he says.

Traditionally, many farm workers came from across the border and farmers are battling to find enough local labour.

This increases the need to mechanise farms to a large extent, a costly exercise.

Many roads are in bad repair and cause high maintenance on vehicles.

The drought caused farmers in the area to rely mainly on irrigation for their crops.

But the dry Limpopo River has not stopped these enterprising farmers.

They sink boreholes into the sandy riverbed and pump life-giving water at great expense and over considerable distances to their crops.

Farmers on the border west of Messina in the Weipe area have cleared vast areas of virgin bush for irrigation land.

The soil is a deep sandy loam, a fact testified to by the abundance of Mopani trees, which will only flourish in deep soil, according to farmers.

Farmers east of Messina are not so fortunate.

Irrigation land is limited, but the area is frost-free and the list of crops it is possible to produce, especially in the mild winter months, seems endless.

Farmers in this area, wedged between the Limpopo and Venda, say their situation warrants special attention.

Economic conditions forced many out of the region, with only six farmers remaining.

Mr Johan Duvenhage, secretary of the local farmers' association says its bargaining power has decreased.

A spokesman for the Agricultural Credit Board says R54,1 million in aid has been paid to farmers in the designated border areas in the Northern Transvaal.



Illegal entry into or exit from South Africa is marked by small holes cut into the foot-and-mouth fence. Mr Neels Kruger had earlier found spoor which indicated three intruders were in the area. A cycle patrol earlier placed the branch hanging from the wire as an indicator that the fence had been breached.

● Pictures by Hess Cumming.

A hair-raising trip down a dirt track on the borderline of fear

A first visit to the border farming area north of Messina is, simply, nerve-racking. Our party planned to reach its destination, the guest house at an experimental farm on the banks of the Limpopo River in broad daylight. But a late start and a hold-up on the way saw us reach Messina well after sunset.

We decided to telephone our host, Mr Neels Kruger, manager of the experimental farm to explain the delay and make sure of the directions. We telephoned primarily to get final directions to the stretch of about 15 km of dirt road on which we would have to travel to reach the farm.

"Drive straight up to Beit Bridge and turn left on to the dirt road," Mr Kruger advised. "I will switch on the security lights and send two security guards with torches down to the entrance. You can't miss it."

The mention of security guards and lights did little to reassure us. In a voice she tried to keep free of a quiver, our direction-seeker asked whether it was safe to travel after dark on a road where, we were told, a landmine had exploded less than four months ago.

"I can't assure you it's safe. You drive at your own risk. Just keep your eyes open for any disturbances of the surface and drive around any heaps of soil," came the matter-of-fact reply.

The journey on that track — it could scarcely

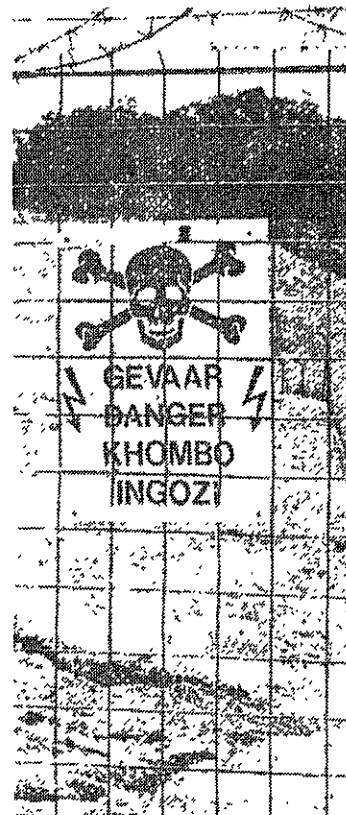
be described as a road — hugging the foot-and-mouth fence, was plain scary. The rocky surface was churned up by the heavy wheels of military vehicles which patrol the road, making it impossible for city slickers with little experience of landmines and other explosive horrors, to distinguish between cast up stones and possible disaster.

Every "disturbance", and there were many on the corrugated track, was infinitely sinister. After about half an hour with eyes on stalks and driving at a snail's pace, the glow of the yellow security lights against the pitchblack backdrop of a moonless bushveld night came, mercifully, into view.

Then the waving lights of the security guards' torches guided us into the left turn that took us onto the smooth sandy road leading to Mr Kruger's house.

Now there was little cause for concern. This was safe territory and what we wanted most of all was to get out of the dusty car and into the welcoming comforts of the farmhouse. The relieved driver threw caution to the winds and covered the short remaining distance in a trice.

Only later in the evening did Mr Kruger tell us that a landmine explosion in May took place about 50 m along his entrance road, killing the driver of the truck involved and maiming several passengers on the truck.



The skull and crossbones motif warns would-be intruders that this section of the foot and mouth fence is electrified.

Sea Harvest fires 280 workers

Cap & Times 9/9/82 Labour Reporter

THE Saldanha Sea Harvest factory management confirmed yesterday that 280 workers were dismissed this week after they refused to leave the factory's canteen and return to work.

Workers are in dispute with management over demands for pay parity with the company's competitor, Irvin and Johnson (I&J).

The general-secretary of the Food and Allied Workers' Union (FAWU), Mr Jan Theron, said that during negotiations with management on Monday, workers became "agitated" and refused to leave the canteen and go back to work until they had had an answer from management.

The general manager of Sea Harvest, Mr Louis Penzhorn, said most of the workers were working as normal.

After much procrastination and deliberation, the government is finally preparing the way for some industrial legislation to be extended to one of the least protected and most exploited categories of workers in South Africa — the 1,2 million farm labourers.

But the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, and the Minister of Manpower, Mr Plethe du Plessis, the two ministers dealing with the issue, have stopped short of supporting trade union rights for farm workers.

The fear that "radical" activists will take control of farm worker unions is one of the reasons why the Labour Relations Act is unlikely to be extended, at this stage, to incorporate farm labour.

Another reason is the resistance of farmers, a significant factor in white elections in the rural areas, particularly those where the Conservative Party is making inroads.

However, Mr Wentzel, speaking during the vote on Agriculture, made it clear that some legal protection was on the cards, five years after the National Manpower Commission was di-

rected to investigate "possible measures to regulate the conditions of employment of farm labourers and of domestic workers employed by households" and two years after the Commission presented its report on the matter to the government.

The NMC's report has not been published and Mr Du Plessis said in reply to a question that no decision on whether to release the report would be taken until the government's negotiations with organised agriculture had been concluded.

Mr Wentzel said farmers should realise that their products had to be sold worldwide and not only in South Africa.

"Throughout the world there are certain provisions, conditions and rules in regard to organised labour, which also apply to agricultural workers.

"I must sell the farmers' products. Now I must ask honourable members whether I must go and tell the international trade world where I must sell the South African farmer's products, that something of this sort is not necessary in South Africa.

"Must I say we do not protect our labourers?"

Legal protection on the cards for farm labourers

BARRY STREK: Cape Town

"The fact that we do not have labour legislation in regard to agriculture, leads them to say — they argue just like the members of the PPP — that we are using slave labour." Mr Wentzel said.

He did not regard labour organisation and labour rules in agriculture in a negative light.

"If we provide for the general standard of treatment which workers receive in agriculture somewhere in the world, I believe we will solve our problem to a considerable degree.

"There are always exceptions, but then we will, at the very least, be able to say to the world that the workers in agriculture are also protected by law.

"Our intention is not that there will be black

trade unions on the farms. In any event I think that black trade unions will not work on our farms, because they are not established for this," Mr Wentzel explained.

Mr Du Plessis, who was replying to the debate on the vote for Manpower in the House of Representatives, admitted that farm labourers were not protected by the Occupational Safety Act, the Workers' Compensation Act and the Unemployment Insurance Act.

Although the Unemployment Insurance Board and the NMC were looking at unemployment, people who knew about these issues said it was "a very problematic and complicated

South African Agricultural Union over what is acceptable to them on a national basis and what is not; then a person can negotiate over that."

Du Plessis also said in reply to a question by Archie Poole, the Labour Party MP for Belvedere, that he did not think it was necessary to publish the NMC report until he had produced a White Paper on the subject.

Clearly, legislation on farm workers, or the withdrawal of the exemption to farm workers in existing legislation, is coming. But not with a great deal of enthusiasm in Parliament.

In the House of Representatives, for instance, the Labour Party has persistently called for the extension of industrial legislation to

farm workers, including trade union rights, but one of its MPs, Mr Petrus Meyer of Vredendal, said it was essential that the Department of Manpower allowed workers to organise on "an orderly basis".

If the farm workers were organised under Cosatu and the radical trade unions and they called a strike when the grapes had to be picked or the wheat had to be thrashed, "there will be chaos. The army would have to be called out, the schoolchildren would have to be used to pick the grapes."

In the House of Assembly, Mr Stefanus van Vuuren, the CP MP for Ventersdorp, rejected Wentzel's approach and said agriculture did not need labour legislation.

"The relationship between the farmers and their black farm workers is completely healthy, and there is therefore no need for legislation of this sort," Mr Van Vuuren said.

The farmer in South Africa was not just an employer, but he helped with the education of the workers' children in schools, he provided medical aid and food. "The farmer is among other things a welfare worker and much more.

"The most important of all is that the black workers accept it. They are also happy and satisfied."

Trade unions in agriculture would create great misery. "When these black unions can get a foothold in agriculture in South Africa, the individual farmer will find it impossible to stand up to those unions," Mr Van Vuuren claimed.

Mr Jan Jooste, the National Party MP for De Aar, had an answer for the right-wing attack: "I will organise the farm workers, because if I do not organise them, the left-wing radicals will organise them."

Mr Jooste will have one, or two problems carrying out his threat, but despite resistance in agriculture and in Parliament, labour relations on the farms are about to change, with or without unions.

The position of domestic workers, the other aspect of the 1982 NMC investigation, has not been raised in Parliament this year, but it is unlikely they will be excluded from the proposed changes. Labour relations in ordinary homes are going to change as well.

(4) 11/9/87

PARLIAMENT — Big traders would never be allowed to break the farming co-operative system, Minister of Agriculture Mr Greyling Wentzel said in the House of Assembly yesterday.

Speaking in the committee stage of the supplementary budget, he said that in the late 30s, farmers — most of them poor — had organised themselves into co-operatives to improve their bargaining power.

In spite of obstruction

Farmers' co-operatives must stay — Wentzel

from traders, the farmers succeeded.

"Today the co-ops help the small farmer buy his requisites at the lowest possible prices," Mr Wentzel said.

It was known that certain traders and industries still wanted to break the co-operative movement.

"It is essential that the composition of co-operatives should represent not only small but also medium and big farmers to mobilise the maximum capital and buying power."

He said he had told the chairman of the Ministers' Council, Mr Amichand Rajbansi, that his

department would help him build a co-operative system to suit the needs of the small Indian farmer.

The Indian farmers could use the system to strengthen their own bargaining power, but the new direction in which Indian farming was moving could not be sustained without a well-organised co-op system.

The Bill was read a second time after the PRP withdrew its earlier opposition. — Sapa.

10/10/11 11/11/11

Tractor death: Detective convicted

ARG 14/9/87 (4) ~~25~~
Court Reporter

A BRACKENFELL detective was convicted in the Wynberg Regional Court today of culpable homicide following the death of a farm labourer he dragged behind a tractor in November last year.

Detective-Sergeant Gert Johannes Jacobs, 31, was found guilty of causing the death of Mr Dawid Morris.

Mr Morris died in Tygerberg Hospital after receiving multiple injuries, which included a damaged heart, lacerated liver and ruptured colon.

Jacobs has been suspended from the police.

ATTACKED WITH PANGA

Jacobs was acquitted on a charge of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm to Mr Johannes Alkaster.

Co-accused Sergeant Hermias Cornelius Rossouw, 35, of Herte Street, Kraaifontein, was acquitted on both charges.

The court heard that Jacobs and Sergeant Rossouw were investigating

a fight between a group of squatters and farm labourers on Rotterdam Farm, near Kuils River, when Jacobs was allegedly attacked by Mr Morris with a panga.

Jacobs believed Mr Morris planned to kill him and tried to arrest him. He tied Mr Morris's feet to a tractor's towbar and drove towards the farmhouse to call the Kuils River police.

He told the court he had not heard Mr Morris fall off the tractor or Sergeant Rossouw shouting at him.

WOUNDED THREE TIMES

Today, in mitigation, Mr H Trisos told the court that Jacobs was the father of two children and his second wife was pregnant. Mr Trisos said he had already suffered severe financial loss after having been suspended from the police force.

Mr Trisos submitted that the circumstances surrounding the incident were of such a nature as to constitute provocation against the accused and asked the court to take into account the type of person he was.

"He was not the sort of person who looked for trouble and I submit that circumstances dictated the events that led him to where he stands today," said Mr Trisos.

Jacobs, who was a first offender, had been wounded three times in the course of his police duties, he added.

Jacobs told the court Mr Morris attacked him "like a madman or someone under the influence or something".

"Blows with my stick and fists seemed to have no effect on him. He kept coming at me, shouting that he would kill me.

"He refused to stand on the tractor to be transported. I was too tired to carry him after the fight when I arrested him," Jacobs said.

Both the accused denied having assaulted Mr Alkaster and breaking his arm with a "heavy, blunt weapon".

The hearing was postponed to Friday for sentence.

Mr J C L Botha was on the Bench, Mr J Loots appeared for the State.

Argus 14/9/77

Shotguns, tear smoke used after stoning at Saldanha

Staff Reporter

TEARSMOKE and shotgun fire were used to disperse a group of people at Diazville, Saldanha, after a woman and three security force members were struck by stones and slightly injured, according to the police unrest report.

Security force members, their vehicles and a private home were stoned "by a group of coloured" yesterday, the report said.

A black woman and three security force members were struck by stones and slightly injured. The group was dispersed with tear smoke and shotgun fire.

ARRESTED

A coloured male was slightly wounded. A coloured woman and two coloured men were slightly injured.

"Three coloured men and a woman were arrested in connection with these incidents," said the report.

The Argus has been given information about injuries and a possible fatality at Diazville at the weekend.

The Argus also has information about disturbances involving supporters of two rugby teams and after a dance on Saturday night.

STATEMENT

Details cannot be reported in terms of the emergency regulations and the police have been asked to comment.

Boland police liaison officer Captain Gys Boonzaier said a full statement about the events of the weekend was being drawn up and would be sent to the Police Directorate of Public Relations in Pretoria for release to the Press later.

Farm workers get pension plan

JOHANNESBURG. — The general council of the South African Agricultural Union has approved in principle a retirement scheme for agricultural employees.

This follows an investigation conducted by Sentraoer and is expected to be instituted in January next year.

The union's vice-president, Mr Nico Kotze, said that the scheme's main objective was to provide for the retirement needs of employees in agriculture, with death and disability benefits as perks.

"The scheme is unique in the sense that, as employers, farmers join voluntarily and that each employer with his team of employees build up their own fund within the registered umbrella fund.

"The scheme offers agricultural employees a truly unique opportunity to provide for a more comfortable retirement," Mr Kotze said.

In the case of retirement, either a lump sum or a monthly pension would be paid.

The amount will depend on how long and how much the relevant employee contributed

to the fund. In the event of death or disability an amount equalling twice the annual salary of the employee will be paid out, with a choice of pension in the case of disability.

Mr Kotze appealed to farmers to support the scheme because a maximum number and steady increase of members was essential for implementation and its future viability.

A board of trustees from the ranks of organised agriculture will administer the fund, with Sentraoer as mediator and Old Mutual as underwriter.

Policeman guilty of farmhand's death

Case Title 15/9/87 (4)

Court Reporter

SENTENCE will be passed on Friday on a police detective convicted in Wynberg Regional Court yesterday of culpable homicide.

Detective Sergeant Gert Johannes Jacobs, 30, of Rusthof Farm, Kuils River, who was temporarily suspended from the police force pending the outcome of the hearing, had pleaded not guilty to culpable homicide.

He was convicted of causing the death of Mr Dawid Morris, 35, on November 1 last year by tying him to the back of a tractor and dragging him on the ground. Mr Morris died after receiving multiple injuries.

Jacobs was acquitted of assaulting Mr Johannes Alkaster with intent to do grievous bodily harm. Co-accused Sergeant Hermias Rossouw, 35, of Herte Street, Kraaifontein, was acquitted on both charges.

The magistrate, Mr J C L Botha, said there was no evidence that Sergeant Rossouw had committed an offence.

In a statement handed in to the court, Sergeant Rossouw said he and Jacobs had gone to the farm Rotter-

dam to investigate "trouble".

He saw a man stealthily approach Jacobs with a panga and he had "floored" him.

Jacobs then grabbed the man and took the panga away from him.

"The youngster (jong) was lying on the ground and when I told him to get up, he said he would try."

Jacobs came back with a tractor and tied Mr Morris's legs to it with a rope. Sergeant Rossouw climbed on to the tractor and when he noticed the rope trailing, realized Mr Morris was no longer tied to the tractor.

In previous evidence, both policemen said Mr Morris was tied to the tow bar in "a sitting position" to be transported, but had fallen off.

In mitigation of sentence, Mr H Trisos, for Jacobs, said he was a father of two and his second wife was pregnant with a third child.

The prosecutor, Mr J Loots, said that judging from the photographs which formed part of the court record, it appeared that Mr Morris had been very badly assaulted.

He said Jacobs was a police official who was supposed to set an example.

Mr Trisos appeared for both policemen

Teenager shot
Argus 15/9/87
(4)

By DICK USHER,
Staff Reporter

A WEEKEND of violence in the little Saldanha community of Diazville has left one person dead and several injured.

Township residents told of two days of clashes, gunshots, barricades in the streets and teargas.

They said the spark which ignited the weekend's events was a clash on Saturday afternoon between supporters of two rugby clubs from different unions.

But tension had been simmering all week after the dismissal of about 600 workers by Sea Harvest, one of the area's largest employers.

Stoning

Residents said that Saturday's clash between supporters of the Saldanha Marines, a member of the South African Rugby Union affiliated to the South African Council on Sport (Sacos), and Tigers Rugby Football Club, a South African Rugby Federation member, was broken up by police using teargas.

This was followed by stoning of houses during Saturday evening.

On Sunday, shoppers and a group waiting outside a cafe for a bus to take them to a South African Youth Congress rally in Cape Town were dispersed by police.

The dead youth, 14-year-old Abraham Julies, was shot on Sunday night.

His father, Mr Jacob Jacobus Julies, said he last saw his son about 8pm on Sunday before he went to work.

"About 10.45 one of my colleagues told me that Abraham had been shot," he said yesterday.

"That is all we know about it.

"We have not been allowed to see Abraham's body.

"We have been told that there will be a post-mortem today."

Sources in the township said at least seven people had been injured by police action.

Two of them, Gert Cloete and Rochelda Samuels, were admitted to Vredenburg Hospital.

A hospital spokesman said they had "small wounds in the legs".

Sixteen-year-old Felicia Cloete was admitted to Tygerberg Hospital.

Her father, Mr Jacobus Cloete, said she was shot in the face with a revolver or pistol.

Dissatisfaction is also spreading over this weekend's Harvest of the Sea Festival which is to be opened by President Botha.

● A spokesman for the police directorate for public relations said yesterday's unrest report, which mentioned two days of unrest in Diazville, was incorrect in saying that a youth had been "slightly injured".

He said the statement should have read "fatally wounded".



Picture: HANNES THIART, The Argus

Mr Jacob Jacobus Julies and his wife Elizabeth, parents of Abraham Julies who was shot dead on Sunday evening.

Move on papers 'intimidatory'

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Requests by the new Directorate of Media Relations for certain newspapers to submit copies of their publication for perusal are seen as ominous attempts to intimidate editors, says a statement issued yesterday by the Anti-Censorship Action Group.

The statement says the request that copies of newspapers be submitted to the "Government's new chief censor is clearly an intimidatory move with serious consequences for the truly free flow of information which Minister Stoffel Botha claims he believes in".

The statement is signed by author Nadine Gordimer, Dorothy Wheeler of Ravan, and Pat Sidley, president of the South African Society of Journalists.

'Draconian laws inconceivable'

Argus Africa News Service

WINDHOEK. — It is inconceivable that the citizens of SWA/Namibia should still be subject to the "draconian" powers of the Terrorism Act — a law scrapped by the South African Parliament 15 years ago — says a Windhoek Supreme Court judge.

Mr Justice Kenneth Bethune made the remark in his written reasons for ordering the release of six Swapo detainees, who were freed on Friday. The men were arrested and held under Section 6 of the Terrorism Act.

He said the Terrorism Act conflicted in a number of respects with the Bill of Fundamental Rights proclaimed with the installation of the current Transitional Government in Windhoek in 1985. The current legislators in Windhoek had, however, so far made no use of their power to revise or scrap the Act.

Kimberley's 'wedding of the

The Argus Correspondent

KIMBERLEY. — The "wedding of the year" here featured Irish schoolteacher Thomas O'Neil and his former pupil, Eulah Bothoile Mothibi, at the St Boniface Catholic Church.

The former St Boniface High School head prefect said "I do"

to her one-time matric teacher in the presence of hundreds of enthusiastic, and mostly curious people, who packed the church.

The couple had been the talk from the town from the time they started courting.

"Yes, indeed, we are living in a changing world," said one el-

derly woman again.

Eulah is a local student worth University lecturer.

They regard as pretty of fathom the fuss.

Boy, 14, shot dead after firings

CNE 7m 15
15/1/87

4

15/1/87

By CHRIS BATEMAN

A TEENAGE boy was shot dead, at least seven people were wounded and at least four people were arrested in Saldanha on Sunday as labour-related conflict escalated after 280 Sea Harvest factory workers were sacked in the town on Monday.

The toll of wounded could be as high as 10; Diazville township sources have named seven residents they said were wounded, while police said four residents and three security force members were wounded.

Since Monday at least 20 people have been arrested, 11 of them women who appeared briefly before a Vredenburg magistrate on Friday on charges of failing to obey police orders. The 11 were granted bail of R100 each.

Township sources gave the names of nine men they said were arrested outside a township cafe early on Sunday. Relatives said they were told by police that the men had been taken to Victor Verster Prison outside Paarl where they were being held in terms of the emergency regulations.

A senior police spokesman in Pretoria, Colonel Steve van Rooyen, yesterday said that a "coloured male" — identified by township sources as Abraham Julies, 14, a Std 4 pupil of Diazville Primary School — had been shot dead on Sunday.

Spokesmen for the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) and the Saldanha Advice Office said two women and a man, aged 18, 19 and 21, with pellet wounds in their legs, were under police guard in Vredenburg Hospital while a 15-year-old girl with pellet wounds in her head had been transferred to Tygerberg Hospital.

They said they had traced another wounded man to the Saldanha police station but were still looking for two more people reportedly wounded and in police custody. Colonel Van Rooyen said that any additional information received by police headquarters and "worth mentioning" would be released today.

The trouble began after Sea Harvest management fired 280 workers for refusing to meet a 10-minute deadline to return to work on Monday. The workers had demanded an answer about a pending meeting before returning to work, Mr Louis Penzhorn, general manager of Sea Harvest, said yesterday.

South 10-14/9/87

by SAHM VENTER

A KRAAIFONTEIN mother and her four children have been told to leave the house they have rented for 10 years — for no apparent reason.

"We will have to go and sleep under the trees, if we can't stay," said Mrs Sarah Philander. "We have nowhere else to go."

It is believed that the eviction was ordered on the advice of the Management Committee, which according to the Regional Services Council "doesn't have to give reasons".

A spokesperson for the Management Committee in Scotsdene confirmed that the Management Committee had recommended the eviction. He also confirmed that the Management Committee did not have to give reasons.

The Philander family said they were told that somebody paid R160 to the rent office because "he wanted a corner house".

The mystery began in April when the family received a letter from the Scotsdene rent office, telling them to leave. No reasons were given.

She said a Mr Mohamed Salie of the rent office told her there was "no reason" but that they just wanted the house vacated. He advised her to engage an attorney.

The same suggestion was made when she went to the Division Council

Evicted mother 'will live under the trees ...



From left: Mrs Sarah Philander with her daughters, Julie-Anne, 4, Audrey, 15, Esmeralda, 22, and Bernadette, 18, in front. Picture: SAHM VENTER

(now Regional Services Council) head office in Stellenbosch. "They knew nothing about it," Philander said.

When approached for comment, Salie referred SOUTH to the RSC in Stellenbosch. There Mr F H Stevens a press liaison officer said he could not comment as the matter had been handed to their attorneys.

Philander has continued paying rent since April. "We have never been in arrears with our rent," she said. She has proof that September's rent of R61.71 has been paid.

She said another woman was eight months in arrears with her rent and was still in her house.

On September 1, the family received a summons ordering them to leave the house within three days. Three days later people "from the court" removed all their furniture and closed the front door. Later that day they returned.

"I feel very sad. I can't concentrate at work because I'm always thinking about the house," Philander said.

"There is no reason for me to leave this place. I don't know why they want me out. They can't even give me a reason," she said.

Philander said a family had lived under the trees in Scotsdene for four years after they were evicted from their house.

"Our father died under the trees."

Bo-Kaap CMC man Botha's pal

SOUTH REPORTER

ONE of the main initiators of a Coloured Management Committee for the Bo-Kaap, Mr Ismail Achmat, has written letters to P W Botha since 1978 and once painted a portrait of the State President.

He has been asked to leave public meetings in his area twice this year.

He has also been closely linked to Mrs Sohler Hoosen, the MP for Tafelberg, who polled 113 votes in the 1984 elections for the House of Representatives.

But the 39-year-old spray-painter believes he has the support of the community and is determined to prove it through elections for a management committee.

Achmat is one of five people nominated to serve on a management committee for the Bo-Kaap area. The others are Mr Ismail Hartley, Mrs N Abader, Mrs Amiena Koopman and Mrs Sumaya Salie.

Achmat announced his resignation two days after the names were announced by the Provincial Administrator.

"I am not against the management committee system. I only resigned because I don't want to be nominated. I want to be elected."

"Over the years our area has been controlled by the City Council and various groups have been arguing with them without getting anything right," said Achmat, who is a former secretary of the Schotsche Kloof Civic Association.

Achmat said he did not see himself as a "coloured" and he did not support the system of apartheid.



Mr Ismail Achmat

DIE SUID-AFRIKAAN



1. Roshomon
2. Biese
3. Die Land
4. Vindende Aanslag
5. Die Kruis van die Kruis
6. Die Kruis van die Kruis
7. Die Kruis van die Kruis
8. Die Kruis van die Kruis
9. Die Kruis van die Kruis
10. Die Kruis van die Kruis
11. Die Kruis van die Kruis
12. Die Kruis van die Kruis
13. Die Kruis van die Kruis
14. Die Kruis van die Kruis
15. Die Kruis van die Kruis
16. Die Kruis van die Kruis
17. Die Kruis van die Kruis
18. Die Kruis van die Kruis
19. Die Kruis van die Kruis
20. Die Kruis van die Kruis

DAKAR: DIE VOLLE VERHAAL

in die September-uitgawe van

DIE SUID-AFRIKAAN

Lees in ons komende uitgawe wat werklik gebeur het toe 'n groep binnelandse Suid-Afrikaners 'n afvaardiging van die ANC in Dakar ontmoet het — in eerstehandse verslae van mense wat self daar was.

Van aanstaande week af by uitgesoekte nuusagente beskikbaar.

Spesiale aanbod

Ontvang vyf uitgawes van Die Suid-Afrikaan vir die prys van vier. Indien u nou op vier uitgawes inteken, sal u 'n gratis eksemplaar van die September-uitgawe ontvang.

Knip hierdie advertensie uit, vul die vorm in en pos dit saam met 'n tjek of posorder vir R7,60 aan Die Suid-Afrikaan, Breststraat 213, Kaapstad 8001. U sal u gratis eksemplaar per kerende pos ontvang — asook die volgende vier uitgawes.

NAAM: _____

ADRES: _____

POSKODE: _____

Farm labourers start

DURBAN. — The estimated one million farm workers in South Africa are beginning to shake off the chains of "slavery" that have shackled them for almost a century.

The ten-week strike by 1 400 farm workers at the Sapekoe tea estate near Richmond in Natal, and the historic recognition agreement between the Farm Workers Union and Bergvlei Chicks and Poultry Farms, are seen by analysts as a first salvo in what may be the beginning of a long campaign to unionise farm workers.

Sapekoe workers downed tools on July 14 in support of the demands for an across the board increase of R250 a month, improved working conditions, less working hours and recognition of the Food and Allied Workers Union, which is an affiliate of the Congress of South African Trade Unions.

According to FAWU, local management at Richmond responded that the demands be raised with their Tzaneen head office but agreed in the meantime to recognise the shop stewards pending negotiations between FAWU and senior officials.

Sapekoe management later told union officials that they were prepared to negotiate with the union. On July 14, 1 500 workers downed tools in support of their demands. On the second day of the strike, six shop stewards were arrested for allegedly "intimidating the workers".

The workers were evicted from the estate's compound. Their eviction is now the subject of a Supreme Court application in Maritzburg. If the results of the application are positive, it will set a precedent for the country's most exploited section of workers.

Accommodation is one of the most "powerful" arguments farmers have used thus far to silence farm workers. Accommodation is directly linked to employment. On termination of a contract, the workers lose the right to live on the farm.

Recognition

The Sapekoe strike came in the wake of another labour action by 800 workers at the Tongaat-Hulett's North Coast canefields. The workers were demanding recognition of the Farm Workers Union, an affiliate of South African Allied Workers Union (SAAWU).

Recently the farm workers union signed a historic recognition agreement with the Bergvlei Chicks and Poultry Farm near Kyalami, its two farms at Hillcrest and Bronkor in Natal, and at Bronkhorstspuit in the Transvaal.

A surprise clause in the agreement is the recognition of May Day and June 16 as paid holidays.

A rural researcher, who has been monitoring the Sapekoe strike, said: "The entire strike and the solidarity shown by the villagers of Ezithendeni, near Ixopo, reflect the growing resistance of the rural people. There is also growing realisation that trade unions can further their interests."

"This must also be seen against the background of recent revelations that farmers in the Richmond area had met with about 25 African chiefs in an attempt to strike a Ngotshetype agreement whereby farm workers and the rural people will be encouraged to join Inkatha."

Since the enactment of the Industrial Conciliation Act in 1924, farm workers have been excluded

from the country's industrial relations machinery.

It was only in 1982 that the government ordered the National Manpower Commission to look into conditions for farm and domestic workers.

The report was handed to the government in December 1985. It has not yet been made public.

In June this year, the Minister of Manpower, Mr Piet du Plessis, said the government was still undecided about whether to release the report. Its release, if deemed necessary, would be considered after consultations with organised agriculture had reached finality.

But analysts believe that the government is "sitting on the report" because it makes proposals for improved working conditions for farm workers.

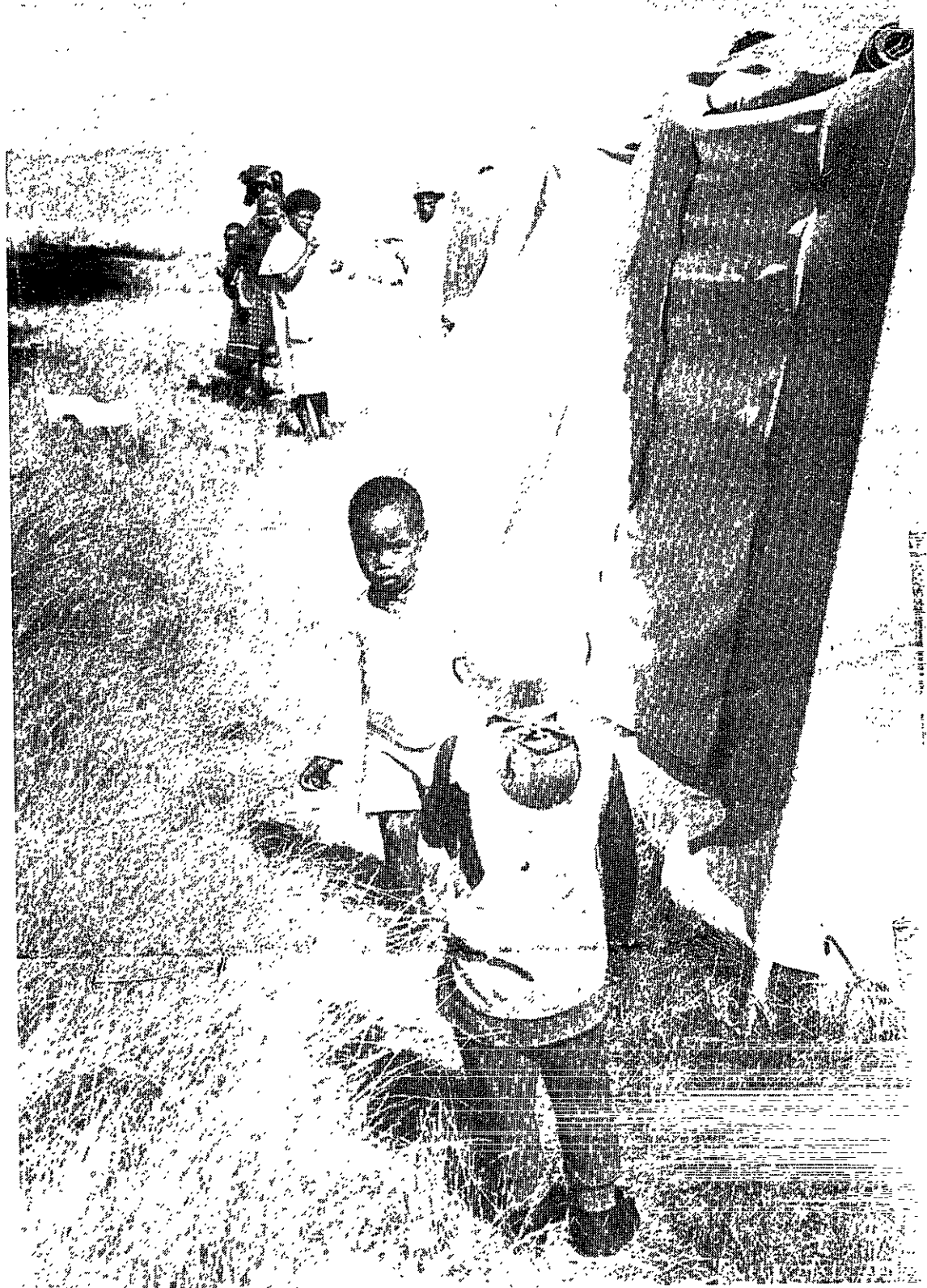
They say it is unlikely that the report will be made public in view of the heavy losses suffered by the National Party in the Transvaal farmlands during the May elections.

In fact, during debates on agriculture, the Conservative Party, which dealt heavy blows to the Nats, made it clear that farmers and their employees did not need legislation.

Thwarted

Attempts in the late 1920s by the Industrial Chemical Workers Union (ICU) and the SA Congress of Trade Unions (Sactu) in the 1950s to organise farm workers were thwarted by swift and in most cases "severe" action by farmers and the government.

In May 1927 the ICU organised a strike by more than 4 000 workers in the Greytown/Umvoti area who were demanding 8 shillings a day. Farmers broke the strike by evicting workers from their properties. — *Concord*



The village of Ezithendeni, home of Sapekoe workers

Estate denies using force in evictions

MARITZBURG. — Police and management of the State-owned Sapekoe tea estate denied the Supreme Court last week that teargas and sjamboks had been used in evicting workers from the company's estate near Richmond in July.

Testifying in a hearing in which a Sapekoe worker has applied for his accommodation to be restored to him, their evidence was in stark contrast to that given by some of the evicted workers and statements made by the Food and Allied Workers Unions (FAWU) on July 15, the time of the evictions.

Mr Gilbert Makinyana has applied for the court order on the grounds that the company took the law into their own hands in evicting the workers.

Mrs Miriam Nkomane said on July 15 she had heard a farm manager announce over a loudspeaker that workers should collect their pay and leave.

She was in her room with her two year-old child when two policemen appeared at the door and threw teargas into her room.

"I grabbed my baby and ran outside. As I ran I was prodded with firearms and hit with a sjambok."

Sapekoe's production manager, Mr Abel Erasmus, denied any force was used and said all the people left voluntarily.

Warrant Officer T R O'Connell, who was in charge of the seven-member reaction unit at the scene, said he had withdrawn his men at 1.30pm on July 15 because there appeared no need for them to remain at the scene.

The station commander at Richmond, Warrant Officer J L du Plessis, said he arrived at Sapekoe shortly after the deadline issued by the company for workers to leave the premises had expired.

He went there to "prevent violence" and because Sapekoe had earlier indicated that charges of trespassing might be brought against workers who refused to leave.

The estate manager, Mr William Titlestad, said they had considered obtaining a court order to evict the workers, but had been advised by lawyers that this was not necessary.

He said most of the workers defied the deadline given to them to leave but changed their minds soon afterwards and come to collect their wages in large numbers.

Titlestad said he had had no dealings with the police on the evictions.

However, both O'Connell and Du Plessis told the court management officials they had dealt with were Titlestad, and Erasmus. — *Concord News*

Dispute over benefits

A DISPUTE is brewing between the Electric and Allied Workers Union and employers over fringe benefits.

The EAWU, which represents about 2 000 workers in the Western Cape, claims the employers are not offering their members benefits.

Mr Brian Williams, secretary of EAWTU, said the union had refused to sign an agreement with the employers.

"Some of the workers are exposed to harsh working conditions but they are without essential benefits."

"We also reject the increases offered to the workers in July. We demand a minimum wage of R2,86 an hour instead of the R2,56 offered in July."

In a statement, Mr James Baker, executive director of Electrical Contractors Association of South Africa, accused the

LABOUR BRIEFS

union of "acting irresponsibly."

"It is robbing its members of the benefits of a wage offer at the time when the industry is reeling under financial cutbacks," he said.

"The workers were given a 19 percent increase, while the lower grade workers received 15 percent."

GWU recruits at Rhodes

RHODES University workers seem to finally become unionised after staging a short work stoppage to receive clarity on the issue.

More than half of the total workforce have signed stop-order forms for the Transport and General Workers Union, enabling the university to withdraw union con-

tributions from their pay. Workers are now waiting for a university council meeting to ratify recognition agreement.

During the brief strike last week the university clarified their stance on the union.

They also received an undertaking from the authorities to review a dismissal which workers claim was "too harsh". — *Albany News Agency*

Nactu launch in W Cape

THE Western Cape branch of the National Congress of Trade Unions (Nactu) was launched on Saturday.

Nactu has 420 000 signed-up members and eight affiliates in the Western Cape.

These are: Electrical and Allied Workers Union, Security Workers Industrial Union, African

Allied Workers Union Building Construction South Africa, Food Beverage Workers Union National Unions of Workers and Spirits, Transport and Allied Workers Union and South African Chemical Workers Union

Transport men go slow

EIGHTY Transport General Workers Union members at two firms have gone on a go-slow after management refused to recognise the union.

The go slow at Uitenhage Long Hauls and Uitenhage Long Freight started Thursday last week.

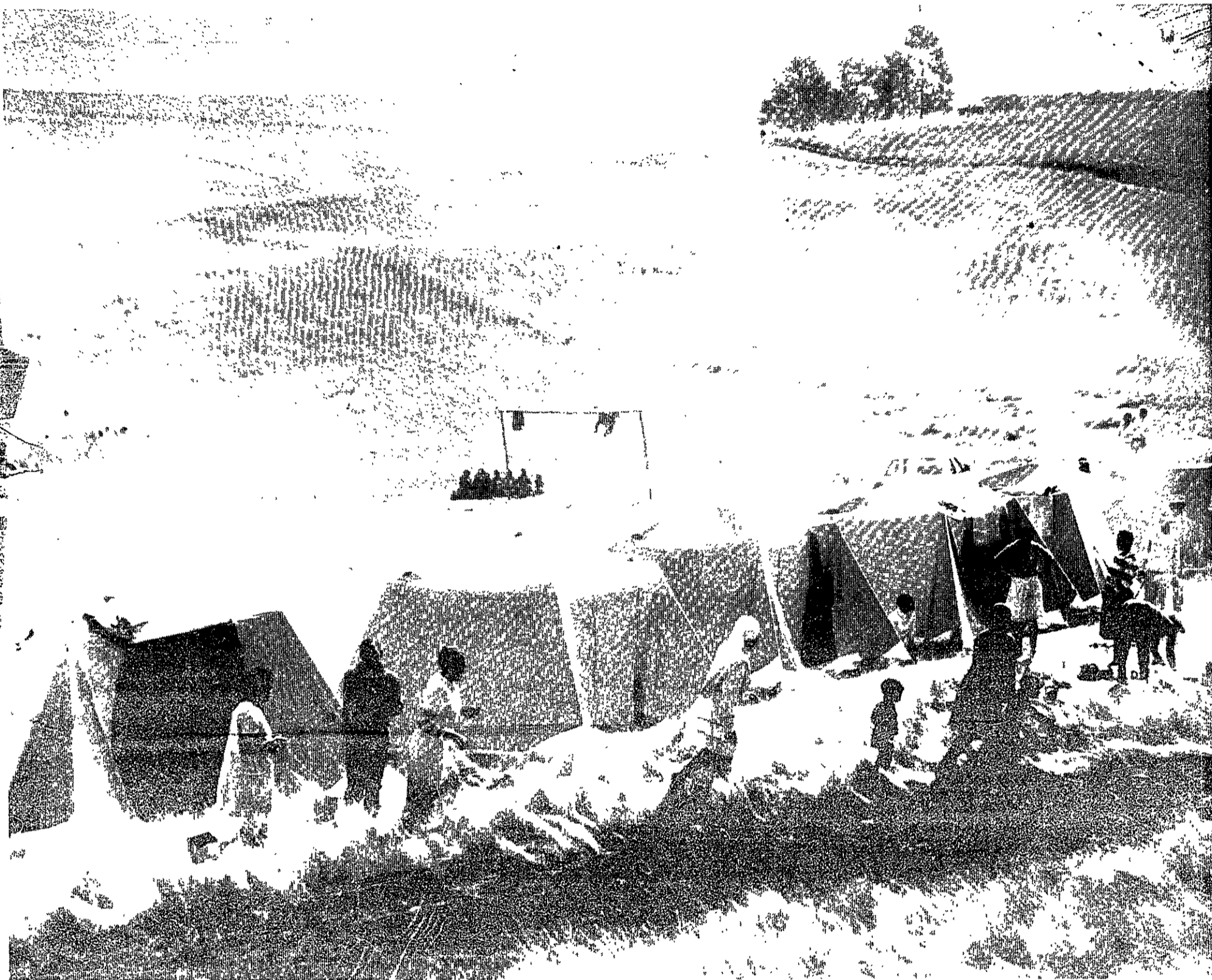
A TGWU spokesman said the management's attitude was holding up negotiations to address workers' problems.

"We want to talk about issues concerning wages. The workers are not paid overtime. The safety of the workers needs to be addressed," he said.

South 10-16/1987

143

shaking off shackles



Ezithendeni, a village in the Ixopo valley, home to some of the workers on the Sapekoe estate near Richmond in Natal

Battle on for migrants' rights

By VUYO BAVUMA

THE Western Cape Hostel Dwellers Association (WCHDA) plans to extend its battle to eradicate the "cancer" of migrant labour.

The 25 000-strong WCHDA, which fights for the rights of migrant labourers, has members in Langa, Nyanga, Guguletu, Lwandle (Strand), Mfuleni and Khayamandi (Stellenbosch).

It decided at its recent regional conference to organise migrant workers in other parts of the country.

Positive

"We have put out feelers in many parts of the country and the response has been positive," said WCHDA's publicity secretary, Mr Monde Johnson Mpukumpa, of Nyanga hostels.

"We shall continue to fight for the rights of migrant labourers. It is inhuman that families should be separated because of an ideology. Our wives and children should be allowed to stay at the hostels."

WCHDA is an affiliate of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu). It runs health and advice projects aimed at alleviating the hardships of migrant workers.

The advice office explains issues such as UIF benefits and rental payments.

"We also assist women who get arrested for trespassing at the hostels. Last year we successfully opposed the prosecution of women at Mfuleni and Lwandle hostels," Mpukumpa said.

"We also have a mobile clinic unit which offers food to malnourished



Mr Monde Johnson Mpukumpa, publicity secretary of the Western Cape Hostel Dwellers Association

children. Its staff of three also attends to sick children who are mostly neglected and visits our members twice a week."

WCHDA is also involved in upgrading the hostels and is negotiating for land to build houses for its members.

The association was born out of worker frustration due to appalling conditions in the hostels.

In 1984 a nine-member committee was formed in Nyanga hostels but it later developed into a regional structure.

Mpukumpa is a former national president of the General Workers' Union. He was born in Transkei in 1941 and left home at an early age to work in East London where he also studied part-time. In 1960 he came to work in Cape Town.

"I worked at a Bellville

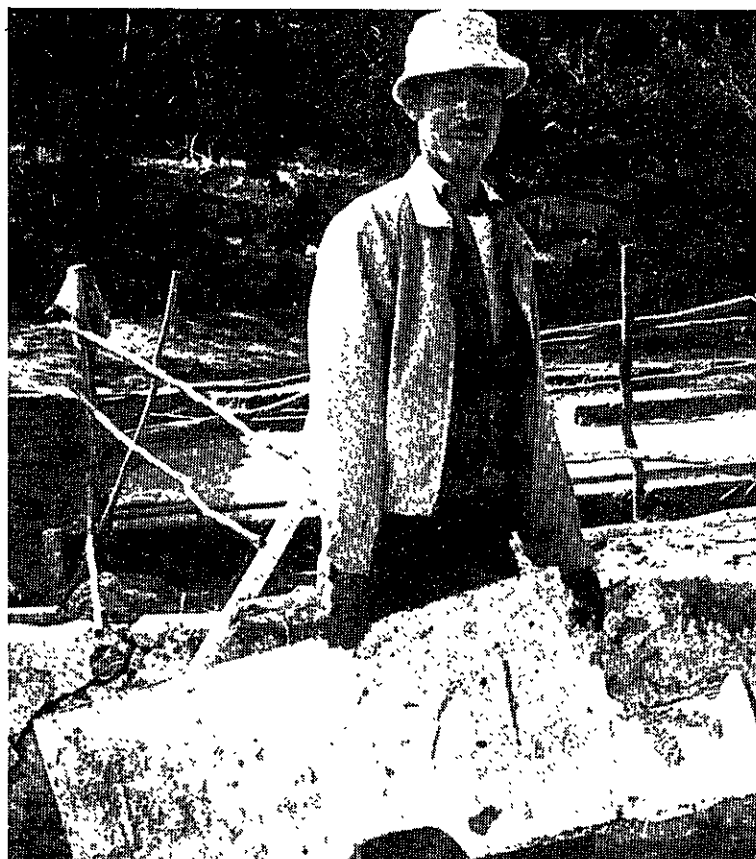
glass factory where conditions were terrible. We did not have protective clothing and our wages were low," he said.

In the early 1970s Mpukumpa joined the GWU and was elected an organiser in 1979. In 1983 he went to the International Transport Federation in London to raise funds for the railway workers involved in a strike at Port Elizabeth and Durban.

Factory

"Towards the end of the year I took part in talks aimed at forming a federation of workers," Mpukumpa said.

"There were many conflicting ideas but eventually nine union members supported the idea, thus paving the way for the birth of Cosatu."



Rabie Soetland trying to salvage building material from a demolished house

40 families ordered to leave homes

By RYLAND FISHER

MORE than 40 squatter families at Red Hill, outside Simon's Town, have been ordered to leave the farm where some have lived for 15 years.

Some of the squatters were arrested twice in the past month and charged with trespassing or illegal squatting.

The squatters say that when the last group of 17 men and women appeared in the Simon's Town Magistrate's Court on August 21, they were ordered to leave the land by September 11. Their fines ranged from R30 to R310.

But the squatters are determined that they will not allow their community to be split and moved to Khayelitsha or Ocean View, where they suspect they will be sent.

"We have built up a community here. We understand each other and don't want to be separated," one of the squatters said.

The Red Hill community is hidden away on the farm Bokloof, about 10 minutes drive from Simon's Town on the winding road to Scarborough. A 500m narrow dirt road through the bush leads to the first squatter shacks.

No facilities

The squatters have no facilities like toilets or water. They carry water in buckets from a nearby river.

The common language of all the squatters is Xhosa, though some children go to schools in Ocean View, while others go to Khayelitsha. But most families have sent their children to relatives in the rural areas.

"The only problem we have is that we are so far away from the town," a squatter said.

"The young people take a long time to walk to Simon's Town. There is a bus for us in the mornings and evenings only.

"The nurse comes around here once a week. If the children get sick any other time, we have to run to Simon's Town to phone a doctor."

But the squatters do not want to leave the area, in spite of their problems.

"We have no place to go. Must we live on the street?" asked Mr James Present, 37, a worker at the local fire department. A father of nine, he has been living at Red Hill since 1975.

Present and his wife, Ms Mita Duimpies, have sent eight of their children to her mother in Fort Beaufort because the shack they live in is too small. Only their youngest child lives with them.

'No place to go'

Father of two Mr Rabie Soetland, 30, who makes tea at the SA Navy in Simon's Town, said his shack had been broken down twice since he moved to Red Hill in 1976.

"On another occasion I broke down my house myself after I was warned by municipal inspectors," he recalled.

"I moved to another place to avoid them confiscating my building material.

"We need this place. We want to stay here. If we had money we would have bought this farm."

Broken down

Mr James Floors, 32, who works for a building contractor in Seaforth, said his house had been broken down five times since he moved to Red Hill in 1976.

"We don't know where we will be able to find housing if they move us. Ocean View is already so overcrowded," he said.

Domestic worker Ms Nowethu Zanazo, 26, said she had lived with her husband and three children at Red Hill since 1985.

"Our house was broken down earlier this year and I was arrested twice and convicted of trespassing," she said.

"I have no family in Cape Town. All our people are in the Ciskei. We will have nowhere to go if they evict us."

Mr Thobile Qaba, 22, said he lost his work as a woodcutter for the local municipality after he was arrested last month.

"My boss would not understand what had happened. Now I have been unable to find other work," he said.

A war of nerves

By SAHM VENTER

A WAR of nerves is raging between squatters who face removal to Khayelitsha and the Kraaifontein municipality which doesn't want Africans living in the area.

A month has passed since D-Day for the removal of African squatters from Bloekombos in Kraaifontein — but they are still living there.

Now the Kraaifontein municipality has decided to take legal action against the squatters which means the removal might be handed over to the police.

The 70 or so residents are uncertain about if and when an attempt will be made to move them. The appearance of strangers or unknown vehicles could mean imminent removal to green tents, far from their jobs.

'Sommer jokes'

They are under no illusions about what living in Khayelitsha will mean, and dismiss official promises of transport to and from their work as "sommer jokes".

Residents are constantly on their guard, waiting for the moment when they will have to make their stand.

Last week police arrived and told them to pack their things.

On August 10, the day scheduled for the removal, residents waited for hours in heavy rain, expecting municipal trucks, but none came. Since then they have been visited by "municipal security guards" who walked around the camp without talking to any of the residents.

Recently municipal officials visited and asked: "Wil julle loop of nie?" After they left the squatters said they didn't want to go, the officials left.

"One thing is certain, we are not going to Khayelitsha and that is klaar," Mr Andrew Jacobs a community leader said.

Worried

Jacobs' wife, Lena, who gave birth to a two-week premature baby said: "We are very worried, and restless. We will be happy if they say we can stay here."

"We don't know what the municipality is going to do, if they are going to move us to Khayelitsha or not," Jacobs said. "We think about it all the time."

"They must just let us know now what they are going to do. If they don't have a place for us in Kraaifontein, they must leave us here."

All those employed work in or near Kraaifontein and they believe removal to Khayelitsha would mean losing their



Mr Andrew Jacobs with his children (from the left) Marie, Anthony, Annetta and Poppie

jobs and their families would starve. Removal also threatens to split many "mixed" ("coloured" and African families) — most of the African men are married to "coloured" women.

'Not afraid'

"We are not afraid anymore, we just get worried when we see their cars," said Jacobs, who has lived in Kraaifontein for 16 years.

"This is an old thing, they don't want black people (Africans) living here."

Earlier, Kraaifontein's town clerk, Mr WM Conradie, said he didn't know what kind of accommodation had been provided at Khayelitsha.

"The relevant authorities have made sites available. It most probably will be tents," he said.

When asked this week about the squatters' position, Conradie said: "I don't know. But they are still there illegally."

Asked if their case was being reconsidered, he said: "The point is the law says that they may not squat. They cannot stay there."

He said the "coloured" residents had not been given notice to move because there were no alternative sites for them "yet".

It had also been made "quite clear" by the spokesperson for Community Services, Mr Sampie Steenkamp, that there was no alternative accommodation for Africans in Kraaifontein, he said.

"He said they would have to go to Khayelitsha."

20 families face eviction

By AYESHA ISMAIL

TWENTY families, squatting in a "white" area in Touws River, have been fined and served with eviction notices.

The Rev J E Constance, a spokesperson for the squatters, said the families asked a farmer to stay on his property because of the great shortage of houses.

The police asked them to leave. The municipality considered the area a health hazard as they did not have proper facilities and the police asked the families to move.

"They stayed on despite warnings because they had nowhere else to go. On August 7 the people were summonsed and given the option of paying admission of guilt fines of R15. They did not pay

the fines and are to appear in court next week."

Constance said he approached the municipality about alternative accommodation for the people. He said he asked the municipality to give the Anglican Church land and they would house the people themselves.

The municipality said they could sell plots to the people and promised that nobody would be evicted or charged.

The town clerk, Mr J Benson, denied the municipality had anything to do with the evictions. "The only thing is they are squatting in our area," he said.

The property belongs to Bankor Trust, and according to Mrs A Fisher, nobody had the right to give anybody permission to live there.

Errol

16/9/87

(X)

Code system could protect farm workers

By BARBARA ORPEN
A SYSTEM whereby farmers could be persuaded to become signatories of a "code" which would lay down minimum conditions of employment for farm labourers could be the most effective manner in which to introduce much-needed measures required for the protection of the country's 1.2m farm labourers.

This was said yesterday by Mr Errol Moorcroft, a former PFP MP for Albany and a farmer himself, who was commenting on reports that the Government was preparing to introduce some labour legislation for farm workers.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, said in Parliament last week that some legal protection for farm

workers was on the cards, but added that it was not the Government's "intention to have trade unions on the farms".

Farm workers are not covered by most of the laws which protect other workers. These include the Labour Relations Act, the Wage Act, the Unemployment Insurance Act and the Occupational Safety Act.

Mr Moorcroft was one of a number of farmers canvassed yesterday for their opinions on the issue of granting farm labourers legal protection.

"Farm labour is definitely in need of some sort of protection and it would appear that some sort of bargaining forum is inevitable in agriculture," he said.

Mr Jimmy Emslie, who is the chairman of the Central Albany Farmers' Association, said attitudes to farm labour had changed dramatically over the past few years.

Farmers had "changed with the times" and most would therefore go along quite easily with a system which introduced protection for labourers, he said.

The chairman of the Koonap Farmers' Association, Mr Fred Kidson, said both farmers and labourers should be protected.

The issue of farm labour was a sensitive subject and while labourers should be given some sort of protection, there were other problems such as the fact that farmers' income had not kept pace with production costs.

A
r
l
i
n
r

A
t
t
r
i
b
u
t
e

... water and electricity, the di- or all the problems affecting tenants.

Court to rule on storm at tea farm

THE workforce of the state-owned Sapckoe tea estate near Richmond, Natal, left the farm voluntarily on July 15, Sapckoe management said in the Pietermaritzburg Supreme Court last week.

But dismissed ^{(4) 11-17/98} employee Gilbert Makinyana said he had fled the property after watching police, using tear-gas and *sjamboks*, evict workers and their children from the farm hostels.

Makinyana has launched his application for a spoilation order on the grounds that the company took the law into its own hands in ordering police to evict more than 900 workers.

He has applied for his accommodation to be restored to him. If Makinyana is successful all the evicted workers will be able to follow suit.

The workers, who are members of the Food and Allied Workers' Union, went on strike in protest against poor living conditions and wages of R55 a month. They were demanding an increase of R250; the recognition of Fawu, the reduction of the 11-hour working day to nine hours including

tea and lunch breaks, and two meals.

In an affidavit before the court, tea estate manager William Titlestad said the company was a farming operation and therefore not controlled by the Labour Relations Act. *W. Mail*

Fawu has condemned Sapcko for "hiding behind the flaws in the country's Labour Relations Act".

Appearing before Judge Friedman, Titlestad said workers had been given an ultimatum to return to work or face dismissal. Most of the workers defied the deadline to leave but "changed their minds soon afterwards and came to collect their wages in large numbers".

He said he had had ~~no~~ dealings with the police. *(Signature)*

However, Warrant Officer TR O'Connel, who was in charge of a seven-man reaction unit, and Warrant Officer JL du Plessis, the Richmond station commander, said they had talked to Titlestad and the production manager, Abel Erasmus.

The policemen and Erasmus denied that force was used on July 15.

SPAR 17/9/87

(4)

POLITICS

Interests of white and black farmers 'mustn't be mixed'

PARLIAMENT — Co-operatives had provided the steering power for white farmers and could do the same for black farmers, but the interests of the two groups should not be mixed, Dr Ferdi Hartzenberg (CP Lichtenburg) said yesterday.

He said in second reading debate on the Co-operatives Amendment Bill that he was referring to a clause in the measure which allowed farmers in the self-governing and independent national states to market their products in SA in an orderly manner.

It would be a most dangerous thing if farmers from outside SA's borders were allowed to become members of local co-operatives.

"I ask the Government not to tamper with the



Dr Ferdi Hartzenberg ... Co-op call.

co-ops in this area," he said.

"It will endanger their future existence, and South Africa can't afford that."

He said the CP would support the measure.

Mr HJ Smith (NP Smithfield) said the clause showed that the

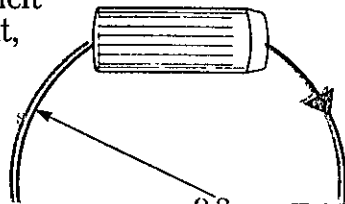
Government recognised that the economy of the region, including the national states, was not divisible.

Mr Ralph Hardingham (NRP Mooi River) said it was important that the self-governing states should be encouraged to market their products legally through the co-operative system rather than try to dispose of their produce "through the back door in what may verge on an illegal form of marketing".

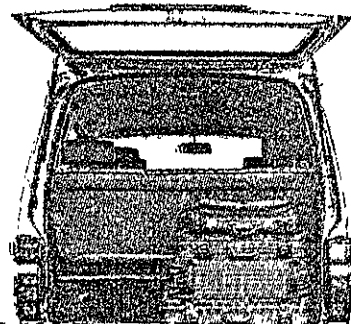
Agriculture Minister Mr Greyling Wentzel said the time had come when blacks should be accommodated in the co-operative movement as well as development corporations.

The Bill was read a second time without objections. — Sapa.

LX through a mountain pass. And it is a pleasure. With a turning circle of more than ten metres and about three metres from full left to full right, it slots a car into the narrow crevice of a mountain pass.



MICHAEL CHESTER



REPORTERS

Pine farmers pay 'starvation wages'

EAST LONDON. — Workers on the pineapple farms at Mooiplaas near here work 12 hours a day for five days every week and earn a weekly wage of R12,50.

This comes to about 20 cents an hour.

The workers, including many women, are recruited from the villages near Mooiplaas. They are not protected by a minimum wage law and have no minimum working hours.

A worker said: "We cannot even say we are living from hand to mouth as our wages are very low.

"We are working very hard but we earn very little wages and can hardly support our families.

"My husband gets his pension every two months. My three children are at school and I can hardly meet their needs. We have told our bosses that we are dissat-

isfied with our wages but our complaints fell on deaf ears," she said.

Another worker said: "We are not given any benefits like food rations. We are expected to buy food from our R12,50. Our wages are really below poverty level."

A nursing sister attached to the local clinic under the Cape Provincial Administration (CPA), Mrs Thandi Nqini, said the farmers were taking ad-

vantage of poor people.

"The farmers are exploiting these people because they have no money. Many of the workers are very poor and have been unemployed."

Some women said they worked on the farms to supplement their families' income. Their husbands worked on the mines and sent money home occasionally.

A spokesperson for Operation Hunger said they

investigated the problems experienced by the farm workers and approached the farmers to improve the wages and working conditions.

"The situation has not changed and the conditions are still bad for the workers. We are battling with the farmers who claim to pay their workers good wages," the spokesperson said.

— ELNEWS

5/11 25/9/87

AGRICULTURE

(4)

Protect the worker

South African farmers may be on the verge of conceding legal protection, relating to minimum wages and working conditions, to 1,3m farm workers.

The historic concession — which will stop short of officially sanctioning registered trade unions — is expected at the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) congress in Durban next month.

A mandate to investigate "certain adaptations" to farm labour practice was issued to the SAAU Council last year. SAAU deputy director Hans van der Merwe says the council favoured changes to the Basic Conditions of Employment Act "to better adapt it to circumstances in agriculture."

The key to understanding the piecemeal reform now sought by the council is the National Manpower Commission (NMC) report, still unpublished but presented to government in December 1985. The report evidently put pressure on farmers to accept labour reform — and extended agonising over some compromise then began.

"At this stage, it seems farmers are very reluctant to tolerate normal union activities on farms," says the PFP's Peter Gastrow. The country's estimated 66 000 white farmers have a lot of political clout, and Gas-

trow believes the Department of Manpower was forced to play a "persuasive game."

There was evidence of that game in the House of Representatives recently, says Gastrow, when Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentzel "seemed to suggest some form of protection was desirable and had been accepted by organised agriculture."

But there was no hint that the Labour Relations Act, which caters for the registration and formal recognition of trade unions, was due to be amended. And Wentzel said that, since consultations with organised agriculture were continuing, government had no immediate plans to act on the report.

Clive Thompson, director of the Labour Law unit at UCT, thinks events in farming are following the pattern set in manufacturing in the late Seventies:

"Government and the farmers see the growing demand for union rights for farm workers, and they want to contain, deflect or channel this pressure. No doubt they'll opt for containment — probably by watering down the remedies and rights enjoyed by industrial workers. I fancy we will see some form of amendment to the Wage Act or the Basic Conditions of Employment Act to introduce minimum wages; or, more likely as an interim measure, minimum terms and conditions of employment."

But it's doubtful that such concessions will do no more than buy time for farmers. ■

PHOTO NEWS 24/9/87

(2/8) (2/2) (2/2) (4) (2/2)

Teargas at Diazville teenager's funeral

Staff Reporter

ABOUT 600 people attended the funeral yesterday of Diazville teenager Abraham Julies, who was shot dead by police in Saldanha 11 days ago.

Abraham, 14, was shot as labour-related conflict escalated in the fishing town on Sunday September 13, after 280 Sea Harvest factory workers were sacked earlier in the week. Several others were wounded and arrested in a day of violence in which burning tyre barricades were set up and several homes stoned.

According to eyewitnesses, some teargas was fired at yesterday's funeral as mourners were leaving the graveyard after a police warning to disperse.

A spokeswoman for the West Coast Council of Churches said the township was cordoned off and only Diazville residents were allowed to attend the funeral.

Buses from other parts of the Western Cape were turned away at roadblocks.

The funeral, which began at the Julies home in Pluto Street at 2.30pm, proceeded to the Apostolic Faith Mission and ended at 5.45pm.

A spokesman for the Police Public Relations Directorate, Captain C J Marais, said last night that if such an incident had occurred it would appear in today's unrest report.

He said no interim reports on unrest were made unless they were "significant".



JULIES FUNERAL . . . Diazville residents yesterday attended the funeral of 14-year-old Abraham Julies, who was shot dead by police in Saldanha 11 days ago during labour-related conflict.

Picture OBED ZILWA

By Jo-Anne Collinge (4)

Western Transvaal farmers of varying shades of political opinion have become involved in development projects designed to upgrade the living conditions of their workers.

The Cape-based Rural Foundation has been the initiator of the programme which has taken root in Ventersdorp, Koster and Lichtenburg. In Ventersdorp, no less than 32 farmers have joined the Ventersdorp Community Development Association to further the aims of the programme.

"The main motive is to uplift black people, to give them a better deal," says Mr Chris Botha, who was the foundation's first organiser in the region and who has just given up the position to return to the ministry.

Explaining his own involvement and that of his wife, Henna, Mr Botha said: "We grew up in the Western Transvaal and it always bothered me that our black people had such a low standard of living."

Each farmer participating in the scheme pays monthly dues for each of his workers, demonstrating a commitment to the project, says Mr Botha.

In addition funds from both the private and the governmental sectors have been obtained.

Often the starting point of the programme is intervention on the economic and physical front. There is a considerable

Farmers push for upliftment

stress on family planning services so that there are fewer dependents in each family.

Improvement of housing facilities and services is undertaken on the basis of the employer making contributions of materials and workers supplying the labour required.

Informal education — such as needlework and handcraft classes — and recreational activities are set up and have resulted in craft fairs and inter-farm sports competitions.

Mr Botha says that in many cases these new-found interests have broken the heavy weekend drinking sessions which can debilitate workers.

Mr Botha stresses the workers must take responsibility for the improvement of their own conditions. Almost all contributions made by employers under the programme require reciprocal work and effort from farm residents over and above their normal day's work.

Mr Botha said that despite the drought and the process of mechanisation the work force on farms in the region was very stable — encouraging farmers to initiate programmes for the children on

Karoo nomads: People on their way to now



Pictures: Dr Aubrey Redelinghuys

ON THE MOVE AGAIN: This family gets ready to start a journey to another town and, hopefully, work.

By DENNIS CRUYWAGEN
Education Reporter

UNEMPLOYED rural nomads who roam the Karoo from town to town and camp with their families on meagre possessions loaded on a donkey cart, searching for work, have become victims of hard financial times for farmers.

These nomadic workers are a familiar sight on dusty Karoo farm roads and the national road.

They are former farm labourers who left the farms they had been working on for a number of reasons to start nomadic life.

At night they unhitch the donkeys at temporary sites provided by some local authorities and turn to their carts for protection against the elements.

Technically, the roaming farmhands are supposed to spend 48 hours at these camps.

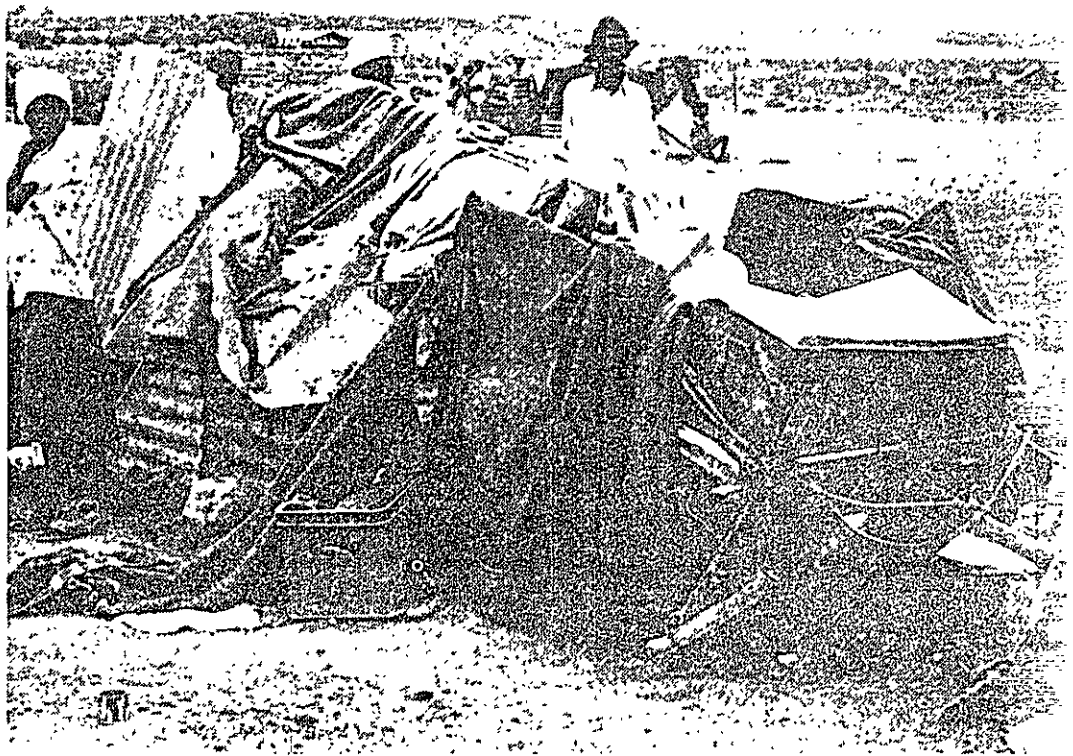
SAP can't store guns for public

PRETORIA. — The South African Police do not have the facilities to store firearms for members of the public, says the SAP public relations division.

"Every year, at the start of the school holidays, members of the public approach police station commanders in increasing numbers and ask that their private firearms be kept in safe custody during their absence," said an SAP statement.

"Although the SAP would like to assist, facilities do not exist for the storage of these weapons.

"There are private firms, possibly also banks, which do have such facilities. Members of the public are asked to make alternative arrangements for the safekeeping of their weapons." — Sapa.



SPARSE SHELTER: When night falls an unhitched donkey cart, covered with blankets, is the only home this family of nomads has.

People nowhere

by DENNIS CRUYWAGEN
Location Reporter

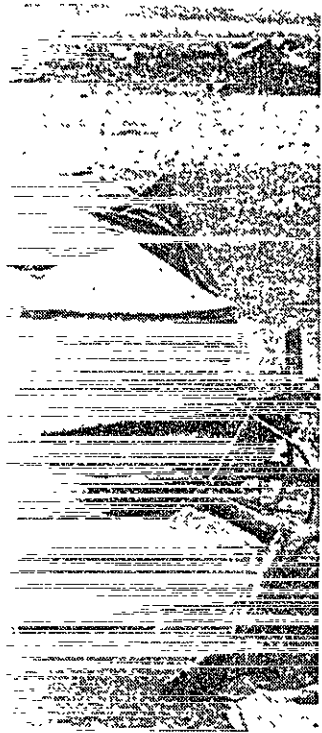
UNEMPLOYED rural nomads who roam the Karoo from town to town and out with their families and meagre possessions loaded on a donkey cart, searching for work, have become victims of hard financial times for farmers.

These nomadic workers are a familiar sight on dusty Karoo roads and the national road.

They are former farm labourers who left the farms they had been working on for a number of reasons to start a nomadic life.

At night they unhitch their donkeys at temporary sites provided by some local authorities and turn to their carts for protection against the elements.

Technically, the roaming farmhands are supposed to work 48 hours at these over-



...covered with blankets, has.

night sites which they call "uit-spanplekke" (outspans).

However, some of them have lost their mobility because they have been forced to sell the only possessions they have, their donkeys and carts.

Today they have turned overnight sites near Beaufort West, Victoria West and Britstown into semi-permanent settlements.

Some of them sleep out in the open.

Dr Aubrey Redelinghuys, a University of the Western Cape academic, says in a research paper that problems in the agriculture sector led to the appearance of the nomads.

He researched the nomads in November 1986 and in March this year and interviewed 72 families.

He said organised agriculture should address this problem.

Unfair dismissals

He recommended that farm workers be given a minimum wage, the right to form a trade union, receive adequate housing and some protection against unfair dismissal.

Dr Redelinghuys said: "The appearance of this phenomenon entrenches the view that farmworkers are the most under-protected labour source in one of the most protected economic sectors in South Africa."

He said that the future looks bleak for the nomads, especially the more mobile ones.

He said they often cried: "God will have to help us."

Sicknesses like chronic bronchitis and diarrhoea were rife among the roamers.

Tuberculosis and crime were responsible for the majority of adult deaths in these communities.

He said these uneducated, though highly experienced workers, provided labour on Karoo farms.

Factors such as poor remuneration, long hours, no holidays, limited access to education and medical services, ill-health, old age, and poor relations with their employers normally drove labourers from Karoo farms.



WAITING IN HOPE: Unemployed, lost and hungry, this nomad waits for a passing farmer to give him work.

On the farms they lived in a "relatively-protected" environment, but their standard of living dropped sharply when they changed their lifestyle.

"In the process of wandering from place to place they have become marginal people, or as one community leader said, 'people on their way to nowhere,'" Dr Redelinghuys said.

He found that nomads looking for work were moving away from the national road and concentrating on gravel roads, railway stations or locations on the fringes of Karoo towns where they hoped to catch the attention of farmers.

They took care to camp near a windmill, a water reservoir or in the shade.

Found begging

Dust kicked up by cars made their existence uncomfortable, but there was always a possibility that a car would run down a hare or buck, providing the nomads with a meal.

The nomads also raided dirtbins or begged for food.

Their basic diet consisted of bread, coffee, sugar and flour.

"No wonder that cases of scurvy have been recorded," Dr Redelinghuys said.

At the time of the interviews only 24 percent of the nomads had consumed meat.

Drinking water was often obtained from a single tap at the overnight sites. These taps are broken most of the time.

Dr Redelinghuys said cases were recorded where the nomads used water from pools along the roadside as drinking water.

Asked why they had become nomads, one replied:

"I can't understand. As farm labourers we have helped to make the country rich, but now the whites are rejecting us."

Most married

Another said: "I am tired of this existence. My children and I may as well die. My husband prefers going to jail than to struggle to feed us."

Another said: "The farmer said I am too old and had to leave."

Forty-eight percent of the couples were married and 31 percent were living together, while 43 percent of the heads of families were old-age pensioners.

Dr Redelinghuys wrote that the absence of adequate housing prevented the wandering labourers from fitting into settled communities.

They want to be close to hospitals, towns which offer employment, post offices where they can collect their pensions, and schools.

● "People migrating to nowhere — a study of nomadic workers in the Karoo" by Dr Aubrey Redelinghuys of the Institute for Social Development, University of the Western Cape, was completed earlier this year.

'2m people dependent on fruit exports'

Cape Times 13/10/87

4

By **AUDREY D'ANGELO**
Financial Editor.

THE multi-million rand deciduous fruit industry is one of the biggest employers — and earners of foreign currency — in the Western Cape.

But the European organizations and retailers who handled 500 000 tons of fresh fruit from SA last year earned more than twice as much from doing so as the growers and others in this country.

This was among facts given to the Confederation of Importers and Marketing Organizations (CIMO) in Europe by the SA ambassador to the European Economic Community (EEC), Bhadra Ranchod, at their annual conference in Brussels.

He was speaking against a background of pressure for protectionist measures against agricultural imports and the continuing threat of sanctions.

Ranchod said that a total of European Ecu 566m was earned by European organizations and retailers by handling SA fresh fruit exports last year, compared with Ecu 240m earned by growers and others in SA.

"If we take the average retail price of a case of

Cape grapes in Europe and break that down to the final payment to the grower in SA, then these figures indicate that Europe retains two-thirds of the gross income and the exporting country receives one third.

"Given these conditions, it is difficult to understand why certain bureaucrats are calling for increased protectionism or restrictions against Southern Hemisphere imports."

Ranchod said the European market was becoming increasingly competitive.

But fresh fruit production in SA would continue to grow, employing better techniques, better varieties and improved handling procedures to make it more competitive.

Pear production would reach a volume of nearly 300 000 tonnes by 1995 compared with the present 160 000 tons a year.

Table grape production was expected to reach about 175 000 tons in 1995 compared with the present 100 000 tons and total production of stone fruit would grow steadily to reach 300 000 tons in the same period.

Stressing the need to export this fruit to pro-

vide employment in areas like the Western Cape, where there is little alternative industry, Ranchod said that about 2m people in the whole of southern Africa were dependent on the industry.

Production could not be absorbed by the domestic market and without fruit exports there would be "mass job losses with catastrophic results".

such as Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland, Mozambique and East Africa.

Today it is part of SA's largest banking and financial services group, Standard Bank Investment Corporation (Stanbic).

With assets of more than R19 000m, the group employs 23 000 people and provides its services through over 900 outlets countrywide. — Sapa

SAAU welcomes diesel-for-farms relief

PRETORIA — The SA Agricultural Union has welcomed government's announcement that diesel fuel will be sold at net prices for agricultural production and transport from November 1.

SAAU president Kobus Jooste said in

Pretoria yesterday the union wished to thank the authorities, agricultural co-operatives and petrol companies, who had worked "with great commitment and speed to replace a system, which had become costly and troublesome, with a more acceptable one". — Sapa.



④

8/day 13/10/87

Farm workers flee beatings



Down and out ... Transkei workers who fled from a Mooresburg farm

By VUYO BAVUMA
SIX farm labourers claim they fled a Mooresburg pig farm after being assaulted by the farmer.

The workers, all from the Transkei, were part of a group of 29 who fled the farm on September 23 — two months after they were recruited.

The owner of the farm, Mr JC Kotze, approached

for comment this week, denied that he had ill-treated or "starved" some of his workers.

"There are more than 100 happy workers on my farm. There are only a few dissatisfied men. If I assaulted them, why didn't they report the matter to the police?," he said.

"These workers come from the Transkei without

clothes, not even a teaspoon, but they expect to get everything free," he said.

The workers, who do not belong to a union, said matters came to a head when Kotze refused to pay them.

Interviewed in Paarl, where they live with relatives, the workers spoke of their "ordeal" on

the farm.

They complained of hunger and poor living conditions. Some said the workload was excessive.

One of the workers, William Guati, 21, said: "We were brought by truck from our homes and promised R130 a month, but the employer never paid us anything.

"We worked daily for more than 14 hours, starting at 4am. Even when it rained we worked without raincoats. There was no fixed time to go home.

Food rations

"We received food rations twice a week. On Monday the employer gave us mielie meal and a cup of milk, often mixed with water. On Fridays we were given three pieces of pork," he said.

"At the end of the our first month Kotze refused to pay us saying he would deduct money for our overalls and boots. Instead he loaned us R10," Guati said.

Guati said on September 23 Kotze again refused to pay them.

"He said he was deducting money for transporting us to the Western Cape.

"We then decided to leave the farm. We were so desperate to get out that we left our belongings behind," Guati said.

Another labourer, Temba Dingane, claimed he was assaulted with a stick.

"The farmer used to beat us when we asked for food. He told us were there to work, not to eat.

"We used to go hungry because our food rations were not enough to see us through the week," he said.

According to the workers, a Mr Peter Memani returned to the Transkei after being treated at hospital for head wounds.

They said two "indunas" ensured that the affairs of the farm "ran smoothly".

"They were treated far better than the rest of the workers. They earned R350 a month and were not subjected to maltreatment," Mxolisi Ntsangase said.

Kotze said he could not understand why the men were complaining.

"I fetched the workers from Transkei with my bakkie and I charged them R30 each. At the farm I gave them gumboots and overalls for which they had to pay R26.

Contract

"I was going to refund them when their contract expired at the end of the year.

"During the month, the workers bought groceries from the farmshop and at the end of the month I deducted money," he said.

Kotze denied that the workers were promised R130 a month.

"As far as I know, I promised them R80 a month. We only made a verbal contract, nothing was signed.

"I also gave them two kilograms of mielie meal; a litre of milk and meat every day," he said.

12609
MUS 26/10/8
**Sea search
for Plain (4)
fisherman
called off**

Shipping Reporter

THE search for a Mitchell's Plain fisherman who disappeared after an inflatable boat capsized off Cape St Francis has been called off.

Mr Cecil Bernard Soudom of Beacon Valley, Mitchell's Plain, and a colleague, Mr David Moses of Eastridge, Mitchell's Plain, were manning the boat yesterday near I&J's long-line fishing vessel Pioneer 1.

Fleet supervisor Mr Rob Whitehead said today Mr Soudom's duty was to pick up larger fish that fell into the water while 10m of baited line was being hauled on board the Pioneer 1.

The sea was rough and the boat capsized.

After Pioneer 1's crew pulled Mr Moses back on board the vessel, they got hold of Mr Soudom but lost their grip and he fell back into the water.

"They saw him disappear beneath the water. His lifejacket and a buoy were found later," said Mr Whitehead.

"The water is quite cold out there and a man could not live in it for longer than five hours.

"There will be a full inquiry when the Pioneer 1 returns to Cape Town tomorrow."

30/10/87

(4)

10000
P/M

FARM WORKERS

Rights deferred

Organised agriculture has removed from public gaze its agonising over farm workers' rights. Behind the tactic is tension between the Conservative Party and National Party, who are openly contesting a "hearts and minds" struggle for the farming vote.

The SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) general council won authority from farmers at last year's congress to inquire into and implement sweeping changes to farm labour prac-

no longer be delayed." This year's congress — held in Durban last week — was scheduled to provide the forum at which the council's action would be tabled and debated.

But the proposals remained under wraps subject to continued discussion with SAAU affiliates and, according to a senior SAAU official, government pressure on farmers to reach agreement has mysteriously eased.

At issue, say council officials, is whether to accept the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, with a clause similar to Section 51 (a) of the Labour Relations Act written into it. Such a clause, they argue, would allow any sector, including farming, to adapt regulations covering working hours to suit special circumstances and seasonal demands.

Thus dairy farmers, for instance, would have to decide whether it is acceptable to

expect workers to report for four hours' duty around sunrise, and another four at sunset. Officials readily accept that since farm workers enjoy no formal representation, and farmers are set against negotiating with trade unions, establishing accord with workers on such issues is "a difficult question."

SAAU affiliates are nonetheless charged to report back to council by the end of January. Barring a political impasse between now and then, the SAAU may soon thereafter announce it accepts that the provisions of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, with modifications to maximum working hours, are acceptable to farmers.

Whether this will be acceptable to farm workers is, of course, impossible to say since they have no official voice. While farmers wish to see this situation maintained, orga-

nised labour not unnaturally has other ideas. Both Cosatu, the largest trade union federation, and the Inkatha-linked Uwusa union, intend to organise farm workers. ■

Farmers don't want RSCs

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Organised agriculture is to ask government to exempt farmers from regional services council (RSC) levy payments until they have an acceptable representation on the councils.

And they decided at last week's Transvaal Agricultural Union's general council they want the issue treated with "the greatest urgency". Farmers attitude towards the RSCs was "no representation no taxation". They were also angry they were excluded from the original discussions which formed the background to the establishment of the RSC system.

Farmers said they would get no benefits from the levies and that until they were shown there were benefits "they want out".

(4) b/accy 3/14/87

'Govt scheme could fail'

Only a trickle of farmer aid applications

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Applications from cash-strapped farmers for assistance from government's R400m aid scheme were only trickling in, the Agriculture Department's financial assistance division said.

The SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) has slammed the scheme, which it claims is teetering on the edge of failure because too little of the R400m — about R7m — has been allocated to farmers in the past six months.

The department is studying proposals made by the SAAU to make a success of the scheme.

SAAU president Kobus Jooste has warned that unless the proposals are accepted it will have to be admitted the aid scheme has failed.

A spokesman for the department's financial assistance division said major reasons for the apparent reluctance of farmers to apply for aid was that financial institutions seemed to have "heard" Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentzel's appeal not to take a hard line on debt-ridden farmers.

He said another reason was the good rains, which promised at least average summer crops. This had probably re-opened some production/credit channels.

Farm life has cost Tim his health and home

BY MIAN MHLONGO

THE yearning for farm labourer William Maduna in 1981 brought untold misery to his two young sons.

At the tender ages of 11 and 10, Tim and Meshack Maduna were forced to stow away their late father's shoes and start working on the Van Schalwyk family's Rusoord farm, near Vereeniging.

The salary of the two brothers was R20 a month each for labour on the farm.

"There was no time, let alone enough money, to send my boys to school," ex-

plained their mother, Kate. Kate was working in the Van Schalwyk's house as a domestic.

Exactly a year after the boys had started working on the farm, tragedy struck.

"In June 1982, our boss, Piet van Schalwyk, slaughtered a cow and ordered me to go and fetch a machine which we used to cut the meat," said Tim.

"I accidentally put my hand inside the machine and two of my fingers were cut off. The boss took me to Sebokeng Hospital where I received treatment for two weeks."

The Orange Vaal General Workers' Union have found that forcing Van Schalwyk to compensate the family for the loss of Tim's fingers would be almost impossible.

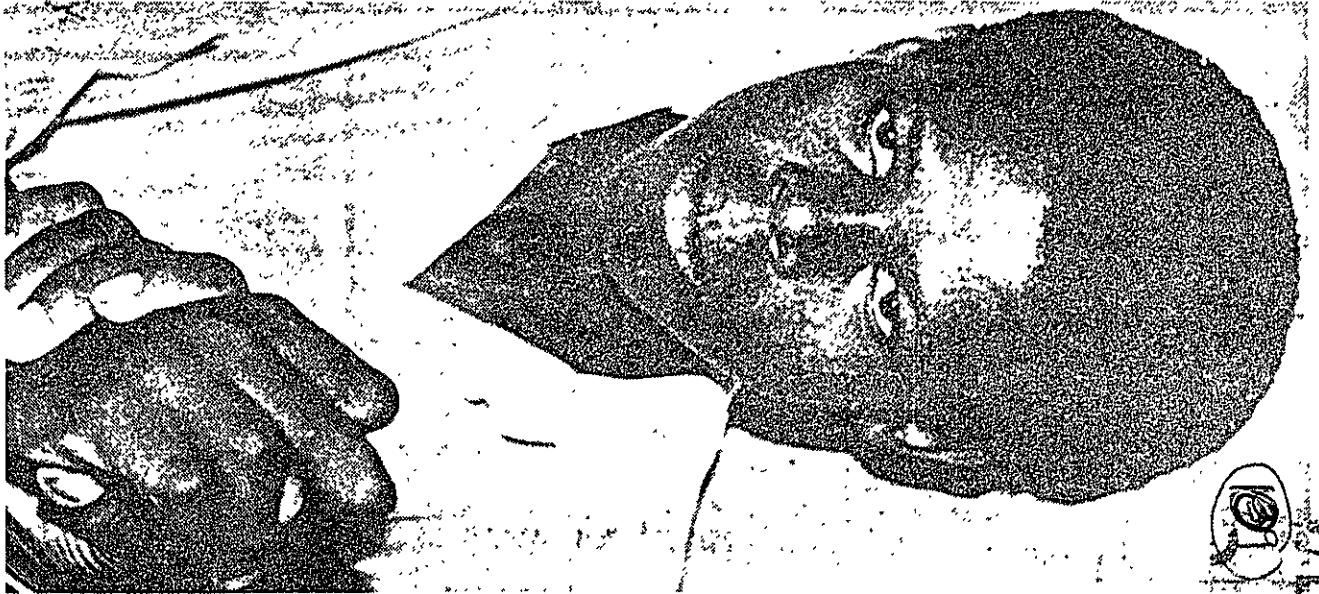
OVGWU spokesman Ahey Mbangeni explained: "According to the Workman's Compensation Association, the OVGWU cannot demand compensation for the boy's injuries because he is underaged."

The boys' mother said she continued working for the Van Schalwyks after Tim lost his fingers. But on September 8 this year, Van Schalwyk told the Madunas that their stay on the farm was over.

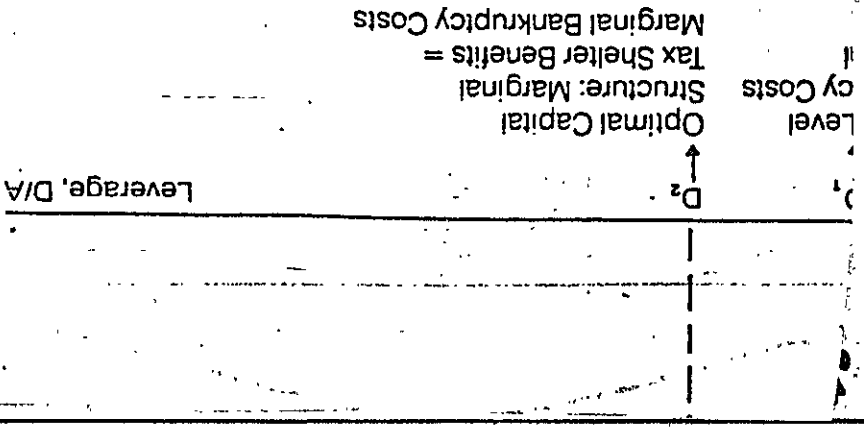
"He accused my boys of spilling milk and thrashed them. He then told me I was fired," said Kate.

Asked to comment on allegations made by the Madunas, Van Schalwyk said Tim had lost his fingers while playing with the meat cutting machine.

He added: "Tim was very naughty," but then refused to comment further.



Tim Maduna lost two fingers while working on the farm - and there will be no compensation.



Re-examine Land Acts: DBSA official

B/Day
12/11/82
4

A SENIOR Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) official has called for SA's Land Acts to be re-examined as they hampered the growth of "emerging" black farmers.

DBSA divisional manager of agricultural development Johan van Rooyen said that on economic grounds alone, inappropriate legislation jeopardised optimal land usage and undermined private enterprise initiatives.

"Regardless of the political sensitivity of the issue, one must look at the economic implications of

ROBYN CHALMERS

black farmers being denied access to agricultural resources. Land issues will receive increasing attention in the future, and should be placed on the agenda," he said.

Van Rooyen was interviewed by Business Day after he delivered a speech at the Techno-Economic Society of SA in Johannesburg recently.

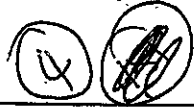
Van Rooyen said farmers in developing areas experienced many constraints which acted as disin-

centives for increased production.

He said black farmers were faced with limited availability of credit, poor infrastructural support — such as roads and electricity — lack of skills, education and inappropriate policies and legislation.

To allow emerging black farmers to compete effectively in the market place, Van Rooyen said that the present distribution of land must be looked at within a sound economic framework attending to efficiency and equity criteria, and not solely in terms of its political considerations.

JR



South
WN 12-18 '87



Preparing to return home after fleeing farm beatings are, from left, Nuntu Nobangela, Buyisi Toyi and Melikhaya Qubela

By VUYO BAVUMA

THREE farm labourers fled from a Morreesburg farm this week after allegedly being ill-treated.

The labourers, recruited from Elliot near Transkei, left the farm on Sunday three days after their employer refused to give them money. According to the workers, they did not sign contracts.

Three weeks ago SOUTH reported that six Transkei farm labourers from the same farm fled after alleged beatings. They also claimed they had worked for two months without pay.

This week the three workers said they worked from 4 am to 7 pm.

Melikhaya Qubela, 19, who left school in Sub B in 1979, described how he was recruited.

He said he had been pleased to get the job.

"I was glad when given

Workers flee farm assaults

the job. I thought I would be able to assist my parents who are pensioners. But that was not the case.

"I met the farmer's foreman in the Eastern Cape. He asked us whether we were interested in working at a farm in the Western Cape. He said we would each earn R190 a month and promised us food and accommodation.

"About 27 of us agreed. We did not sign any papers but our pass documents were taken by the foreman.

"At about noon, we boarded a truck to Morreesburg. At night it was cold in the back of the truck. After travelling for

about eight hours, we reached Malmesbury and the foreman gave each of us half a loaf of bread and a pint of milk," he said.

Qubela said at the farm they were told they would clean pigsties.

"The farm owner gave us overalls and gumboots. We were disappointed when the foreman said we would be paid R90 a month," he said.

Another labourer, Nuntu Nobangela, 20, claimed the workers were sometimes assaulted.

"We asked the farmer to send us home but he refused saying he would deduct money for fares from Elliot."

NRG 17/1/82

~~17/1/82~~ 14/1/82 4

SA labour dispute has ripple effect

By DICK USHER, Labour Reporter

AN international union federation has started a worldwide boycott of a Spanish fishing company's products because a South African firm has not reinstated about 180 workers dismissed this year.

The boycott has been called by the International Union of Foodworkers (IUF) against Pescanova, 50 percent owners of Sea Harvest at Saldanha.

Sea Harvest was called on to reinstate about 180 members of the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu), affiliated to the IUF, who were dismissed in September after they stopped work in solidarity with about 300 workers who had been dismissed three weeks earlier during a wage dispute with the company.

Fawu claims the company's actions before and after the dispute showed it was intent on destroying the union or weakening it so that it ceased to be an effective presence at Sea Harvest.

Fawu said the company was "putting up a puppet committee" to replace it.

"POLITICAL ASPECTS"

Mr H E Kramer, managing director of Sea Harvest, said there was no suggestion of "union-busting".

"The fact that we continue negotiations with Fawu in spite of some questionable tactics and a lot of abuse proves otherwise," he said.

"It is our impression that the heavy accent which Fawu increasingly places on political aspects of its activities does not find favour with a large part of the workers living in Saldanha and surrounding communities.

"This has unfortunately led to a measure of polarisation and Fawu has lost support in some quarters."

IUF general secretary Mr Dan Gallin today confirmed that the boycott had started.

Agriculture ^(X) must 'rethink' ^{Black} labour policy' ^{19/11/87}

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The agricultural industry would have to take a fresh look at its fast changing labour relations, Manpower director-general Piët van der Merwe said yesterday.

He said farmers would have to look more closely at the aspirations of their workers.

They had to be made aware of modern methods of handling labour relations.

He said also that trade unions would become more involved in agricultural labour.

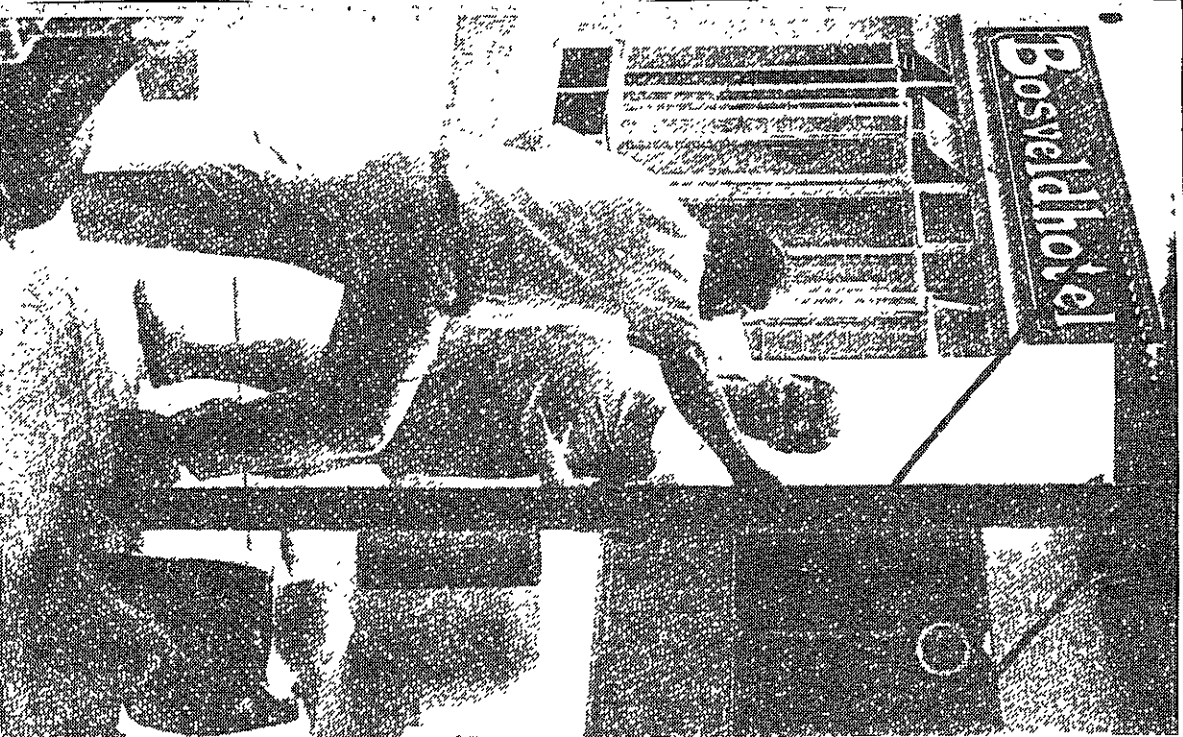
The new labour dispensation aimed at institutionalising and deradicalising labour conflict by collective bargaining and work security.

Referring to international labour organisations' "orchestration" of actions against SA, Van der Merwe said the attack of the anti-apartheid committee of the ILO had changed to socio-political rhetoric.

The ILO conference recommended action by governments such as punitive economic measures, severing of all ties, the breaking of trade and commercial links and the prohibition of public investment as well as the export of technology.

Actions by trade union federations worldwide to exert pressures on their governments to introduce mandatory punitive economic measures was another recommendation.

Politics adds to far north farmers' troubles



Drought, bureaucracy and political intrigue are slowly sapping the vitality of the far northern Transvaal platteland.

Farmers beyond the Southpansberg, battling to survive the ravages of the drought of the past eight years, say government efforts to stabilise the security-sensitive area are not co-ordinated and are often sabotaged by party political interests.

Party affiliations

Since the Conservative Party (CP) gained a foothold in the northern Transvaal, many traditional leaders in farming communities find their appointments to agricultural committees vetoed because of their political convictions.

Mr Dries Bruwer, president of the Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU), said: "In spite of government assurances that the recommendations of organ-

ised agriculture will prevail when statutory bodies are appointed, it is clear that party affiliations carry the day when bodies such as Land Bank credit committees are appointed."

This means that National Party (NP) supporters are often appointed to key committees, while they are not equipped for the tasks they face, Mr Bruwer said.

"In an area faced with so many other problems, we need the best man for the job. We need to exercise farmer's politics not party politics."

Some prominent CP supporters, who serve on several committees and who cannot be axed because of their high visibility, claim NP politicians exert pressure on them to "get their political thinking in order".

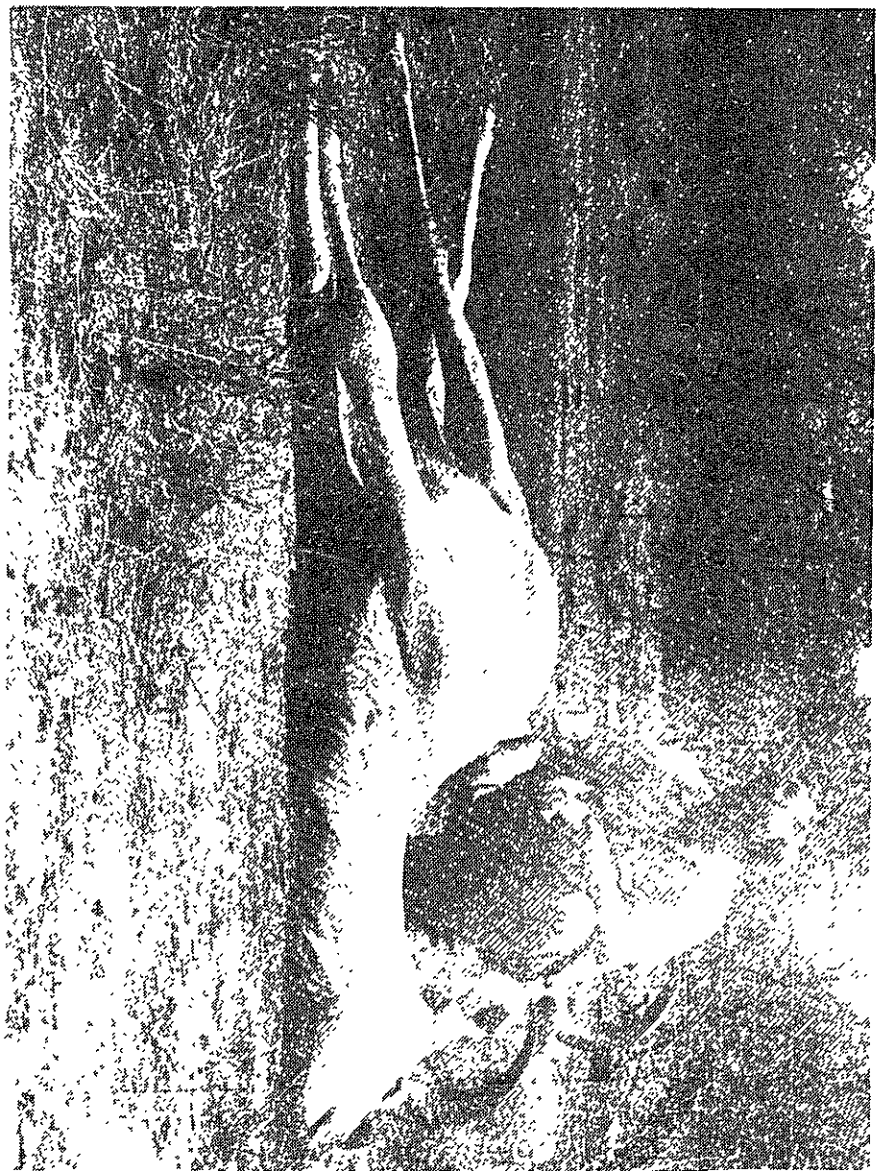
'Yes' to Right Wing

A farmers' association executive member near Messina was recently told his invitation to a ministerial meeting had been withdrawn because he was a right-wing supporter.

Agricultural matters were discussed at the meeting. In an ironic twist to NP intrigues, party supporters are increasingly in favour of right-wing representation on agricultural bodies.

CP supporters are seen to be unafraid of confronting the Government on sensitive issues, while Nats have to toe the party line, Mr Bruwer said. He said allegations of CP supporters not receiving State aid under the various aid schemes were probably unfounded.

Farmers in the region feel strongly that the Government must lighten up its agricultural act. They claim that the lack of an overall agricultural policy and a lack of co-ordination among State departments shipwreck the stabilisation of the border areas. The resettlement of farmers on border farms is



Death of the land... it takes a lifetime for the veld to recover from a drought, says Mr Herman van Niekerk, marketing manager of the Northern Transvaal Co-operative.

seen as a major fiasco.

Mr Harcus Stenekamp who farms near Ellisras said the State spent millions to settle farmers, who were new to the area, without back-up information services. Many of these farmers became bankrupt and have left the area. In some districts, only one in 10 border farms are occupied, he said.

Farmers also doubt that the State is serious about water conservation, a subject close to the hearts of farmers in the drought-stricken north.

Mr Charles Baber, chairman of the TAU Soil and Veld Committee said: "Billions have been spent in the interest of stabilising fuel supplies in this country. The time has come that millions must be spent to establish additional water storage facilities."

"Traditional" agricultural water is increasingly reserved for industrial and town development. Water is even imported from agricultural areas such as Letaba in the northern Lowveld to satisfy the needs of the fast-growing town of Pietersburg. Letaba farmers say

that industrial development in the area is mainly restricted to industries related to agriculture. It would make more sense to develop areas where water is available.

Mr Baber appealed to the authorities to re-assess the building of adequate storage dams. Dams in the Mogol, Sand and Letaba Rivers, as well as weirs in the Limpopo River are needed to stabilise agricultural water in the area, he said.

Transport problems are a major cost factor in getting produce to the markets and farming requisites to the farm. Farmers in the far north dismiss suggestions that they will gain relief next year when the law is changed to allow them to transport a variety of goods without a permit within a 300 km radius.

Farmers 'penalised'

Letaba farmer, Mr Piet Joubert asked: "What use is this to us when we are up to 500 km away from our markets in the PWV area? It will mean our trucks will still be returning empty while farmers closer to

Platteland's vitality is

being sapped

the markets will be able to load their trucks with fertiliser and other farming necessities.

"We are the farmers who are supposed to act as a security buffer, yet we are penalised because we are far from major trading centres. The concession will also not alleviate the heavy use of the road network to the north," he said.

He said the 80 km/h speed restriction for heavy vehicles was unrealistic. If the limit was raised to 100 km/h, many farmers could halve the number of their trucks as the vehicles would be able to do a double run in one day.

Axle loads were up to 20 per cent lower than limits set overseas for the same vehicle. This meant farmers could save 20 percent in transport costs, if the limits were raised accordingly, Mr Joubert said.

Depopulation has forced many small traders in remote areas out of business and this has left some farmers up to 50 km away from the nearest trading post. The co-op maintains eight trading stores at a loss.

The NTC has made provision for a loss of R13,5 million for the current financial year to keep the stores operational.

"We have committed ourselves to maintain the service as the private sector is unable to provide it. In normal years these stores show a profit," Mr Van Niekerk said.

Independent traders who have survived fulfil many other functions, such as acting as library depots. But their days may be numbered, Mr Gert Roets, chairman of the Thabazimbi District Agricultural Union, said. "We hope that the Small Business Development Corporation will help to prevent this important part of the infrastructure from collapsing."

help farmers, who say much of the water will simply run off the rock-hard soil.

The demoralising effect the drought has had on farmers, the backbone of the platteland community, is subtle. Year after year they have watched their resources dwindle, their debts mount, yet with each new season comes hope.

The drought has also had serious financial implications and many farmers have been forced into bankruptcy while others have huge debt burdens. In the past six months alone, 100 NTC members were sequestered. A further 98 will probably be declared bankrupt soon, said Mr Van Niekerk.

Farmers owe the NTC R109-million, of which about 75 percent is a direct result of the drought. Mr Van Niekerk said the other 25 percent was probably indirectly caused by it.

Depopulation of the region causes serious concern as it is becoming increasingly difficult for

Where driving to school is a nightmare

Getting her three children to school in the small town of Tolwe in the far northern Transvaal is a nightmare for border farmer's wife, Mrs Jenny Pretorius.

Every Monday morning she travels 75 km to Tolwe to take her children to their boarding school. At 6 am she is the first person to travel the dusty border road from their farm, Stanger, on the banks of the Limpopo — and the danger of a landmine explosion is an ever-present threat.

"The army demonstrated the effects of landmine and anti-personnel mines recently. It has put the fear of God in me. My fear is not for myself. I

have lived a third of my life, but my children have their whole future ahead of them."

Children from the area had previously been transported by a reinforced Defence Force vehicle, but the practice had been stopped because it was "unsafe", said Mrs Pretorius.

Although the safety of her children weighs heaviest on her mind, Mrs Pretorius and her husband Hendrik face many other hardships.

The drought has severely strained their resources. There is no drinking water on the farm and once a week Mrs Pretorius fetches water in milk bottles from a neighbouring farm where the borehole is not

yet dry.

As cotton farmers who rely on irrigation they have been unable to harvest a crop for many years. Farming equipment was recently repossessed because they could not pay the installments.

But in true pioneering spirit, the Pretorius family plans to stay on and fight for the survival of their 156 ha farm.

They are eligible for subsidies on reinforced landmine-proof vehicles.

"But where do we find the money to pay for the unsubsidised part of the price when we can't even pay for our farming equipment?" asked Mrs Pretorius.

Floods be damned! The worst natural disaster currently facing South Africa is the eight-year drought afflicting the far northern and north-western Transvaal — in spite of this week's heavy rainfalls over parts of the area.

That is how the farmers, who eke out a living in the area, feel. "The drought here is by far the worst single natural disaster in South African history."

"Flood damage can be repaired relatively fast, but it may take a lifetime for the veld to recover from a drought as severe as this one," Mr Herman van Niekerk, marketing manager of the Northern Transvaal Co-operative (NTC), said. "Because drought is such a slow process, it does not capture the imagination like other natural disasters. The effect of the floods in Natal was dramatic and immediate. It galvanised the Government and general public into action. Within a relatively short period, millions were collected to help flood victims," Mr Van Niekerk said.

The remaining farmers to keep the infra-structure going. It is officially estimated that only 30 percent of farms are occupied, but in some areas, such as the border area north of Ellisras, the figure is as low as 10 percent.

On the few remaining farmers rests the burden of keeping the platteland schools in existence. They go to extreme lengths to save the schools as it is an added incentive to keep struggling farmers in the region. Children are "imported" from cities to swell numbers. They are mostly "problem" children whose parents normally do not contribute to the welfare of either their children or the school, Mr Louis Nel, chairman of the Vaalwater District Agricultural Union's education committee, said.

Concern is also expressed about the standard of education as up to three classes are being taught by a single teacher. Some schools have been closed, such as the Klein Rustenburg Laerskool near Beatty in the Ellisras district, which closed its doors last year. At least three other schools are in the same fate, Mr Nel said.



Farmers' union denies backing CP in attack on Govt aid scheme

Pretoria Correspondent

The Transvaal Agricultural Union has denied it agreed with the Conservative Party that the Government's R400 million aid scheme for farmers was a failure.

A group of CP members, in-

cluding party spokesman for agriculture, Dr Ferdi Hartzenberg, recently met the Executive Council of the TAU to discuss agriculture.

Dr Hartzenberg has, in an article in *Die Patriot* — the CP's mouthpiece — said the scheme

was a "tremendous failure."

The article claimed that Dr Hartzenberg said the TAU and the CP were unanimous that the scheme had not worked.

According to Dr Hartzenberg only 82 applications by farmers have been acknowledged by the Agricultural Credit Board, which represented a mere R13 million since July this year.

The CP's attack on the scheme follows the provisional liquidation of one of its MPs and former farmers in the Schweizer-Reneke district; Mr Kobus Beyers, who owes a co-operative R5,8 million.

A spokesman for the TAU said on Monday that the organisation had never said the scheme had failed but had made proposals to the Government to improve the scheme.

Life below headline — claims UWC study

w/g ARGUS 78/11/87 (22) 4 (23) (24)

Weekend Argus Reporter

NEARLY 90 percent of farmworkers in the Grabouw area earn less than a subsistence wage, according to a study by the University of the Western Cape.

The university's Institute for Social Development studied the municipal coloured township of Pineview in Grabouw and 33 farms in the surrounding districts of Elgin, Vyeboom and Grabouw.

"Local agricultural economists found this farming area was probably the most profitable in the whole country during 1986. The average net yield a hectare in 1986 was R12 000," said the report.

It showed 89 percent of household heads in the study area received less than R350 a month in cash. Five percent earned between R40 and R100 a month.

If the value of free housing, water, electricity and other *in natura* benefits was included, calculated at R100 a month, 84 percent of the households were earning below the minimum subsistence level.

Average income was R219 a month, which "must still be seen as totally inadequate to support an average farmworker's family of seven," said the report.

However, only a few farm workers (eight percent) indicated that they received food rations on a regular basis ... most respondents (52 percent) did not receive *in natura* remuneration (apart from housing).

About 40 percent of farmworkers covered basic household expenses on their present pay, but almost three-quarters were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their wages.

About 55 percent could not make ends meet on their cash wages.

Most workers were paid for overtime (81 percent) but "some of the respondents pointed out that their normal work day was so long that they worked overtime every day".

The average working day was about 11 hours in summer and 9½ in winter.

In the urban area of Pineview the monthly income of 44 percent of household heads was between R201 and R430. Nearly 35 percent earned between R431 and R649.

Seven percent earned less than R200 and six percent more than R1 000.

About 48 percent earned below the minimum subsistence level, but with the incomes of other household members this fell to 16 percent.



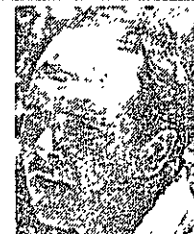
Mr Chris Watermeyer



Mr Derrick Cunningham



Mr Daniel Joubert



Mr Danie Beukes

Farmers angered by cutting report

by ADA STUIJT

Weekend Argus Reporter

FARMERS in Elgin and Grabouw have reacted with anger and indignation at a university researcher's finding that 84 percent of farm labourers in the area were paid less than the minimum subsistence level.

Mr Derrick Cunningham, chairman of the 240-member Groenland Farmers' Union in Grabouw, attacked the survey as "one-sided".

He said it had been carried out among a relatively small sampling.

Many farmers were irate at the researcher's report that some labourers earned as little as R40 a month.

"This must be a comment by a disgruntled labourer, as none of our farmers ever pay less than R30 a week in cash, even to the most unskilled, inexperienced labourer," said Mr Cunningham.

Mr Danie Beukes, chairman of the Groenland 20 Study Group for young farmers, said: "We don't deny that problems exist and that workers' housing needs upgrading. All of us are working hard towards this goal. But it isn't right to break down all our other considerable efforts this way."

Mr Beukes said he paid a weekly

R35 to R45 in cash for labourers — depending on whether they were seasonal workers or full-time employees.

"I also try to keep the women employed throughout the year. A family could bring in about R70 cash weekly at any time. If the wife was a fast packer she could earn extra weekly bonuses of up to another R70 in cash," he said. "During packing season a family's weekly combined income could be as much as R140 in cash."

Farmers debated the report during a special meeting on Wednesday night at the local co-operative, where it aroused a great deal of anger.

The report said monthly "in kind" payments to labourers amounted to about R100, but farmers Mr Daniel Joubert and Mr Christopher Watermeyer said this figure was far below what they contributed.

"Extra costs to care for each family are on average R200 to R350 a month, including housing, medical costs, transport, pension funds, electricity and water," said Mr Joubert.

"And these costs are still going up, especially since everyone has launched a concerted campaign to upgrade labourers' housing. Each new home, with all the mod cons, costs at least R35 000," he said.

FOCUS: NAMAQUALAND

Oom Gert arrives home to find a fence across his lands



On a granite outcrop outside Khuboes, a farmer who gave his name as "Oom Gert"

OOM Gert Bekeur's face is round and wrinkled as a sun-dried raisin, testimony to the harsh Namaqualand sun under which he has farmed for more than 40 years.

His life used to follow the pattern set by his father and grandfather — a nomadic cycle followed by the hundreds of small-livestock farmers in Namaqualand's six "coloured rural areas".

Every June he would sow the vegetable plot on land his family had used for generations, high in the Kamiesberg, and then trek some 15km to graze his sheep and goats on veld nourished by winter rains.

Come September, and the spring rains which call to life the wildflowers for which the region is famous, he would return to harvest his crop and re-plant for summer, when he would also harvest the wheat to make his own bread.

The land belonged to everyone. Grazing was communal, and while the right to farm certain wheatlands and vegetable plots traditionally passed from father to son, during fallow months everyone grazed their animals there.

When Oom Gert received a letter from the local authority, the Leliefontein Management Board, ordering him to destroy buildings he'd erected on his garden plot and barring him from its future use, he was astounded anyone would deprive him of rights he'd enjoyed since 1940. Because he wasn't afforded a hearing, he ignored the letter and planted his vegetables as usual.

On trekking home from his winter grazing, he found his vegetable plot fell within a fenced-off area being farmed by one Nico Swartz. His harvest was gone, eaten and trampled by Swartz's sheep and goats. When he remonstrated with Swartz, he was told he had no right to be there.

He turned to the Leliefontein Management Board: "Their attitude was entirely unsympathetic. I was informed that the entire camp in which my garden plot lay had been awarded to Swartz for his exclusive use and that neither I nor any member of the Leliefontein community had the right to enter that land."

Gert Bekeur's story is told in papers filed in the Cape Town Supreme Court, to which Leliefontein residents turned after their petitions, protests and pleadings had "fallen on deaf ears".

Their application turns on the division in 1985 of the Leliefontein reserve into 47 "economic farming units", 30 of which — covering almost 100 000 hectares — have been leased to "approved" individuals and partnerships, with an option to buy.

Oom Gert could hardly believe the letter, telling him to destroy the buildings on the land he'd farmed for 47 years. But one day when he came home, there was a fence across his land and his harvest had been destroyed. GAYE DAVIS reports on the people of Leliefontein, who lost the land they were given in 1854

The effect of this is that the majority of Leliefontein's estimated 5 000 residents have been alienated — without compensation — from their traditional sowing lands. An estimated 800 people must graze their stock on the remaining 17 units — about 60 000 hectares.

Bekeur alleges the "approved" farmers include "strangers to the area", as well as Leliefontein Management Board members, their relations and people already earning steady incomes as teachers, state officials, shop-owners and building contractors.

Pressure on the 17 units has led to severe overgrazing — ironically, as the new system's stated intention was to halt the deterioration of the veld. Animals are dying of starvation, reducing residents' stocks, in many cases their only source of income.

Residents now want to know from cabinet minister David Curry, whose Department of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture in the House of Representatives controls the area, why the division of their communal land into "economic farming units", and its lease to individual farmers, should not be revised or set aside.

"I and the majority of Leliefontein residents have been deprived of our income and right to make a living," says Bekeur in his affidavit.

He describes how rights to the reserves, which started as mission stations, were entrusted to the "Little Namaqua Hottentots and Baster tribe" by Cape colonial governor Sir George Grey in 1854.

"My forefathers were Little Namaquas who have lived in the area as long as living memory," he says. In the Fifities, rights were confirmed by the issue of "letters of recognition" entitled occupiers to a permanent dwelling and sowing lands.

"As far as I know, it was never, until recently, the practice of the board to deprive families of their rights to certain lands and give them to another."



Youngsters queue for food from three legged pots at a temporary



Echoes of the past: Tant Lena Kock and Tant Lena Cardinal in their kappies

Bekeur and fellow residents maintain that in contravention of the enabling legislation, the 1979 Rural Coloured Areas Act.

They were not properly informed before the decision was taken to deprive them of their rights to Leliefontein land;

No proper investigation into who held rights of occupation was carried out and if it had been, their rights would have been confirmed;

The Act has been contravened in that land has not been allocated to bona fide farmers;

No compensation has been awarded. They believe that if it was "the lawgiver's intention to drive whole communities from the land ... it would have been explicitly stated."

An answering affidavit by the former chief director of coloured rural areas, PA Olivier, denies residents were uninformed or the Act was contravened.

He cites a series of meetings held over the years — usually at residents' requests — to "clarify the situation. He denies the effect of the system will be to drive people from the land, saying it was "aimed to ensure a decent living for the largest possible section of the community."

Asked during a 1984 meeting of concerned residents what would happen if the majority of residents opposed the new scheme, he is quoted, in minutes attached to his affidavit, as saying: "It is democratic to take the side of the majority but that of the minority must also be looked at ... The



"Oom Petrus" displays his assets: his goats



Oom Andries Nero with the millstones he uses to grind wheat



... grazing kraal outside Klipfontein



kappies, still worn and made in Leliefontein
Pictures: PAUL GREENDON, Afrapix
chief denies contra-
the years "clarify" system saying it the larg-
need resi-
"It is but that ... The

The solution: Festivals and donkey-cart rides

A COMMITTEE of inquiry, recommending the 150-year-old communal system of land ownership at Leliefontein be replaced with individual rights to land, has suggested the introduction of festivals and donkey-cart trips to stimulate economic activity in the region.

The four-person committee was appointed last year by David Curry, minister of local government, housing and agriculture in the House of Representatives, in a bid to defuse widespread anger among the rural area's estimated 5 000 "coloured" residents over the system of "economic farming units".

Curry agreed to appoint the committee after Leliefontein residents launched a Supreme Court application to have set aside the new system, which denies them access to their traditional farmland. He also paid part of the legal costs.

The committee's report, completed in June, was never made public. However, residents have now re-instituted legal proceedings, and the report forms part of replying affidavits filed.

Chairman of the committee is Unisa Professor DA Kotzé, whose report has been criticised by other academics as "racist" and "scientifically unsubstantiated".

The report recommends the land not be returned to the people. It states: "The division of land into farming units is an inalienable right of all those residents who are concerned about the development of the area" and that nothing, including legal action, should be allowed to upset this.

A serious hindrance to development, says the committee, is people's "fear of too-hasty development" and their "inability to distance themselves from their traditional lifestyle" in favour of a "competitive capitalist economy which they see as being too high a price and beyond their capabilities".

Other obstacles, says the report, include the tension caused by the "huge gap in perception" between a "progressive group" which wants the area's development and a "tradition-bound element" which prefers the communal system.

The report does not cite the size of the "progressive group" but refers favourably to the recently established Leliefontein Farmers' Association which has 41 members, mainly lessees of the now-privatised land. According to the committee's own statistics, there are at least 320 stock-owners in Leliefontein.

The committee is critical of the ability of the Leliefontein Management Board to administer the area effectively and proposes drastic revision of existing laws to restructure local authority in what it hopes will be a "blueprint for future re-

A report on the 'economic farming units' controversy at Leliefontein draws sharp criticism for 'racism' and 'lack of scientific substance'

organising of all the rural areas". An agricultural management board would control farming, while other management boards would be restricted to local affairs. All existing rights of residents would presumably fall away and new ones would be applied for.

The report suggests it "be established how many people the area can support and for how many work can be provided" and that "economic activity" be stimulated with donkey-cart rides for tourists and festivals; beyond this, it provides no concrete suggestions for people forced off the land in an area where jobs are scarce.

University of Cape Town archaeologist Professor Andrew Smith found the report contained "racial stereotypes and slurs". The report describes the people's "inherent shortcomings" — including lack of enterprise and initiative — and quotes a German historian's statement, published in 1887, that the Nama people lack "a steady character".

The report makes extensive recommendations for halting the deterioration of the veld, including limits on stock numbers, especially donkeys, and the introduction of rotational grazing.

But according to University of Cape Town botanist Tim Hoffman, whose doctoral thesis deals with the effects of overgrazing on semi-arid land, the views expressed in the report are unsubstantiated.

"The report aims to discredit the traditional communal system of land-management, and in particular the 'trek-system' — suggesting it is this practice, coupled with overstocking, which has led to veld degradation.

"On the other hand, the report sees the division of the land into camps, and the application of rotational grazing, as accepted solutions to these problems.

"The rotational systems have not been shown to be inherently superior to the trek-system, nor have any scientifically sound arguments been proposed suggesting why they should be.

"In addition, it appears that the suitability of the trek-system in these environments has never been researched. It may be shown in fact that the trek system *per se* is not the cause of veld-degradation in the region and that with reduced stock numbers, veld improvement might well be superior under this system."

What police figures tell: **Most captured 'terrorists' are trained in SA**

The head of the security police tells journalists that more and more 'terrorists' are trained inside the country, because they are more difficult to identify than those who must cross the border to re-enter

More than half the "terrorists" killed or arrested by the police in the first nine months of this year were trained inside South Africa, indicating a significant new development in the guerrilla war in South Africa.

Lieutenant General Johannes van der Merwe, head of the security police, told a briefing of South African political journalists at Walvis Bay that 77 of the 132 "terrorists" arrested between January and September this year had been locally trained, as had three of the 32 "terrorists" killed by the police.

He also claimed "legal radical organisations" posed a far greater threat to security than the banned radical organisations. He cited the United Democratic Front, its affiliates, Cosatu and some trade unions in this regard, threatening that the police would give "close attention" to the Congress of South African Trade Unions.

Johannes Velde van der Merwe, 51, became head of the security branch on October 1 last year. Outwardly, this father of three sons and a daughter looks more like an academic than a policeman, but underneath he is tough, knows his subject and believes the police have the security situation under control.

Van der Merwe said the training of guerrillas inside South Africa held a number of advantages for the ANC.

Locally trained "terrorists" did not leave the country or their communities and were therefore difficult to identify.

"The frustration in ANC training camps, which created division, was avoided and it was more difficult for "rehabilitated terrorists" to break up cells by identifying its members.

He said 353 "terrorists" and helpers were either arrested or killed in the first nine months of 1987 — 63 were foreign-trained "terrorists", 10 trained in neighbouring states and 11 in undetermined areas.

A further 48 "trainee terrorists", seven recruiters, 11 couriers and 121 helpers were arrested. Two helpers were killed.

Van der Merwe also said the targets and weapons used by "terrorists" had "drastically changed".

The main targets between 1976 and 1984 were the railways (20,76 percent), state and public buildings (17,36 percent), and attacks on the police (15,85 percent).

"There was a total shift in emphasis in 1985 and 1986. During those years the ANC chiefly geared itself to murder attacks on civilians (41,64 percent) and on the police (25,58 percent).

Between January and October this year, there had already been 195 "terrorist attacks", an average of 19,5 a month compared to the average of 19,08 a month last year and 2,45 a month between 1976 and 1984.

At the same briefing the Minister of Law and Order, Adriaan Vlok, said the ANC would "never defeat South Africa by military means".

However, the ANC was resorting to mass mobilisation techniques to "create unrest" and this was more difficult to curb, according to Vlok.

Van der Merwe also claimed legal rather than banned organisations posed the major security challenge in South Africa today.

"Radical legal actions are more important than radical illegal activities at the moment."

Despite recent security force actions, the revolutionary climate was on the increase, he said.

"We have passed the phase of stone-throwing and petrol bombs and we are now moving into a more difficult phase.

Vlok also claimed there were more than 1 000 new organisations "inciting" people and were using "terrorist methods" of mass mobilisation.

Asked if the goal of the police was to contain these organisations without banning them, he replied, "We are looking at the situation."

He added that if organisations went "too far" they would be banned.

Goldstein says the diamond industry is far stronger now than it was in the early 1980s. While the November sight at

was brought about by a variety of factors, only one of which had relevance in today's or next year's market. The factors were:
□ The disharding of over \$5bn

and Ashton Mining shares, Shearson Lehman concludes that: "The sell off of diamond shares has been overdone. Earnings in 1988 and 1989 are unlikely to be significantly affected by the stock market or recession."

Farmers' assistance amended ^{11/2/87} (4)

PRETORIA — Agriculture and Water Supply deputy minister A I van Niekerk, yesterday announced amendments to emergency assistance schemes for stock farmers.

The are to come into effect on January 1, 1988.

The amendments are aimed at offering participants better financial benefits.

Measures to protect the veld against destruction were also extended and consolidated.

Participants are to receive "a realistic cash remuneration" for animals withdrawn from the

veld. The incentive is related to the carrying capacity of the farm and the current net farming income from livestock.

"This will amount to R10 per large stock unit per month for sheep and goats, and R6 per large stock unit per month for cattle," van Niekerk said.

To qualify for the scheme, participants must reduce their animal number by a third of the carrying capacity of the farm.

They may also voluntarily reduce livestock until only a third of the carrying capacity of the

farm unit remains as a nucleus breeding herd or flock.

"This system benefits the conservation farmer who already farms with a reduced number of animals and protects the natural resources against exploitation."

Full particulars of the scheme are contained in circulars obtainable from the Directorate of Financial Assistance.

The long-term solution for structural problems such as unviable units and other socio-economic problems are now being investigated, van Niekerk said. — Sapa.

~~Cape Times 17/12/87~~

Farm worker electrocuted

4
①

Staff Reporter

A BANHOEK farm worker who was investigating the cause of a veld fire died instantly yesterday morning when he touched a live electric wire.

A powerline which had been brought down during high winds on the farm Zeven Rivieren apparently set fire to a number of pinetrees, Mrs P G van Breda, of Zeven Rivieren, said yesterday.

Mr Tommy Lutuli, aged about 60, and another worker were walking near a tree when Mr Lutuli jerked and collapsed.

The menace hidden in the forest winds

FORESTRY workers in South Africa are apparently unaware of the dangers to their health posed by the widespread use of Agent Orange-type defoliant as weed killers in the plantations.

Like all agricultural workers, the men and women who work in the forests are not covered by the country's laws governing minimum wages, hours of work and collective bargaining.

For them the result is a daily regime of hard labour that leaves little time for enquiry into the dangers of the herbicides they are exposed to.

Richmond is a small sawmill town in the Natal Midlands surrounded by sugar farms, tea estates and forests. From the cluster of rundown shops in the centre of town that make their money from the thousands of farmworkers and sawmill operators in the area, a network of muddy-red roads radiate into the green hills, where, according to the environmental group Chemwatch, the herbicide 245-T is still extensively used.

A row of black and white brick buildings stand at the end of one of these roads. That's where Phumlile (whose surname has been withheld to protect her) lives and works with 500 other labourers on the Saligna Forestry Estate.

She told us about a day in their working lives.

She wakes very morning at four before the sun rises from behind the trees and prepares food with the three women who share her room in the compound. They eat quickly, tidy the room and rush to the tractor and trailer waiting to take them into the forest.

At 6am they reach the spot where work begins. Phumlile works in a gang of 10. Together they must cut and clean 250 trees in order to qualify for wages of between R5 and R8 a shift.

If they fail, they must return the next day and finish the quota before the next shift begins.

Phumlile says it has sometimes taken them three days to complete a single shift. They call it *itoho*, the piece-work system.

From 9am to 10am the workers break for lunch — mielie meal mixed alternately with fish or beans. Once a week they get meat. For this, R1,60 a day is deducted from their wages.

Work resumes at until 3pm, the official end of the shift, though they sometimes continue until after 5pm to finish their quota.

Asked if they felt it was dangerous to work in the forest, workers in the

Mask worn during spraying

gang said the pressure of working under *itoho* made it impossible to spend time safeguarding against accidents.

Phumlile spoke of a colleague, Bhekizitha Sithole, who died earlier this year after a wet log slipped off a pile of wood and hit him on the chest. He was 24 when he died and had two children.

Earlier this year, a woman worker spent a month in hospital after being injured by a falling tree. The workers said the employer and the chainsaw operator were fined R20 for "negligence".

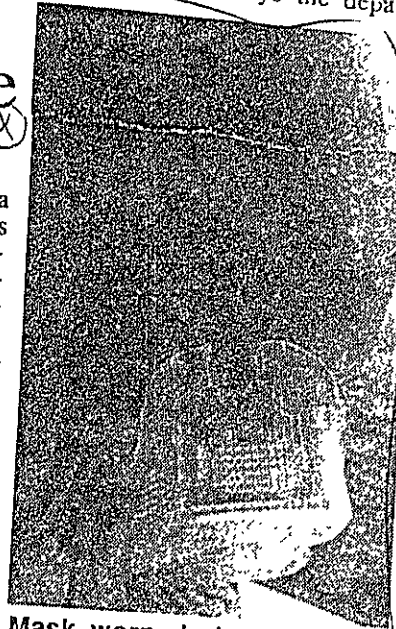
Asked for comment, Mike Edwards, spokesman for the Forest Owners Association, confirmed that piece-work wages of R5 to R8 a shift were standard practice in the forests. But Ron Meiring, administrative manager for the Saligna estate, denied that workers were fined for accidents at work and said they were fully covered by the Workmen's Compensation Act.

He added that the use of 245-T had been abandoned last year. An alternative product was now in use and workers were fully trained in the use of poisonous herbicides, he said.

However, a colleague of Phumlile's, who asked not to be named, said her job was to spray the trees with a herbicide from a 20-litre drum strapped to her back.

After being shown a bottle of 245-T, she said the forest had used the poison earlier this year. She has been issued with a mask, rainsuit and gloves to guard against the herbicides. But colleagues who work nearby are left fully exposed to the spray from the herbicides she uses. They have never been told of the dangers of any of the poisons.

Nor have they enquired — for them these dangers remain hidden in the wind and their cause for anger is the harsh reality of the *itoho* system.



'Downward trend checked in 1987'

Blauy
18/12/87

Wentzel paints grim picture of farm distress

GERALD REILLY

AGRICULTURE Minister Greyling Wentzel yesterday painted a grim picture of distress in the farming industry.

However, he said he believed the downward trend had been checked during 1987, and the new year might see upward movement in most sectors of the industry.

Five or six years of successive drought had resulted in poor crops and crop failures, drastic deterioration of natural grazing, and a decline in animal production — resulting in the extermination of some herds and flocks.

This was followed by unavoidable, increasing financial pressure and emergencies for the farming community, he said.

More farming enterprises had ceased to function and there was further depopulation of large areas.

Plans for the restructuring of the industry, necessitated by the series of disastrous droughts and by the industry's

own errors and shortcomings, had been launched, Wentzel said.

Agriculture still had to wrestle with a multitude of problems.

□ A survey released yesterday by the Agricultural Economic Trends Directorate indicates that agriculture's massive debt could exceed R14bn by the end of the year.

The survey says total debt in farming at the end of last year soared to R12,446bn, compared with R1,402bn in 1970.

Reasons for the rapid escalation of debt since 1981 included inflation, over-optimism of farmers, high interest rates and the prolonged drought.

Farmers' interest payments increased from R131m in 1975 to R1 715m last year. The survey shows, too, the huge increase in Land Bank credit — from R296m in 1970 to R2 649m at the end of last year.

4

DAILY DISPATCH, MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1987

Daily Dispatch
Correspondent

PRETORIA — Increasing numbers of northern Transvaal farmers are being forced off their lands to find a livelihood elsewhere, the director of the South African Agricultural Union, Mr Peit W. Swart, said at the weekend.

Mr Swart has just returned from the "designated" area of the north and north-western Transvaal where drought and other problems have caused havoc.

Union concerned over number of unoccupied farms

He said there was an urgent need to find solutions to the problems because it was in the national interest that border farms should be occupied.

It was urgent, too, that compulsory occupation be enforced in terms of

the relevant legislation, he said.

He stressed that the more unoccupied farms there were the higher the unemployment rate would be among blacks.

In one irrigation area about 1 200 of the black labour force of 1 600

were out of work, said.

Mr Swart added that the number of cattle herds on many farms had been drastically reduced because of lack of grazing.

The rebuilding of the herds would take several years, creating financial bridging problems, he said.

Mr Swart also criticised delays in granting aid. There were no obvious and simple solutions to this, he said.

④ 8/20/12/87

More N Transvaal farmers leaving the land

MORE and more Northern Transvaal farmers are being forced off the land to find a livelihood elsewhere SA Agricultural Union Director, Piet W Swart said at the weekend.

He has just returned from the "designated" area of the North and North Western Transvaal where drought and other problems have caused havoc.

Swart said there was an ur-

GERALD REILLY

gent need to find solutions to the problems among other reasons because it was in the national interest that border farms should be occupied.

It was urgent, too, that compulsory occupation be enforced in terms of the relevant legislation.

He stressed that the more un-

occupied farms there were, the more unemployment among blacks developed.

In one irrigation area about 1 200 of the normal black labour force of 1 600 were out of work.

Swart warned that cattle herds on many farms had been drastically reduced because of lack of grazing.

The rebuilding of the herds would take several years.

This created financial bridging problems.

Swart also criticised delays in granting aid.

He added there were no obvious and simple solution.

Some time or other, however, the accumulated debt of deserving farmers would have to be brought into line again with the long term repayment ability of their farming units.

Worker tied to tree dies after fist, sjambok assault

THE DEATH

FARM

By MATHATHA TSEDU

A 35-YEAR-OLD labourer died in the Northern Transvaal after being tied to a tree and assaulted for two days for riding over and killing two dogs belonging to his white employer.

A Pietersburg police spokesman yesterday confirmed that Mr Eric Sambo of Vuwani, Venda, died of assaults at a farm on December 12.

No one has been arrested, he said.

Sources in the area said Mr Sambo was employed as a tractor driver on the farm in the Levubu area about 40 km east of Louis Trichardt

"On that Friday he had parked the tractor and rested for lunch. When he went back he started the tractor to resume working and he rode over the two dogs that had been lying under the tractor. When he realised this he went to the farmer to report the matter

"He even offered to pay for the two dogs with part of his wages but we understand that farmer refused the compensation and told him to run away as their son was very cruel and would not understand," the sources said.

Case

"Mr Sambo did not run away and when the employers' son came back, the source continued, he tied Mr Sambo to a tree and, brutally assaulted him with a sjambok and fists until late into the night.

"He slept in the open tied to the tree. The assaults continued again the following day until Mr Sambo died," the source said

Lt J C Visser said he could not confirm all these allegations "All I can say is that the black man died of assault and a murder case is being investigated. No, no one has been arrested. Yes, it is said he was tied to a tree but I cannot confirm that I don't know the name of the farm and I cannot give you the name of the white man involved," he added in response to questions from the *Sowetan*

It could not be established yesterday when Mr Sambo is to be buried.

REPORTS, pictures and comment in this edition may be censored in terms of the Government's state of emergency.

PEACE



THE Editor and Staff of the *Sowetan* wish you all a peaceful Christmas.

VALID FROM 24TH DECEMBER TO 30TH DECEMBER 1987



DISCOUNT SUPERMARKETS



WILLARDS
CHIPS
100g

R105



get more from



DISCOUNT SUPERMARKETS

Not valid for... WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO VARY OUR OFFERS

'STRANDED, ABUSED'

64 left destitute by farmer

A TOTAL of 64 "labourers" from Lebowa, Pietersburg, aged between 12 and 19 years, were this week found destitute after a slabok-wielding Western Transvaal farmer lured them to work at his tomato farm for three weeks, and then dismissed them without pay.

The 64, all pupils, were found stranded, barefoot, dirty and hungry — near the Hartheespoordam about 9pm on Tuesday after being chased away by the farmer who threatened to assault them if they did not leave his premises. They were later fetched by the Atteridgeville municipal police who provided them with shelter and food for the night.

The children came from the following areas: Gamabula, Gaphahla, Selapela, PENCH and Segorog in Pietersburg and from Lenyenge and Shiluvani in Tzaneba. They told the *Sowetan* that they were lured to come and work at the plantation by a white farmer who promised to pay them between R2,50

**By MONK NKOMO
Pretoria Bureau**

and R5 a day depending on their ages. They were not paid. They said they were brought to Brits in a truck driven by a man called Malesa on December 3, shortly after the schools closed. The *Sowetan* interviewed some of them at the recreation hall and the training hall in Atteridgeville yesterday morning. Their spokesman, Hitler Molefe (19), a pupil at the Madikolosh Secondary School, made



THESE children were left stranded after working without pay.

a declaration under oath yesterday stating that the farmer had an agreement with their parents and local chief that they work for the farmer until December 21 when he would return them home.

Barefoot

Agnes Matlakala (12), a standard five pupil at Masenyelisa High School, said she was promised R5 a day by Malesa. She came to Brits barefoot and hoping that on her return home she would have enough money to buy herself a pair of shoes. Prenaar Madiri (15)

also showed the *Sowetan* a clock card numbered 19. He was promised R2,50 a day. "That white farmer is very cruel. We were fed only cabbage, carrots and pap daily. Sometimes we went to bed without food," he said.

Shocked

The children, who looked weary and shocked by the treatment received at the plantation, said they were "mistreated" by the farmer who made them work long hours. "We used to work from about 6am to 3am the following day on Monday and from about 8am to 9pm on

other days except on Saturdays and Sundays when we worked from 8am to 2pm and 11pm respectively," they said. Social workers yesterday said most of the victims were lawfully classified as children who needed parental care.

Shocked

Atteridgeville's director of emergency services, Mr Chris de Wet, yesterday said they were shocked by the "exploitation" of the children and said the council was going to seek a legal opinion on the matter. He and social

workers Mrs Rose Huma and Miss Phina Mojapelo provided the food and blankets for the children. "We left the office about 2am," said Mr de Wet.

Mr J M Phoshoko, Lebowa's urban representative in Pretoria yesterday said that his government was going to launch an intensive investigation into the matter. He and the Atteridgeville council yesterday arranged for transport to take the kids to their respective homes. Attempts to get comment from the farmer yesterday were unsuccessful.

No suspects held after man killed while roped to tree

WHODUNNIT?

PIETERSBURG police yesterday said they held no suspect, nor had they made an arrest in the case of the killing of a farm labourer who was allegedly tied to a tree for two days and spambokked to death by a local farmer's son.

SA/P/2
By MANDLA NDLAZI

The man, Mr Eric Sambo, (35), was killed on December 12 after he had accidentally driven over and killed two dogs that belonged to his employer's son. The killing was in the Levubu area, about 40 km east of Louis Trichardt.

Mr Sambo was allegedly tied to a tree, then punched and spambokked for two days. He died after spending the night tied to the tree. Last week police said they were investigating the death after they had received reports, but yesterday Lieutenant J C. Visser said the police did not have a suspect.

And had made no arrest. He did however say that the police were investigating a murder case.

And out of the police a Johannesburg attorney said yesterday he would offer his services free of charge to the dead man's widow and dependents for the case.

Q Sambo

of justice.

Mr Muntu Myeza, publicity secretary of the Azanian People's Organisation said yesterday the Farm Workers' Association is a recently formed by his organisation would take the matter up with the police.

"This is a clear demonstration of the kind of power farm owners have over the lives of farm workers. In Mr. Sambo's case there appears to be injustice," said Mr Myeza.

Attitudes

He added: "It is incidents such as these which harden attitudes and make it difficult to work out solutions to this country's problems in a calm manner. It is for this reason that Azapo recently established a farm workers' association because these workers are specifically denied the right to form trade unions, which places the workers completely at the mercy of the farmers."

Mystery of farm death

Sequel to killing

TWO white farmers and four black men appeared in the Louis Trichard Magistrate's Court on December 15 in connection with the killing of farm labourer, Mr Eric Sambo.

A spokesman from the police division of public relations in Pretoria confirmed the six, from Levubu near Pietersburg,

were arrested on December 14 and appeared in court the next day.

The whites were released on their own recognisances.

The blacks were each granted R200 bail.

The men, who were not asked to plead, appear again on January 8.

They are: Mr Jacobus Vorster (21), Mr Piet Lennert (20), Mr Wilson Osau (53), Mr Samuel Nomakhavhani (28), Mr Petrus Noekhwevha (52) and Mr Wilson Muhanelwa (30).

The badly hurt Mr Sambo (35) was found on December 13.

He died later. — Sapa.

④
Smieberg
29/12/87

Dramatic rescue after boat capsizes

3 die in heavy seas

By KEN NELSON, CHRIS ERASMUS
AND CLARE HARPER

THREE local fishermen drowned — one a 15-year-old boy — and two others were saved from almost certain death yesterday when their skiboat capsized in heavy seas and a strong south-easter just off Strand beach.

The accident happened shortly after noon, in front of hundreds of helpless holidaymakers, as the skiboat, Mistry, was returning to the jetty through a channel between the rocks leading to the open sea.

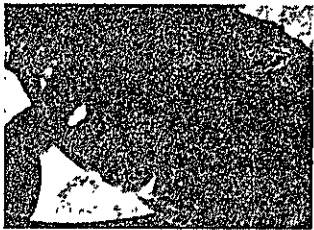
The Mistry, owned and skippered by Mr Abdullah Adams, 52, of 18, 13th Avenue, Ravensmead, capsized in the wave-line and "went down very quickly", according to Mr Ian Strachan, commander of NSRI Station 9, which launched a rescue boat.

None of the five people on board the skiboat was apparently wearing a lifejacket. Those drowned were Mr Adams, Mr Mogamat Zain Fritz, 39, of 44 Gladious Street, Beacon Valley, Mitchell's Plain, and 15-year-old Webner Primary pupil Abraham Cloete, of 32 14th Avenue, Ravensmead.

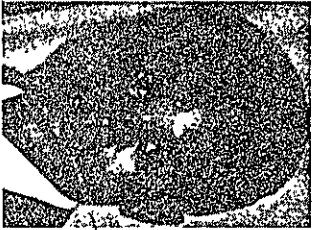
Two of the fishermen, Vincent Hoorn, 17, of 8 Poplar Street, Ravensmead, and Shafilek Jacobs, 18, of 64 Jasmine Street, Bonteheuwel, were plucked from almost certain death by Mr Hans le Roux in his skiboat, Chaps.

Cap Trunks 30/12/87

47



Abraham Cloete, 15



Abdullah Adams, 52



Vincent Hoorn, 17

Shafilek Jacobs, 18, when he swam underwater to retrieve a lifejacket for his friend, he was surprised to find Abraham was missing.

Vincent said all he could do was cling to the lifejacket and wait for help.

All five fishermen were wearing heavy clothing, which limited their movement in the water, he said.

Shafilek was swimming to the beach about 150m away, while Vincent was rescued by Mr le Roux

and his friend Mr Danny Warren near the place where Mistry went down. They were taken to Hottentots Holland Hospital but were discharged soon afterwards.

Mr Adams, a technician at Eskom, was the father of eight children. His wife, Myomona, was treated for shock last night by the family's doctor. The couple had been married for 27 years.

A witness, Mr Leon de Klerk, from Wellington,



THE FAMILY . . . Five of Mr Abdullah Adams's children heard the news of their father's death yesterday. From left Cassiem, Jasmina, and Moerida. Sitting in the front are Myomona and Fared, with the family dog, Fifi.

Picture: ANNA AING

who was fishing from the jetty at the time, said the sea was "relatively calm" when Mistry sank.

According to Mr Eddy Cassar, PRO for the Western Province Surf Lifesaving Association, the drowned fishermen had probably been dashed against the rocks in the channel, known as

"the Poor".

The John Rolfe helicopter team was on the Strand beach at the time and heard the calls for assistance on the radio. They responded immediately but could see nothing in the surfline," he said.

"They searched for a while but the chopper

was running low on fuel. A piece of the damaged skiboat, possibly the bow, attached to the anchor in the surfline, where it could be a hazard to other boats.

The damaged boat was taken to the Strand police station. The unreturned by Mr Ken Whittall, used lifejackets were still attached to the wreckage.

Swimming warning to locals, tourists

Staff Reporter

THE tragic triple drowning off Strand Beach in unusually heavy swells has led to a stern warning being issued yesterday to holidaymakers and locals.

Mr Eddy Cassar, PRO of the Western Province Surf Lifesaving Association, said everyone who ventures into the sea should take obvious precautions to prevent drowning — especially visitors from up-country unused to local conditions.

Mr Cassar pointed out that one of the three who drowned off Strand Beach yesterday was an experienced fisherman. But the swell was heavier than normal and, combined with a 15-20 knot south easter, the fishermen lost control," he said.

The three deaths yesterday bring to 10 the number of people who have drowned around the Western Cape coastline since the end of November. Yesterday a spokesman for the weather bureau predicted a trend for a generally smaller swell.

The south easterly to easterly wind expected in the next few days means there is no real reason for the swell to develop, the spokesman said.

NO DECISION ON FARMER

THE Lebowa Government is still to decide on what action to take against a Western Transvaal farmer who dismissed 64 youths last week without pay after they had worked on his tomato farm for almost a month.

The youths, aged between 12 and 19 years were recruited

Lebowa waits for Minister

to the farm near Hartbeespoort Dam by the farmer on December 3.

The children, who came from Lebowa and Gazankulu were brought to the farm in a truck.

They were chased away by the

farmer last Tuesday night. The youths told the *Sowetan* that they were not paid and that the farmer had threatened to assault them.

They were found destitute near Brits and they were fetched by the Atteridgeville municipal

police who, together with local social workers, gave them shelter and food. They were later fetched by officials of the Lebowa Government who transported them home.

Mr J M Phoshoko, Lebowa's urban representative in Pretoria, yesterday said they had completed taking statements from the 64 youths. "we are now waiting to present all the facts to the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr L G Mathole who is presently on holiday," Mr Phoshoko said.

Farm workers organised

By GEORGE HILL

THE unionising of unorganised workers in the Western Cape took a historic step when the first trade union meeting of farmworkers was held at Grabouw at the weekend.

The meeting was held under the auspices of the Farmworkers Project of the Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu).

About 100 people, from about eight farms in the Grabouw and Elgin areas, attended the meeting.

Veteran trade unionist and Fawu's national organiser in the fruit and vegetable sector, Ms Lizzie Phike, told the meeting farmworkers were tired of being "the down-trodden".

"The working and living conditions of farmworkers are similar to those of prisoners in jail. The union will give you the chance to break free and fight for your rights.

"Farmworkers haven't the protection of the law, but it's their right to bargain their labour as any other worker. They have the right to a living wage, better working hours, leave, holidays and medical benefits.

"But this can only be accomplished if the farmworkers are prepared to unite," she said.

Phike said farmworkers were treated like slaves, but slavery was "a thing of the past".

"You are the people who make the bosses rich. They cannot work without you. The houses that they provide are not yours, because you can lose them for angering your bosses with minor infringements," she told the workers.

After the meeting, Phike said the organising of farmworkers was of

"critical" importance to the progressive labour movement in South Africa.

"The successful unionisation of farmworkers will bring us so much closer to the realisation of a free South Africa.

"In the Western Cape we are slowly moving forward and hope to organise the labour forces of the bigger employers first. At one farm we have completed negotiations for a recognition agreement for its factory workers. We hope to start negotiations on behalf of the its farmworkers in the near future," she said.

Phike said there had been "major strides", particularly in the milling sector, in other parts of the country.

"Since we started we have seen workers' wages being increased from R40 to R90 a week. Many workers, however, are

paid as little as R23 for which they have to work up to 80 hours a week.

"One of our main problems is the insecurity of the farmworkers and their intimidation by the bosses. We are handling many cases of farmworkers being assaulted and evicted from their homes for the slightest reason."

She said farmers were reacting to the unionisation of their labour forces by forming "toothless" liaison committees.

Another major obstacle was the exclusion of farmworkers from the Labour Relations Act.

"This denies them access to the courts. The farmers know this and overstep their authority.

"Overall, our progress is satisfactory although we know that the task at hand is not an easy one," Phike said.

your
TOYOTA
fact
EBRAHIM

(4) South 21-27/11/88

Organiser claims assault

CONFRONTATIONS with hostile farmers and evading dogs and security guards are occupational hazards for 26-year-old Petrus Aploon.

Aploon, a former Grabouw fruit packer, was last year appointed Western Cape organiser of the Food and Allied Workers Union's Farmworkers Project.

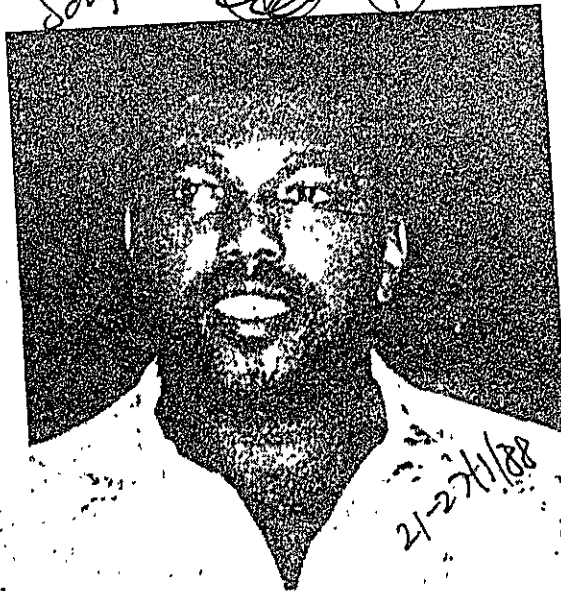
Aploon said the union had "signed-up" 1 290 farmworkers since the launch of the project during the middle of last year.

"Access to farmworkers is a key problem and I have had many confrontations with farmers.

"Sometimes intimidated farmworkers inform the farmer of my presence, but I'm lucky not to have been prosecuted for trespassing."

Sometimes his only access to workers was on Saturdays, when they did their once-a-week shopping at the nearest town or village.

"About 800 African workers on a huge estate



Petrus Aploon

in Grabouw are not even allowed free movement when they're not on duty. They have to, for instance, get permission to leave the estate on a Sunday.

"Our chief aim is to give some protection to farmworkers, especially since they are not covered by

existing labour laws. We are handling cases where farmers have assaulted workers or evicted them from their houses for slight or no apparent reasons."

Aploon said a major problem to overcome is workers' fear of their bosses and reprisals.

16 fishermen
rescued at sea

(Continued from page 1)

lives as waves washed over them.

"Then they found they couldn't get away from the boat because the wind was too strong. The flames were spreading quickly and a third of the boat was ablaze.

"We moved in close as possible, threw them a rope and pulled the life-raft towards us. At this stage only a small section was above water and the men were desperately clinging to one another and wherever they could find a grip.

"We pulled them up one by one on to our boat. They were pretty shaken."

The Julie Lynne was owned by the Cape Town company Interfish.

Blazing city ^{ACCUS} trawler ^{22/1/88} sinks

By VERNON BRENT
Staff Reporter

SIXTEEN Cape Town fishermen, forced to abandon their blazing trawler, clung to an overturned lifeboat during a "miraculous" rescue operation off Luderitz.

Against the odds of darkness, heavy seas and near gale-force winds, the crew of the Cape Town trawler Julie Lynne escaped without injury.

The blazing vessel sank hours after the men were plucked from the water by the crew of the Saldanha tunny boat Brandaris.

"ONE IN A MILLION"

The master of the rescue vessel, Captain Gabriel Tolken of Plumstead, described the chances of the rescue, which began about 2am yesterday with a distress call from the Julie Lynne, as "one in a million".

"We were about 60 sea miles south of Luderitz when the call came," he said.

"They said a fire had broken out in the engineroom. We rushed to their position, fortunately only five minutes away.

"When we arrived the stern was ablaze, flames shooting up to 15m in the air as diesel from the tanks mixed with the flames.

"The crew were huddled on the forecastle.

"The wind was gusting about 25 knots and fanning the flames forward rapidly.

"They knew if they made one mistake they were gonners.

"They threw down a life-raft but it overturned in the water. One by one they were lowered down to the upside-down raft.

"The crew clung on for their
(Turn to page 3, col 8)

INSIDE: Wee

976 TMS 23/118
Rescue
from fiery
trawler

Staff Reporter

THE crew of a Hout Bay trawler were pulled to safety when the vessel started sinking off Luderitz after catching fire early on Thursday.

The skipper of the 23,5m Julie Lynne, Mr Basil Lucas, said an electrical fault started a fire in the engine room.

The trawlers Brandaris and Vondeling stood by and the crew of the Julie Lynne were moved to the high forepeak from where a liferaft was launched.

The men lay on the raft to prevent it capsizing.

"The Julie Lynne was sinking fast and after I cut the raft loose it drifted to where the Brandaris closed with us."

A line was passed to the raft and the men were pulled to safety.

CAPE TOWN 23/1/88

Bill on farm child labour

By BARRY STREEK

THE use of child labour on farms during school hours will become illegal if a bill published in Parliament yesterday becomes law.

The Education Laws (Education and Training) Amendment Bill provides that anyone who removes a child from a farm school during school hours will be guilty of an offence and can be fined up to R150 or jailed for a month.

It is already a crime to take children subject to compulsory education out of school.

In terms of the bill, however, it will be a crime to use any pupil at a farm school for "any employment, whether for remuneration or otherwise".

It will also be an offence to demand the use of a pupil's services, whether paid or not, as a precondition for admission to a farm school.

The new bill has still to be considered by a standing committee.

The use of schoolchildren, during school hours, is widespread in some areas, particularly at harvest times, protagonists of the bill say.

Hendrickse opens police station

THE Chairman of the Ministers' Council in the House of Representatives, Mr Allan Hendrickse, said he had no problem with identifying himself with the 75th anniversary celebrations of the South African Police.

Opening a R2-million police station at Komville near George yesterday, he said coloured people were part of the police and he could therefore identify with the celebrations. — Sapa

Eviction notices to 8 families are withdrawn

The silent plight of the evicted farmworkers

1/1/88 (4)
SPR
25/1/88

By Jo-Anne Collinge

Farmworkers, more than any other group of people, have been forced off the land of "white" South Africa and put away in the homelands.

It is a process which carries on piecemeal, virtually unremittingly and silently. It is a process which accounts, for instance, for the dramatic growth of Botshabelo near Bloemfontein and the mushrooming of the endless shanty towns of kwaNdebele.

When the mammoth study known as the Surplus People's Project was published in 1983, it was estimated that 1.13 million farmworkers had been removed in the past two decades.

They constituted the largest single category of known forced removals, a full 33 percent of the total.

Until a few days ago, a handful of families from the lush forest area round Lothair in the eastern Transvaal were to join this human flood, leaving quietly as those before them had done.

Eviction notices had been issued to eight families on the farm Tweepoort and summonses served. It looked as if their fate would be life in kaNgwane, where the availability of arable land averages just half a hectare per family — no more than is available in the rural shackland of kwaNdebele.

Suddenly, the company which owned the land, HLH Forest Products (part of Hunt, Leuchars and Hepburn), halted the legal process toward eviction. It had all summonses withdrawn and undertook to begin discussions with the workers.

A company spokesman said new information had come to light about the circumstances of the families who had been designated squatters and HLH was prepared to meet representatives of its worker/tenants and to discuss the backgrounds of those under threat of eviction.

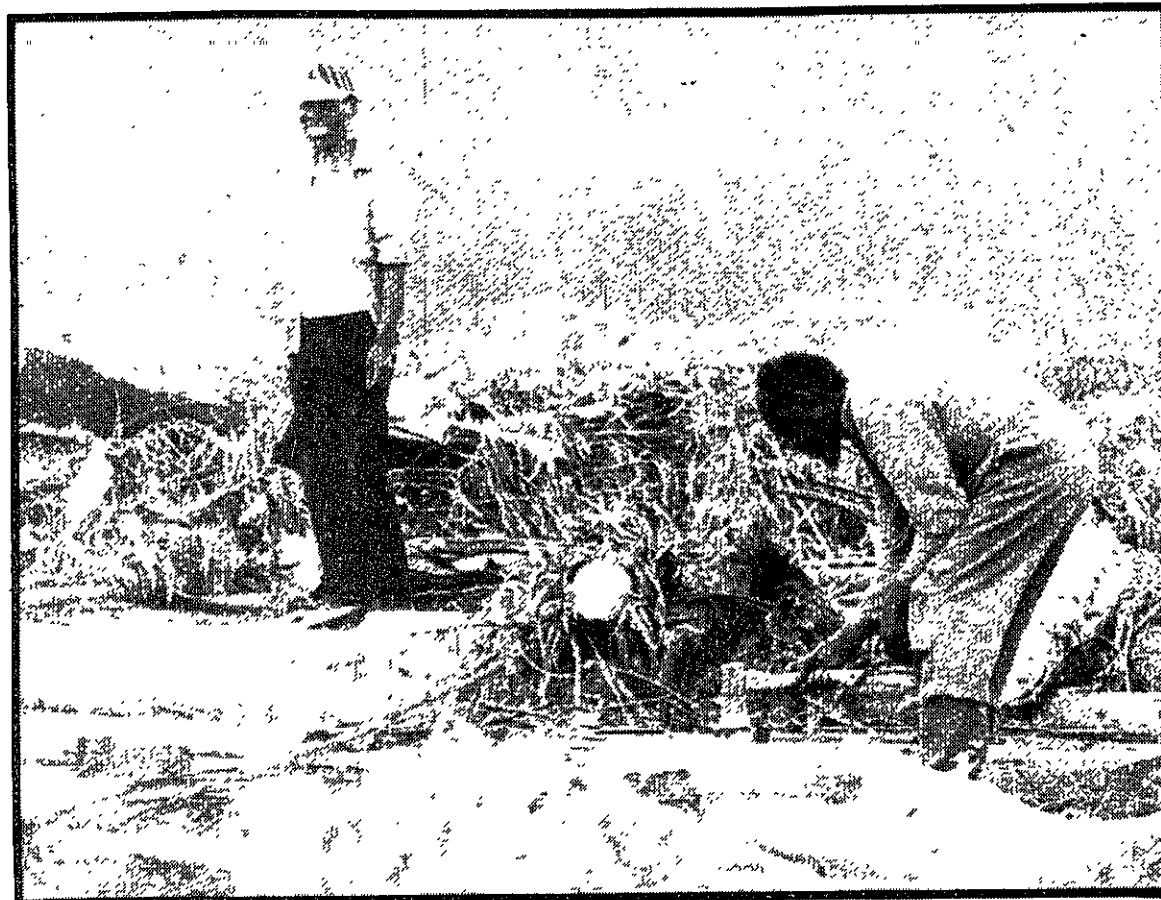
"We are withdrawing all eviction notices because new information has come to hand. We will investigate each case on its own merits and ensure that each family is handled fairly."

There is no guarantee that some of the affected families will not be evicted at the end of this process. But the company, which employs about 2 000 people in the region, has undertaken to talk about its rules and to play by those rules.

In the south-eastern Transvaal, most forest workers have been clustered into settlements in the last year and are no longer free to settle randomly.

There seem to be two major considerations in the streamlining of labour and the eviction of "surplus" workers or squatters: more productive and capital intensive use of the land, and security.

Researchers observe that farm evictions frequent-



Forest workers in the south-Eastern Transvaal . . . heirs of labour tenancy

● Picture by Herbert M a b u z a

ly take place under conditions where:

- There is increased mechanisation.
- Ownership of land becomes more concentrated and previously separate farms are joined under single management units with a consequent saving on staff.
- Extension of the amount of land under cultivation occurs.

The security preoccupation of "verswarting" of the platteland has long been a facet of farm labour policy, researchers argue.

In 1980, loans exceeding R20 million were paid to farmers setting up in the border areas. In 1984, further incentives to keep whites in sensitive border areas were offered when the Promotion of the Density of Population in Designated Areas Amendment Act was passed.

The Ngotshe Co-operation Agreement reached between farmers in northern Natal near the Swazi border and Inkatha 18 months ago has among its fundamental objectives guaranteeing security for all in an area which is known as an African National Congress route into South Africa.

Researchers Mr Gerry Mare and Ms Georgina Hamilton claim that security considerations extend beyond containing the ANC to include such matters as:

- Stock theft.
- Banditry in which commercial vehicles are attacked and looted.
- Arson, which has been directly related to labour disputes on several Natal farms.

Farmers got R2,4bn

7 B/day
2 8/1/88
⑦
⑧

PRETORIA — The massive government support for the ailing agricultural industry in the past few years of destructive droughts was outlined this week by Agricultural Minister Greyling Wentzel.

He said during the past seven years financial assistance to farmers from the state amounted to R2,4bn — R1,4bn for loans, and R1bn for subsidies.

This, Wentzel said, did not include state aid to the wool industry (R15,5m), and the maize industry (R308m) and flood disaster aid.

Nether did it take into account state guarantees for carry-over debts

GERALD REILLY

(R900m), and the additional R400m to rescue farmers from threatened insolvencies. Wentzel said that in one form or another help had been given to about 25 000 farmers since 1981.

The aid meant labourers' jobs on farms had been preserved, and ensured the survival of country towns which were dependent mainly on agriculture.

A major objective of the aid was to keep a maximum number of independent farm-owners in agriculture; and to reduce risks resulting from circumstances beyond the farmers' control.

cost 1100/5 2/2/88

Prison labour in urban areas at R3,70 a day

Political Staff

IT COSTS R3,70 a day per person to hire prison labour in South Africa if guards are provided.

This has been disclosed by the Commissioner of Prisons, Lieutenant-General LH Willemse, in evidence to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

In the committee's fourth report, tabled in Parliament yesterday, Lt-Gen Willemse said that on weekdays in urban areas, it cost R3,70 per prisoner a day with a prison guard, and R1,20 a day if the guard was provided by the hirer.

In rural areas, it cost R2,95 a day with prison guard and R1,00 a day without.

The rate was lower on Saturdays.

These tariffs had been in force since November 1, 1983, but this was being revised and general guidelines for minimum wages for unskilled labour had been laid down.

OUR SERVICE

(4)

Forestry workers may stay

Forestry workers who were threatened with eviction from land in the south-eastern Transvaal have been guaranteed a permanent home on company property.

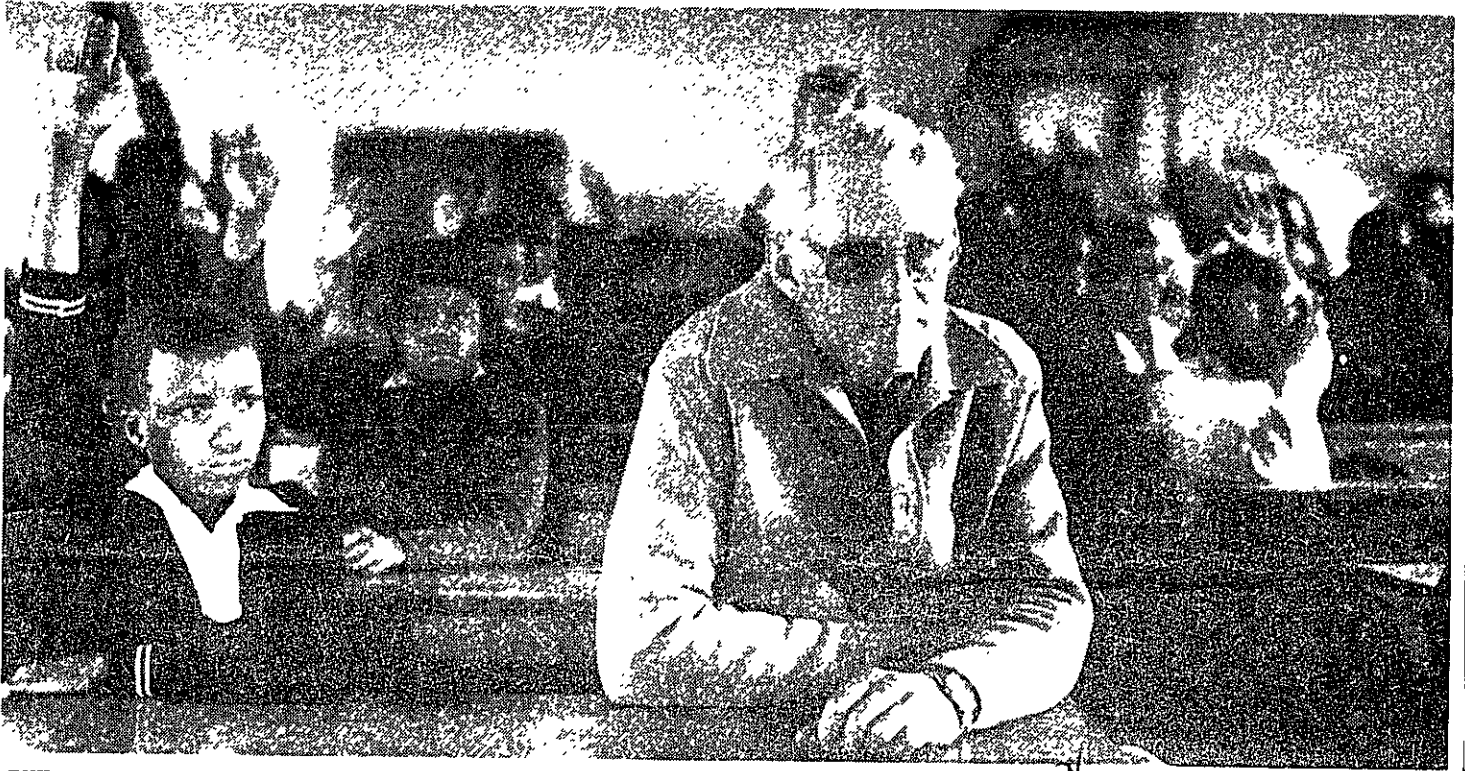
The dispute between the lumber producers Hunt Leuchar and Hepburn and people living on the company's land in the Lothair district has been resolved.

The company withdrew eviction notices and court summonses and met af-

fectured residents last week. About 15 extended families had faced eviction and relocation to kaNgwane.

The outcome of the talks was an agreement that all workers who had lived on the land before HL&H bought it and all others who had settled there more recently with the permission of company managers could remain, a spokesman for the Transvaal Rural Action Committee said.

This farmer does it his way with workers



THE approach is different, to some downright dangerous — like playing with matches sitting atop a box of dynamite.

But, like Frank Sinatra, Johan Haasbroek, Afrikaner farmer in the Leeudoringstad district of the Western Transvaal, did it his way.

Mr Haasbroek, seen above in one of the classrooms, is a prosperous and successful farmer who has revolutionised labour relations with his 45-strong black workers by placing them in management positions and encouraging them to take an active part in management decisions.

STORY AND PICTURE: HILTON HAMANN

"Many people were sceptical when we started," said Mr Haasbroek, whose farm lies deep in the heart of conservative country.

"But I think we've proved the Doomsday prophets wrong," he said. "Productivity is up dramatically and staff turnover has been at the lowest levels ever.

"We started an experiment in which black foremen were given real managerial powers in the running of the farm.

"They are responsible for the hir-

ing and firing of the people who work for them, and are involved in setting production goals," Mr Haasbroek said.

About seven years ago his labourers realised that their children needed to be educated.

"They approached me to build a school on my property and I agreed to help," he said.

"The arrangement was they had to contribute something towards it and had to make a contribution towards school fees."

The school has five teachers and offers classes to Std 5. There are plans to offer high-school classes in the future.

"During the unrest the parents approached me. They had heard there were strangers in town who planned to burn the school down," Mr Haasbroek said.

"I told them it was their responsibility and their school, and that they should sort it out.

"The upshot was they posted guards at the school and at all the entrances to the farm, and we never had a moment's trouble."



The three dismissed farm workers, from left front, Tobekeli Garmare, Nyulu Ntsonguyi and Lulamile Mcameleni

Anglo farm strike

11-17/2/88

South

By GEORGE HILL
and AYESHA ISMAIL

FORTY-FIVE farm workers went on strike in solidarity with three dismissed colleagues at the Anglo-American owned Rhodes Fruit Farm in Klein Drakenstein on Monday.

This is the first strike by farmworkers organised by the Cosatu-affiliated Food and Allied Workers Union in the Western Cape. Workers said they went on strike when three workers were dismissed

for refusing to work overtime on Saturday.

The strike was confirmed by Mr Alan Burgess, personnel manager of Amfarm.

Three short-term contract workers were dismissed following a disciplinary inquiry about an assault on an employee, he said.

"The workers are all contract workers from the Transkei. Some of their contracts will expire in June this year."

A spokesperson for the striking

workers said the three were told to sign final warnings on Monday but all workers decided to sign in solidarity. The three had refused to work overtime on Saturday.

A worker who refused was pelted with peaches. He told the farm manager he was assaulted by the three workers.

The workers then all took responsibility for it.

After travelling on a trailer, the three workers were told to get off at the office. They refused. All the workers

then walked to their living quarters, the spokesperson said.

On Tuesday the senior manager, Mr Herman Hanekom, told the workers their three colleagues were dismissed and all the others had to report for duty the next morning.

"We told him we won't go back until the others are reinstated," the worker said.

The Food and Allied Workers Union had 2 222 signed-up members on farms in the area, of which 1 722 were paid-up, union organiser Ms Lizzie Phike told SOUTH.

Farm employee is shocked by firing, beating by his 'nice boss'

By STAN MHLONGO

VAAL farm labourer Simon Chabane, was "startled and at a loss for words" when his "nice boss" fired him and then allegedly "gave him the hiding of his life".

Chabane, 44, who had worked on Charmie van Lumka's farm in Driefontein near Vanderbijlpark, told *City Press* that he only discovered the reason for the action "when the police accused me of being a thief".

The investigating officer at Barrage Police Station Sgt M Wardeck confirmed that Chabane had laid a charge of assault against his former employer.

The farmer has denied the accusations.

Chabane said he was extensively questioned by police about a burglary that took place on the farm in December last year.

"They claimed I had stolen a fridge and a television set," he said.

Chabane said he had worked on the farm for a year, receiving R200 a month and rations of mealie-meal and soup to support his wife Lisa and three children.

He said relations with his "friendly boss" unexpectedly turned sour on January 30.

"He fired me without giving reasons and then re-



Simon Chabane

peatedly hit me with a piece of wood," he said.

Orange-Vaal General Worker's Union spokesman Steve Kolisang said Chabane was unfairly dismissed.

"To add insult to injury, Chabane was fired without being given notice, leave pay or food rations," said Kolisang.

Meanwhile, the farmer has denied the allegations. He told *City Press* he had not assaulted the worker.

"In fact, I never accused Chabane of being involved in the burglary that took place at my farm. It was the police who accused Chabane of stealing a fridge and television set following their investigations," he said.

Old 'trespasser' can return to birthplace

By SELLO SERIPE
WITBOOI Kubheka, the 60-year-old Wakerstrom man who last June was fined R300 by a Wakerstrom magistrate for trespassing, this week successfully appealed against his conviction in the Pretoria Supreme Court.

Kubheka, of St Helena farm in the Eastern Transvaal, was arrested, charged and convicted after a farm-er, Schalk Pienaar, of the same address, laid a trespass charge against him. The hearing, this week, which was presided over by Judge Van Dyk, ruled in

favour of Kubheka on the grounds that the State farm-owner, who is presently believed to be staying in the Cape, terminated Kubheka's stay on the farm when he rented it to Pienaar.

As a result of the judgment, Kubheka may also return to the farm. During the earlier trespass case, Kubheka, father of six, told the court that he was born and bred on the farm and had nowhere else to go.

Pienaar, who told the court he had rented the farm in 1984, said he wanted Kubheka to leave because he did not work for him and was old. Kubheka said he offered the farmer his son, Mavio, to work for him, but Pienaar had assaulted him and he had run away. He also said he had re-

called his other son from Johannesburg to replace Mavio, but the farmer refused. At the earlier trial Kubheka was convicted of trespassing and fined R300. He was also ordered to leave his place of birth.



Flashback: Kubheka and his wife leaving their home after being told they were trespassing on the farm.

④ C/Res/14/2/88

CAC Times 20/2/88

3 SA seamen 'beaten' by Taiwanese

Staff Reporter

TAIWANESE fishermen allegedly tied up and stabbed a Langa fisherman, Mr John Mngenge, in the face after he asked for his wages and requested to be sent home from Reunion Island.

Two other South African crew members were allegedly beaten up by Taiwanese sailors when they demanded their wages.

The allegations were made yesterday by Mr Aubrey Yekani, also of Langa, who spent six months at sea with Mr Mngenge and Mr Sikofolo Sawuzana as crew on the Taiwanese trawler *Hiashan 2*.

According to Mr Yekani, the boatswain of the trawler refused to allow the South Africans to return home when the vessel docked at Reunion in the Indian Ocean.

"We wanted to go home at the end of the contract, but the Taiwanese boatswain told us that we would have to spend another six months at sea. We were very dissatisfied and asked for

our wages," said Mr Yekani.

The boatswain allegedly refused to pay the men, who were promised R6 000 at the end of their contracts.

"We were grabbed by other crewmen and beaten about the face and body.

"Then the boatswain ordered us to paint the ship before we left, and when we refused, Mr Mngenge's hands were tied and a sailor stabbed him through the cheek," Mr Yekani said.

Mr Mngenge was given medical treatment on the island after his colleagues lodged a complaint with the police.

The three South African sailors — without being paid — were eventually taken to Reunion airport by a shipping agent and flown via Mauritius to South Africa on February 8.

The president of the Seamen's Maritime Union, Mr Stephanus Stevens, said the union had taken legal action against the trawler's agents.

The manager of the agency that employed the men, Mr Paddy Sheridan, could not be reached last night for comment.

Pop star foot R21m tour bi

LONDON. — George Michael is footing an amazing R21 million bill for his world tour.

The think-big star spared no expense to make the eight-month, 150-date extravaganza the most lavish affair in the history of rock.

When he launched his first solo roadshow in Japan last night, 24-year-old George had with him a huge entourage and a specially-chosen aid.

The massive travel troupe, which will accompany him until October when the tour winds up in America, is set to cost the singer R588 000 a week in wages and travel bills alone.

Group members are each getting between R1 750 and R7 000 a week, simply to ensure a gorgeous George feels at home while

88/12/188.
B/day
4

Slow aid to farmers

PRETORIA — Only R19m of the R400m set aside by government to rescue farmers from sequestration has so far been allocated.

An Agricultural Credit Board (ACB) spokesman said applications for aid from the fund had slowed down towards the end of 1st year because of the favourable weather conditions, and the prospect of good crops.

However prospects deteriorated in January and the tempo of appli-

GERALD REILLY

cations was increasing.

A Transvaal Agricultural Union spokesman said farmers were angry at the time it took to process applications.

They claimed the procedure was clogged with red tape.

"Farmers with sequestration hanging over their heads want quick answers about whether or not they are getting aid," he said.

PRETORIA — Most agricultural control boards were confident 1988 would be one

of the best years of the past decade, said forecasts tabled at the Agricultural Outlook Conference (Agrocon) yesterday.

But, the Meat Board said, the average auction price of beef would soar 15% this year.

The average price was likely to be 486c/kg.

The price escalation in the past two years resulted from a shortage of beef, especially for processing.

During 1988, limited supplies of beef would be exported to maintain overseas contacts.

It was forecast that 24 000 tons of beef would have to be imported to relieve the local shortage.

The Wheat Board reported a record 2,8-million ton crop — 0,6-mil-

Good farming year forecast

GERALD REILLY

lion more than the previous season.

The board expected wheat consumption to quicken with urbanisation and, by 2000, it should amount to 3,5-million tons.

The sugar industry expected production to remain stable this year despite losses caused by last September's floods.

The industry was investigating the production of fuel ethanol from cane to ensure greater income stability.

The broiler industry estimated the industry had reached a value of R1bn. It expected that within the next 10 years, more chicken than beef would be consumed.

The poultry meat industry was ex-

pected to expand by at least 10% this year.

The Maize Board said sales of maize for human consumption declined during the past three marketing seasons.

The main reason was the relatively high consumer price and that yellow maize had to be added to white maize to meet the demand.

Although sales of yellow maize increased 11% in the first half of the 1987/88 marketing season, a long road was still ahead to win back lost market share.

Analysis showed international maize prices would remain under pressure until 1991.

④ B/day 16/2/88

White farms included in KwaNdebele

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
— The Rust der Winter district will be incorporated in the KwaNdebele homeland, as recommended by the Foreign Affairs and Development Aid Select Committee, the House of Assembly decided yesterday.

The Commission's recommendation was agreed to after a 90-minute debate and a division in which the all the Opposition parties voted against government.

Education and Development Aid Minister Gerrit Viljoen said although the incorporation of Rust der Winter was not part of the original consolidation proposals, it had been part of a draft plan which had been canvassed and evaluated before June 1983.

Before the announcement in December 1985 that government was in fact contemplating its incorporation, the landowners affected were consulted.

Racist reasons

The decision was preceded by 14 days of direct consultations, without again advertising the matter, or calling for fresh evidence before the Commission.

The Minister also gave the assurance that the farms concerned would not be handed over before government was satisfied that economic farming and planned development was assured.

Peter Soal (PFP Johannesburg North) slammed the incorporation as "sordid". He said his party opposed it, not for racist reasons, but because it believed it was part of government's juggling with land and people for ideology.

"We are not opposed to black people acquiring land, but not in this manner," he said.

Soal said: "Farmers of Rust der Winter, other than those who are insolvent or destitute, are not satisfied with the incorporation into KwaNdebele."

Clive Derby Lewis (CP nominated) said Rust der Winter was a good example of what people were saying about President P W Botha "progressively" giving SA away.

Calling on government to reconsider, he asked: "How many more Rust der Winters lie ahead for SA's farming communities?"

A T Meyer (NP Cradock) said Soal's claims that farmers of the area resisted the incorporation were not true. In fact, the majority were on record as being in favour.

KwaNdebele needed the agricultural area to be incorporated, to make the self-governing national state more economically viable.

MC Botma (NP Walvis Bay) said it was clear the area would not be allowed to deteriorate after incorporation and the new farmers on the land would be assisted to establish themselves.

JD van Wyk (CP Witbank) said the move was an indication of government's disregard for the feelings and wishes of farmers. The way the handover was being effected was "destruction of democracy in the worst way possible". — Sapa.

~~blacks~~
16/2/88

c
t
a
c
C
c
D
v
d
te
ot
m
ge

88/12/41

Drought devastated farmers

By Paul Olivier

The whole of the western Transvaal was a disaster area and the South African Agricultural Union would be asked to look into the welfare of maize farmers devastated by drought, Mr Wilko Beukes, a member of the Transvaal Agricultural Union's executive committee, said last night.

He said at a press conference in Pretoria that farmers in some parts had difficulty feeding and clothing their families.

"The morale of many of the farmers is low.

"All measures must be taken to stabilise them and give them peace of mind."

He said that in the Lichtenburg area three schools had been closed during the drought of the past few years, resulting in the loss of more than 11 000 scholars.

● See Page 4.

Eskom pragmatism reaches to equator

By Michael Chester

17/12/88

Eskom, the state electricity network giant, yesterday proposed a round-table conference with neighbouring countries as far north as the equator to discuss the creation of a power grid to cover the sub-continent.

The Eskom chief executive, Mr Ian McRae, said the object was to harness the energy and technology resources of the whole region. The master plan was to use the multi-national grid as the foundation to economic unity outside the political sphere.

He said there had already been positive responses to proposals of new co-operation and mutual assistance from six neighbours, several of which had entered into formal agreements over two-way export and import deals on energy supplies.

The next aim was to arrange round-table discussions with the nine member nations of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference.

Undaunted by political conflicts, Mr McRae, as an engineer, views the chances of success in pragmatic rather than ideological terms.

"The sub-continent has a simple choice — economic stagnation caused by political division with growing unemployment and worsening poverty, or economic dynamism stemming from co-operation in the non-political sphere.

"If there is stalemate among the politicians, it should not mean that everything else must stay at a standstill."

Mr McRae said it would be stressed that Eskom had no ambition to act as Big Brother and dictate the terms of the exercise.

● See Page 15.

Disputes/work stoppages/strikes

37. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Manpower:
(a) How many (i) disputes, (ii) work stoppages and (iii) strikes were reported in 1987 in terms of the Labour Relations Act, No 28 of 1956, to (aa) his Department and (bb) the Wage Board and (b) in what industries, trades or occupations did (i) work stoppages and (ii) strikes occur?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER:

- (a) (i) (aa) and The Labour Relations Act, 1956, does not contain provisions in terms of which disputes must be reported to the Department of Manpower or the Wage Board.
(ii) (aa) 123.
(iii) (aa) 1025.
(ii) (bb) and Work stoppages and strikes are not reportable to the Wage Board.
(iii) (bb)
(b) (i) and
(ii)

Table with 2 columns: Industry, Figures. Rows include Construction (84), Electricity (6), Finance and insurance (16), Government and services (54), Manufacturing (580), Mining (141), Trade and accommodation (220), Transport and communication (47), TOTAL (1148).

NOTE: The figures under (b) include strikes and work stoppages. Separate figures for the different industries, trades or occupations are not available.

Farm domestic workers--report on working conditions

38. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Manpower:

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 7 on 2 June 1987, consultations concerning the report of the National Manpower Commission on the working conditions of farm and domestic workers have now been completed; if not, (a) why not and (b) what remains to be

done to complete this investigation; if so, when;

- (2) whether the report has been released; if so, when; if not, (a) why not and (b) who took the decision in this regard;
(3) whether any action affecting the working conditions of farm and domestic workers is to be taken as a result of the findings of this commission; if not, why not; if so, (a) what action and (b) when;
(4) (a) when was this commission established and (b) what was the total cost of the commission as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER:

- (1) No.
(a) Consultations with organized agriculture are still in progress as the agricultural sector is diverse, comprising a great many interest groups at national, regional and district level.
(b) The nature of the sectors involved and the geographical diversity prevailing in agriculture necessitate drawn-out discussions and further investigation. It is consequently not possible to give a precise indication as to when finality will be reached.

- (2) No.
(a) The Labour Relations Act, 1956, provides for the National Manpower Commission to submit its reports and recommendations to the Minister of Manpower, who decides on any actions to be taken thereon. It is, however, not incumbent upon the Minister to release any report, with the exception of the annual report.
(b) The Minister of Manpower.
(3) Whether any action is to be taken, will be considered once consultations with organized agriculture have been concluded
(a) Falls away
(b) Falls away.
(4) (a) 1 October 1979.
(b) The total cost of the Commission up to 31 March 1987 amounted to R5,03 million.

Blacks in independent states: South African citizenship

95. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Home Affairs:
(1) How many Blacks in each independent Black state regained their South African citizenship in 1987 in terms of the National States Citizenship Amendment Act, No 13 of 1978;
(2) whether any applications were refused; if so, (a) how many from each state and (b) why in each case?

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

- (1) Owing to the provisions of the Restoration of South African Citizenship Act, 1986 (Act 73 of 1986), which came into effect on 1 July 1986, no Black of any of the independent states applied in terms of section 3 of the National States Citizenship Act, 1970 (Act 26 of 1970), as amended by the National States Citizenship Amendment Act, 1978 (Act 13 of 1978) for South African citizenship during 1987.
(2) (a) and (b) Fall away.

Johannesburg: rapid rail transit system

106. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:
Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 253 on 5 August 1987, a decision has been taken on the introduction of a rapid rail transit system for Johannesburg; if not, why not; if so, what decision?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

No. The matter is still under consideration.

107. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:
(1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 1 on 25 August 1987, the Commission for Administration has carried out a further investigation into the matter of whether drivers' licences should be separate from identity documents; if so,
(2) whether the Commission has reported to

the Cabinet Committee for Economic Affairs; if so.

- (3) whether this committee has reached a decision on the matter; if so, (a) what is the decision of this committee and (b) what decision has the Cabinet made in this regard?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes.
(2) Yes.
(3) Yes.
(a) and (b) The Cabinet has decided not to separate the two documents.
Members charged/convicted, bounds of duty exceeded

192. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Defence:

- (1) Whether, in 1987, any members of the South African Defence Force were (a) charged with and (b) convicted of exceeding the bounds of duty while serving in any Black townships; if so, (i) how many and (ii) in respect of what offences in each case;
(2) whether, in that year, any civil actions were instituted against (a) him and/or (b) any members of the Defence Force for acts committed by members of the Defence Force while on duty in Black townships; if so, (i) how many, (ii) what were the circumstances surrounding each claim and (iii) what was the nature of the claim in each case;
(3) whether any of these actions have been finalized; if so, (a) how many as at the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) what was the outcome in each case?

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (1) (a) 4
(ii) 3 assault, 1 assault and theft, 1 assault
(b) 1
(i) 1 assault
(ii) As on 31 December 1987, 97 instances surrounding all the actions would run to volumes and

Paarl's new-style farmer makes it in city

by HENRI du PLESSIS
Finance Staff

GOOD labour relations and the delegation of responsibility have made Dave Rennie one of the foremost suppliers of vegetables to top supermarkets.

Avoiding as far as possible the open market, he sells his vegetables ready-packed to supermarkets and maintains a quality which he believes satisfies discerning clients.

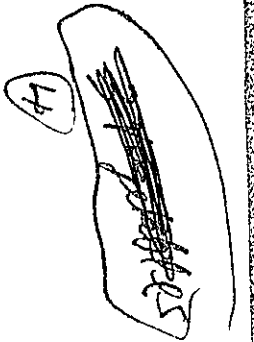
This is what he planned from the modest start he made on his first farm near Porterville in 1973. It has paid off. Today Rennie Farms is a name to take note of in the vegetable industry.

Trained as a fruit farmer — he obtained a B.Sc (Agric) degree at Stellenbosch University in the early 70s — he worked on a fruit farm in the US for a year.

Upon his return he managed to scrape together enough capital to buy a wheat farm near Porterville, but he soon changed it to a vegetable farm.

In 1977 he accepted a Government offer and moved to Paarl.

"I guess I got lucky — the



Dave Rennie ... getting ahead in an increasingly capital-intensive business.

Government wanted half of my farm at Porterville to build a dam.

"I sold out and was glad to move here because I wanted to get closer to the city markets and to my family.

"With vegetables you don't need a lot of farm and most of my produce is grown in tunnels, the first two of which I bought in 1974. I have about 5,5 hectares under tunnels and shade-cloth."

Just eight people worked for him when he started. That

figure has since increased to 350, with eight managers.

"I strongly believe in the delegation of responsibility — it brings about more efficient management and better control," said Mr Rennie.

"I subscribe to the Rural Foundation and believe in sharing profits. This makes farmers think more about their workers and the workers about the farmer.

"The workers then do not see the farmer as the one who makes them work while he takes all the money.

"As far as labour relations are concerned, I leave my managers to plan their own policy. One thing I do not like is hiring and firing — when a person wants to leave, we discuss it first because I want to know why," he added.

"You must have staff you know can do the job. Last year I went on a study trip for a month. When I returned, my clients praised my staff, saying they had done an excellent job."

Now, when walking through his successful little kingdom,

Mr Rennie seldom interferes with the day-to-day work of his managers.

"I rather leave them to do what they think right, because they know where they are with their work.

"We run a very loose organisation — there are no fixed meeting times and we only see each other during tea break.

"Everybody on the farm contributes to make the profit and I definitely could not have done it without them."

Tomatoes form about 50 percent of the three farms' produce, English cucumbers 25 percent and a combination of wine grapes, export grapes, potatoes and sweet potatoes the remainder.

A relatively new section where flowering potplants are being nursed to maturity has already proven its worth.

Most of the plants were very popular, he said, and he saw that side of his business growing together with the demand for vegetables.

"The vegetable market is growing constantly with the population growth and as the lower income classes become richer," he said.

"We are fairly up with technology compared to the rest of the world, but we are behind on variety.

"This has improved, though. I think about 20 new types of vegetables have arrived on the market in as many years.

"We don't buy new machinery, we repair the old ones. And we study diseases and bacteria to know how we can use less chemicals."

- (All iv) t
- v) t
- vi) t
- vii) t
- viii) t
- ix) th in
- x) the
- xi) th f
- xii) t
- xiii) t

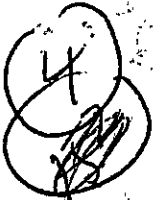
The Af
Indus
Vegeta

In-ho
factor
(12 F
Pinea
Agreem
in Ash
in Cap

S.A. MILLING
EPOL
Cape Oil
SASKO

2512-2/3/88
Santw

Crippled worker to take action against police



DURBAN - A farm worker has been crippled and may lose his leg after he was allegedly shot by police who were called in to evict workers from a Natal farm.

Management had called police to the farm to load workers onto buses which had been arranged to take all contract workers back to the Transkei.

The 23-year-old Mbangiswa Lugojo is unable to walk without a walking stick after the incident on the Crookes Bros Farm, near Stanger, on December 18 last year.

The entire labour force of 360 workers had been dismissed after a work stoppage on December 16 in protest against the detention of the Natal farm worker organiser, Mr Richard Gumede, and a shop steward.

Gumede and the shop steward had been trying to negotiate a wage increase when management complained to police that they were intimidating and harassing workers.

Lugojo said that on the day of the incident, he and another worker had gone to the shop when they heard that the workers had been instructed to get their belongings together and board the buses. They returned to the farm where

police allegedly opened fire on him with birdshot.

He said he was shot at without warning and for no reason, as he was walking back to get his belongings.

He said the police then took him to the local hospital where he received no medical treatment. He was given pain killers and ointment to rub on his leg and discharged after two days.

He then went to Durban's King Edward VIII hospital where he was told they would not be able to remove the bullets, as there were too many of them and they may have to cut his leg off.

The personnel department of Crookes Bros have denied any knowledge of the incident.

Lugojo, a Transkei contract worker who had worked on the farm for three months, said he was worried as he did not know whether he would be able to work again.

He is living in a squatter shack now and is unable to go home as he has not been paid out. He worked nearly 12 hours a day as a sugarcane cutter, but earned only R100 a month.

Lugojo said he will be taking legal action against the police. Stanger police declined to comment.

Concorde

WORKERS AT FARMS GET UNION

Sowetan
2/3/58



MORE than 1200 workers attended the inaugural conference of the National Union of Farmworkers (NUF) in Johannesburg at the weekend.

The NUF, an affiliate of the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), has called on other unions organising in the industry to disband and join it "in accordance with the principle of one-union-one-industry."

Addressing the conference, Nactu's general secretary, Mr Piroshaw Camay said: "We, in Nactu, have always believed in independence from political organisations. This is an important principle which needs to be emphasised."

Mr Camay said two Nactu members were killed last year, "by our own brothers". One of

By LEN MASEKO

them was Mr Amos Boshomana, a shop steward with the Steel Engineering and Allied Workers' Union.

Nactu was being forced to organise defence committees to protect its members, Mr Camay said.

Resolutions taken at the meeting included:

- That the union believed that workers' interests and demands could be best served only

through the development "by workers of the workers' manifesto"; and

- The union recognised all the historical documents "noting the liberation struggle"; and

The following office bearers were elected at the conference: Edward Musekwa (president), Lazarus Motswadi (vice-president), Moses Mahlangu (treasurer), Anthony Makhubu (assistant treasurer) and Tshaka Moletsane (general secretary).

D/P 4/3/88
1 200 at union meeting (4)

More than 1 200 workers attended the inaugural conference of the National Union of Farmworkers (NUF) in Johannesburg last weekend.

The NUF, an affiliate of the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), has called on other unions organising in the industry to disband and join it "in accordance with the principle of one-union-one-industry."

Addressing the conference, Nactu's general secretary, Mr Piroshaw Camay said: "We, in Nactu, have always believed in independence from political organisations. This is an important principle which needs to be emphasised."

Among resolutions taken at the meeting were that the union believed workers' interests

and demands could be best served only through the development "by workers of the workers' manifesto".

Office bearers elected at the conference were: Edward Musekwa (president), Lazarus Motswadi (vice-president), Moses Mahlangu (treasurer), Anthony Makhubu (assistant treasurer) and Tshaka Moletsane (general secretary).

Union first for vulnerable farm workers

A NATIONAL union of farmworkers has been formed for the first time in South African labour history.

According to a statement from the organisers, about 1 200 workers attended the launch of the National Union of Farmworkers (NUF), an affiliate of the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), in Johannesburg last weekend.

Workers travelled to the launch from Natal, the Western Cape, the Northern and Eastern Transvaal and the outskirts of Johannesburg, the statement said.

An official of the union said this week that the union had membership at farms in the Tsitsikama Forest, at the Centrechem farms used for the testing of chemicals in Natal, Funfair Chicken Farms, the pig farms in Worcester and Anglo-American Corporation farms.

Farmworkers are excluded from the Labour Relations Act and therefore have little protection as employees.

"Our membership is drawn from different ideological persuasions. Some belong to Inkatha, United Democratic Front, Azapo, so we cannot be affiliated to any political organisation," an NUF spokesman said.

Nactu is a rival labour federation to the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) and is usually associated with the black consciousness movement.

However, in its statement, the NUF organisers said they "believed in the independence of Nactu from political organisations.

"We are, however, not neutral in

By **THANDEKA QGUBULE**

the national liberation struggle. Nactu members will assume their rightful place at the vanguard of the struggle".

The union said that, as a Nactu affiliate, it was committed to "anti-racism, anti-capitalism, anti-imperialism and anti-discrimination".

In an apparent reference to the Freedom Charter and the Azanian Manifesto, the NUF said it "recognises all the historical documents" of the

"liberation struggle"

"The union believes that worker interests, demands and views can best be served only through the development by workers of a workers' manifesto," it added.

NUF called on all other unions organising on farms to disband and join them "in accordance with the principle of one union, one industry".

The inauguration meeting commemorated the 10th anniversary of the death of Pan-Africanist Congress leader Robert Sobukwe.

PW blames 'radicals' for defeat

vaal, three in the Free State and one in the Cape."

It is probable that, were there a general election this year, the CP could at least double its current tally of 20 seats in the white chamber.

However, the really big winner seems to be the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB) whose links with the CP were exploited to the full by newspapers such as *Beeld*.

The only effect of that appears to have been to drive more voters into the CP. The propaganda campaign inadvertently revealed that rural Transvaal whites don't really mind the AWB's neo-fascist image and behaviour — a factor the government will have to take into account if it ever considers banning it.

It has also shown that *kragdadige* election eve gestures — like bombing

● From PAGE 1

Angola and effectively banning 17 anti-apartheid organisations — do not impress rightwing voters enough to win them back to the NP.

The National Party, like the United Party of old, is increasingly being forced to rely on English-speaking support, in Johannesburg, Natal and the Eastern Cape, to compensate for the loss of the northern Afrikaners.

The major difference with history is that, unlike the NP of old, the CP is not a national coalition.

It is regionally based in the Transvaal and Orange Free State and without a major breakthrough among Afrikaner voters in the Cape Province the ceiling on the number of seats it can win, falls short of an overall majority in the country.

4-10/3/88

w/muel

~~2086~~

4 B/day 4/3/88

BUSINESS DAY, Friday, 1

SAAU looks at flood damage

PRETORIA — The SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) has begun to assess the damage suffered by the industry in the floods in the Free State, Natal, northern and eastern Cape.

It is feared the flood damage is the worst incurred in the last half century. Combined with the previous four years of drought, it amounts to a disaster in many areas.

Provincial unions broadly sketched the extent of damage in their areas at a SAAU general council meeting this week.

No monetary assessment has been attempted, but a spokesman says the amount involved is certain to be huge.

When the final toll in damaged or destroyed buildings, machinery, equipment and fencing is known it will be counted in tens of millions of rands, authorities claim.

GERALD REILLY

Stock losses have also been heavy. One dairy farm near Bloemfontein lost more than 100 registered Frieslands. Thousands of sheep have drowned.

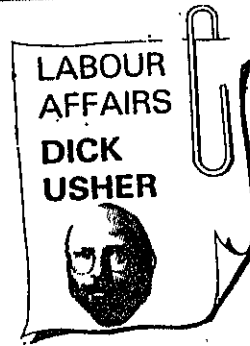
SAAU president Kobus Jooste has appealed to farmers to report details of damage as swiftly as possible. Forms for reporting this are available at co-operatives and local agriculture department offices.

Jooste says it is important that aerial pictures be taken of the flood-stricken farmlands to support damage claims.

The SAAU has already alerted government to the need for aid. Affected provincial agricultural unions have been authorised to accept contributions for distressed farmers.

BUSINESS

Farmworkers unions brings 'semi-feudal' sector in focus



A NEW union for farmworkers was launched in Johannesburg last weekend, illustrating increasing focus on this very difficult sector.

The National Union of Farmworkers (NUF) is affiliated to the National Council of Trade Unions. It called on other unions organising in the industry to disband and join it "in accordance with the principle of one-union-one-industry".

This call tends to trespass on the slogans of the other union involved in this area, the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu), an affiliate of Cosatu (Congress of South African Trade Unions) which adopted the one union, one industry policy at its launch in 1985.

Sporadic attempts

Interestingly enough, although Nactu unions generally subscribe to the Azanian Manifesto rather than the Freedom Charter which has been endorsed by Cosatu, the NUF congress resolved that workers' interests and demands could best be served through the development by workers of a workers' manifesto.

And it also recognised all the "historical documents" — the Manifesto and the Charter.

Farmworkers have traditionally been difficult to organise. Only sporadic attempts have been made since the flood of rural workers who joined the Industrial and Commercial Union (ICU) in the 1930s.

They are excluded from the provisions and protections of the Labour Relations Act and proposals to extend provisions to them and domestic workers appear to have been held up by problems with organised agriculture. Also, they generally live in semi-feudal conditions where they are very much at the mercy of the whims of their employers.

Although there is often a good relationship between the farmworkers and their employers, farmers as a group tend to be seen as less than progressive when it comes to industrial relations.

However, there have been some stirrings in this area and the South African Agricultural Union last year decided to appoint an industrial relations officer to advise farmers in this area.

Organising is also very difficult.

With the workers living on the job and the job being on private property, union organisers would technically be trespassing if they entered private farms.

And when the workers often live kilometres away from roads, "factory gate" organising is not really a possibility.

Fawu has approached this problem by organising where they have access to farms on which there is some form of product processing.

"This is an attempt to give them some protection," a Fawu spokesman said.

8/3/88 (4) SPA

Child labour law reminder

Although the use of child labour during school hours was not a fundamental problem, the Government wanted farmers and labourers to know where it stood on the issue, the Minister of Education and Development Aid, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, said in the House of Representatives yesterday.

Dr Viljoen was speaking in the second reading debate on the Education and Training Amendment Bill, which prohibits the use of child labour during school hours and provides for increased penalties for an offence.

NRGAS

Tuesday, March 15 1988 3

4

Wine workers get it down on celluloid

Tygerberg Bureau

WINE farm workers are to benefit from a series of training videos aimed at improving their skills.

The videos were launched at a ceremony in Paarl yesterday and are available to farmers from today.

The Rural Foundation commissioned the films and KWV sponsored the bulk of the project, with contributions from Stellenbosch Farmers' Winery and other companies.

There are seven tapes of 15 to 20 minutes each, dealing with various stages of wine growing.

The series took more than a year to make because each phase had to be shot at different growing stages and seasons.

Mr Frans Malan, chairman of the foundation, said he believed the videos would help workers deliver a better service and result in their being paid better.

It was one of the ways in which the foundation helped raise the standard of living of farm workers, he said.

4 (down) 17/3/88

Value

stry and the R155,4m for

uring of the added: "The er relevance

the partner- ic sector and e pipeline for

clearly spelt f technology rganisation on strategic

Volkscas: no easy cure for farming

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — There are no simple or instant solutions to SA's deep-seated agricultural problems, says Volkscas economist A Louw.

In a survey, he said the exceptional interdependence of government, the farmer, and input and supply industries demanded concerted efforts to make successful use of aid and revitalisation measures.

Government aid had helped agriculture generally, and if some of the problems could be eliminated it could make an important contribution to the revitalisation of the industry.

But, Louw said, the level of technical, economic and financial management in agriculture still left much room for improvement.

Available knowledge and technology were not being applied.

Unions

He said trade unions were set to become a reality in agriculture. Proactive action by farmers and the authorities was therefore essential to prevent politically inspired action from harming agriculture during critical periods.

On interest rates, Louw said they could show a moderate increase to 14% or even 15% towards the end of the year.

This would exert further financial pressure on farmers.

On inflation, he said the Economic Advisory Council had estimated inflation contributed 46,8% to farmers' increased debt burden between 1980 and 1985, compared with 31,4% for interest costs and 21,8% caused by drought.

It was expected, he added, that inflation would have contributed even more to farmers' worsening financial positions in 1986 and 1987.



BRANDS

R SELLING, PRICES

d silver coins, and jewellery ated.

R ADAMS 31-5100

120164

BROW

flats and rally situat- te St. Con- ground floor 36 flats on ally let. Sec- approved.

er details one all hours. S94382

DER

WORK TING,

TING.

HOURS S62928

INI
til
att
tio
kel
sea

I
clu
mo
ass
fla

ter
ket

ls

like

tu

d

it

1

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

60

65

70

75

80

85

90

95

100

Agriculture's position is deteriorating

① B/accy Political Staff 17/3/88

THE farming sector, on which 5,5-million people were directly or indirectly dependent for employment, has been seriously set back in recent years and certain sectors are in a desparate financial position, Finance Minister Barend du Plessis says.

In 1977, income from a year and a half's farming could have redeemed the sector's debt, but by 1986 it would have taken five year's worth of farming to pay off its debts.

Farming debt had increased from just below R2bn at the end of 1975 to more than R11bn at the end of 1986.

The key role played by agriculture could not be gainsaid and it played a much greater role than was reflected by the statistics on the economy.

It was a great consumer of intermediate inputs and in 1985, R4,14bn was involved in in this.

"It also provides work opportunities for some 1,25-million people, while about 5,5-million people are directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture for employment.

"Furthermore, the sector is second only to gold as the largest net earner of foreign exchange," he said.

Farmer in court over labourer's death

By CHRIS STEYN

A WELL-KNOWN Still Bay farmer has been charged with murder, following the death of a labourer who was clubbed to death.

Mr Everitt Kleinhans appeared in the Riversdal Magistrate's Court yesterday.

It was the 27-year-old Mr Kleinhans' second appearance in court following the death of Mr Henry Kortjee on February 20 this year.

At his first appearance on February 25, Mr Kleinhans, from the farm Grootfontein, pleaded not guilty to a charge of murder, alternatively culpable homicide. He was released on R200 bail.

At yesterday's hearing, the court heard that no decision had yet been taken by the Attorney-General and the case was postponed to May 4.

Mr Kleinhans appeared before Mr P R Barkhuisen. Warrant-Officer J D Cronje prosecuted. Mr Kleinhans was not represented.

cap
1/10/85
26/3/88

4

Picking grapes tough on a city slicker's hands

care TwpB 26/5/88 (4)

HARVESTING grapes is a sobering but satisfying experience — as GERTRUDE COOPER found when she joined the vintage in the Slangoek valley near Rawsonville recently.

PICKING grapes is sticky work. It's also hot work. Your back hurts after five baskets.

And the folk waiting to do the hard work of lifting the baskets on to the bin pick 10 times that amount in one working day!

There is, one soon learns, a knack in picking if one wants to keep one's thumb intact.

"Nooi gaan aan die linker kant, dis makliker," one of the "professionals" whispers encouragingly. He's right. It is easier. Bunches (how do grapes manage to get themselves so intricately twined around wire supports?) are easier to see and get at.

"Nooi. Hou die mandjie onder die stok." Another piece of whispered advice which speeds up the job. Everything that falls into the basket.

Commonsense when you know how.

A thrifty soul also rejoices at the reduction in waste. All those korrels lying on the ground!

Joining in the vintage is a once-a-year experience offered by sixth-generation wine maker, Stanley Louw on his Opstal Estate in the Slangoek Valley near Rawsonville.

If there is not in every city slicker a wine maker longing to escape, the percentage is pretty high nevertheless, says Louw. A dedicated wine maker himself (he was the winner of SFW's '87 vineyard block competition) he appreci-

ates that urge to be part of the soil.

There is also the educational aspect. "Picking grapes gives some understanding of what wine farming is all about. Of what goes into the bottle which is opened so casually at the dinner table."

Louw provides secateurs, transport from the farmhouse to the vineyard, and a glass of chilled Buck's fizz before labours begin. Definitely a cup that cheered as picking progressed.

At least 100 pickers turned up for his harvest day recently. All remarkably prompt considering the 115-km drive over Du Toit's Kloof.

We picked eight tons of steen between us and watched it through the press. Is it imagination or can one read one's name on the bunches which caused blood blisters as they tumble into the machines?

Last comes Louw hospitality. Chicken braided on huge grids beside the Slangoek River. Fresh peached grapes. What you don't eat you can take home. A huge oak provides shade and there's enough water to swim.

Wine of the house with lunch is a mere R2,50 a bottle! Just for the occasion, that is.

● Opstal Estate's Blanc de Noir, Steen, Colombar, Chenin Blanc and Weisser Riesling, all rate two stars in Platter's Wine Guide. The hanepoot gets 3.



PICK A BOX: Opstal owner Stanley Louw and his wife Ria enter into the spirit of harvest day with their temporary pickers.



CPM 29/3/88

Transvaal drought is broken at last

Farmers in north smile at the water

Transvaal farmers are relieved at recent rains and it seems as if the drought has finally been broken, the Transvaal Agricultural Union said in a statement yesterday.

Western Transvaal farmers have high hopes of good farming now. Most dams are full and large crops are expected, the statement said. Northern and central Transvaal farmers have also benefited.

The TAU said: "Things are looking up in the northern Transvaal, although it will take a couple of years before grazing is re-established. Livestock remains a problem through lack of funds and availability."

Dams on average have more water than last year, though in some parts of the northern Transvaal there has been no rain and there farmers are still struggling.

The Department of Environmental Affairs also confirmed that the drought in the far northern Transvaal has been broken.

In the Letaba district there is excitement as the level of the Fanie Botha Dam at Tzaneen continues to rise.

There have been stringent irrigation restrictions in force in the area for five years. The dam reached a low 25 percent level in 1987. But it has risen dramatically to 80 percent since mid-February.

FARMERS ARE REJOICING

The picturesque Ebenezer Dam near Haenertsburg, which provides Pietersburg with 30 percent of its water is full — so is the Naude Dam, Pietersburg's main source.

While many parts of South Africa have been lashed by floods, the far north has had good rains without much damage. Farmers, industrialists and conservationists are rejoicing.

Even the normally arid Messina district in the extreme north is boasting its best grazing conditions in a decade. — Sapa and Northern Transvaal Bureau.

One-off subsidy for farmers in drought areas

Parliamentary Staff

Additional assistance for summer crop farmers who had experienced critical drought conditions was announced by Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentzel yesterday.

Speaking in the House of Assembly during the Own Affairs agriculture-vote debate, Mr Wentzel said the one-off subsidy payment to farmers in those summer crop areas that he termed emergency drought areas would be a maximum of R100 per hectare, to a maximum of 400 ha under dryland crops.

The money would be paid directly to the farmers' creditors after June 1 and would go towards settling their production debts for the 1987/88 season.

Mr Wentzel said the five-year drought, during which some farmers had achieved only about 30 percent of their average normal crop yield, had not only left the farmers "financially devastated and understandably despondent" but had affected the economies of farming towns too — "the shopkeep-

er, doctor, attorney, chemist, hotel and even our churches and schools".

It was also announced that an interest subsidy, equivalent to 10 percentage points of the Land Bank's interest rate on cash credit loans to agricultural co-operatives in respect of farmers' carry-over debts for the 1988/89 season, would be paid.

A subsidy of 5,5 percentage points would be effective on the same basis in respect of overdue production loans with the Agricultural Credit Board, Mr Wentzel said.

He also announced that production loans from the Agricultural Credit Board to qualifying farmers would be increased from R75 000 to R100 000.

The increase was to help farmers obtain essential commodities for their families and would also help in keeping labourers on affected farms and in supporting rural communities.

The main criterion would be the average annual crop yield delivered to the co-operatives for the five production seasons from 1982/83 to 1986/87 compared with a 10-year yield.

SME
4/29/88

POLITICS

Keep politics out of farming, CP urged

Parliamentary Staff Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentzel yesterday appealed to the Conservative Party to keep politics out of farming, an industry that was in trouble and needed competent people — not political squabbling.

One of the contentious issues during the Own Affairs agriculture vote debate in the House of Assembly was the R400-million scheme, introduced last year, to aid farmers faced with sequestration.

CP MP Ferdi Hartzenberg said he would repeat outside the privi-

leged confines of Parliament his belief that the scheme had been designed to fail.

Deputy Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk lashed back, saying he had sworn affidavits from farmers who had been told by the CP not to apply for help from the R400-million scheme as the CP wanted it to fail.

Dr Hartzenberg also alleged that appointments to organised agricultural bodies was dependent not on competence but on political affiliation.

Farmers 'pressured workers'

Some farm labourers were pressurised into not voting in the recent by-election at Ceres because their employers were against coloured representation in Parliament, Mr Clifford Nasson (LP Bokkeveld), said in his maiden speech in the House of Representatives yesterday. — Sapa. (1) SM 29/3/88

H
H
H
H
H
H
H
H
H
H

er for-
loving
y thiri
A. Will
ered by
Sonia
Minnie,
of my
E. Who
April 4,
forgot-
by his
Kiss
gically
ey say
ill sor-
you to
us has
much
et our
ith sad-
ars still
eant to
ill ever
Karl,
been reduced to 129 primary
Unity talks began in July last
year, he added.
wared,

Evicted family sleeps next to road in the rain

By Kaizer Nyatumba

A labourer evicted from an Eastern Transvaal farm spent two nights — one of them wet — sleeping “off the side of the main road” with his family of six.

The labourer, Mr Albert Mthimkhulu, said he grew up on the farm from which Mr F E Johannes of Pam-poenkraal in Panbult evicted him and his family on Thursday last week in the presence of policemen.

A messenger of the court confiscated his TV set, a generator and a case of beer, Mr Mthimkhulu said.

Mr Moray Hathorn of the Legal Resources Centre in Johannesburg said Mr Mthimkhulu first received a written eviction notice from Mr Johannes in November last year, but he had nowhere to go.

He approached a Piet Retief magistrate who wrote a letter to Mr Johannes asking him to allow the Mthimkhulus to stay until June when they would have reaped their crops.

On January 27 Mr Mthimkhulu was fined R30 for trespass.

Mr Johannes denied responsibility for the eviction.

Country

Worker dies after shots by suspicious farmer

East Rand police are investigating the death of a 26-year-old man who was hit in the chest by a bullet when he was working on a Sundra farm on Saturday.

Mr Jeremiah Nkosi of Plot 19 in Sundra was walking in a field with two young boys when a neighbouring farmer, apparently thinking they were up to no good, fired two warning shots from a .22 pistol, a police spokesman said.

One of the shots hit Mr Nkosi in the left side of his chest and he died instantly. The two young boys fled, leaving behind the empty sacks and sickles they were carrying. They later told police the man who had hired the field from the farmer had instructed them to cut fodder for his animals.

Police are investigating the shooting. No charges have yet been laid.

(4) sm 4/4/82

Inkatha Accord can't help workers

From PHINDA KUZWAYO

THE Inkatha-backed Ngotshe accord between white farmers and black farm labour tenants, which has been called "an example of change at the national level", has suffered a credibility blow and is said to be powerless to halt the threatened eviction of 16 black families from a white farm.

This week an angry five-person delegation of black elders from the Sikkhwebezi area in the Ngotshe district, near Vryheid, consulted lawyers in Durban and complained of "harassment".

The delegation, claiming to speak for the black community, said they were disillusioned with the agreement and instructed lawyers to investigate the possibilities of a Supreme Court application to stop or extend the final date of the eviction, and make representations on their behalf to the Ngotshe Association.

They said they were being harassed by white farmers despite the accord. Some of these farmers were signatories to the "peaceful co-existence" agreement.

The Ngotshe Association was set up to imple-

ment the accord after it was signed at Louwsberg in August 1986. The Farmers Association represent white farmers on this body.

Black tenants and the rest of the black community is represented on an equal number basis through Inkatha.

The association's role is to handle grievances and mediate between the farmers and farm workers, resolve land disputes and to "take steps to advance the concerns of people and the spirit of co-operation and loyalty", the constitution claims.

The man who has sparked off the eviction row is Reverend GJ Hugo, who bought the farm Tygerkloof from the HL and H Timber Products Company and told members of the 16 families to pack and move.

In notices served to the families, Rev Hugo has given them a final warning to move by April 8.

Initially, Hugo who is said to be a signatory to the accord, told the families personally that he did not want them on the farm. They did not move because there was nowhere to go.

Hugo allegedly drove cattle of the families to

local pound and called in police to arrest members of the families.

Mr Muzikabani Khumalo, 70, is one such victim who has been "harassed" by Hugo.

He said he was released from prison on Tuesday after paying R800.

Nine of his cattle had been impounded on March 14. He was arrested on March 22, following verbal eviction notices issued by Hugo dating back to January 30.

The families are perplexed by the eviction notices because the HL and H Company had made assurances that they would never be moved from the land. Lawyers wrote to the company recently, demanding an explanation. The company replied saying it was investigating the evictions and would come back later.

Some members of the families still work for HL and H. Others have been pensioned while working for the company.

The Ngotshe Executive Committee has referred the matter to the Natal Provincial Council, appealing to it to grant land for the resettlement of the families. - CONCORD NEWS

FARM WORKERS

Appeasing the Right

Consultations have not been completed on the report of the National Manpower Commission (NMC) investigation into the working conditions of farm and domestic workers, and there is no indication when they will be, Manpower Minister Piet du Plessis has told the Progressive Federal Party MP for Johannesburg North, Peter Soal.

In a written parliamentary reply, Du Plessis says talks on the report — which was handed to government in final form on July 3 1985 after three years' work — are continuing.

"Consultations with organised agriculture are still in progress — the agricultural sector is diverse, comprising a great many interest groups at national, regional and district level. The nature of the sectors involved and the geographical diversity prevailing in agriculture necessitate drawn-out discussions and further investigation. It is consequently not possible to give a precise indication as to when finality will be reached," Du Plessis said.

In June last year, Du Plessis said he intended responding to the report once talks with representatives of organised agriculture had been completed. He would then also consider, "if deemed advisable," releasing the report for general information. Du Ples-

FINANCIAL MAIL APRIL 15 1988

sis told Soal that the Labour Relations Act gave him discretion in deciding whether or not to release an NMC report.

He said that, up until the end of March last year, the NMC, which was established in 1979, had cost R5,03m.

Uniform working conditions and union rights for farm workers are an extremely delicate political issue for the National Party, which is already facing a shift to the Right among white farmers. The chances of the NMC report being released soon — if ever — seem extremely limited.

Activists campaigning for a better deal for farm workers argue that they are the most exploited class of workers in terms of both physical labour and financial reward. They say they need to be brought under the protection of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, the Labour Relations Act and the Unemployment Insurance Fund. ■

April 15 1988

(4) 15/9/88

'I did not want to kill her...'

Man dropped stone on employer's head

By Joe Openshaw

A 30-year-old farmworker said at a murder trial in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday that he had dropped a heavy stone on his employer's head to hurt her because she owed him five months' wages.

He said that when he had asked her for his back pay she told him: "Voetsek. I haven't got any money."

Mr John Ndlovu, of Stonehill Farm, Magaliesburg, was giving evidence in the trial before Mr Justice WR O'Donovan and two assessors in which he, Mr Lazarus Mance (39), also of Stonehill, and a 17-year-old youth are charged with murdering 68-year-old Mrs Marie Therese Goffin van der Borgh, of Doornspruit, Magaliesburg, on July 16 last year.

They are also charged with robbery with aggravating circumstance and have pleaded not guilty to both charges.

Mr Ndlovu said he worked for Mrs van der Borgh for six months, driving a tractor and ploughing on her farm, and had only been paid R250 for one month.

He complained to the police on July 15 about not being paid. After they had spoken to Mrs van der Borgh, they told him she would pay him the next day.

"I had a *babelas* on the morning of July 16 and drank five litres of Barberton and then went and

asked my employer for my money. She again told me to *voetsek* and drove off to town.

"I went back feeling heartsore and drank another 10 litres.

"When she came back from town at 8 pm I went to see her. I didn't say I wanted money because I knew she would not open the door, so I told her there was a veld fire on the farm.

"When she opened the door I told her I wanted my money. She again told me to go away. I felt down-trodden and grabbed her by the throat and held on for a long time. Her eyes rolled back so I let go and she fell down.

"We took her to a hill on Manhaarrand and unloaded her. She raised her head. Mr Mance took a stone and threw it at Mrs van der Borgh and she screamed very loudly.

"We dragged her to a ditch face-down — she was still alive and her dress had been pulled over her head — and rolled her into it."

"I picked up a stone 30 cm long and threw it on top of her head because I felt bad about my money. I did not want to kill her, I only wanted her to feel pain," Mr Ndlovu said.

He and Mr Mance returned in the bakkie to the farm where they ransacked her room and found R60, which they shared. He only learnt the next afternoon, when the police came to the farm with Mrs van der Borgh's blood-stained dress, that she was dead.

The hearing continues today.

AKGUS 19/4/88
Farm
school
article
writer
testifies

Staff Reporter

ROGER KENYON, a contributing editor of Readers Digest, has told the Media Council he did not claim to be a representative of the Department of Education and Training when interviewing the headmaster of a farm school.

He was giving evidence yesterday during the council's hearing of a complaint by the department about an article on farm schools in the July 1987 issue of Readers Digest.

Mr Moses Thesiko, principal of the Tsebong farm school at Viljoensdrift, near Vereeniging, alleges that Mr Kenyon, author of the article, introduced himself to him as a Department of Education and Training official.

Mr Kenyon said: "It would not be in my character. In any event, I laid my bona fides on the table with Anglo-American owners of the farm. There was no reason for any deception."

FRIENDLY

Mr Thesiko had welcomed him in a friendly manner, which suggested that he knew about his "mission", Mr Kenyon said.

Mr Kenyon said Tsebong farm school was well run.

Mr M A Diemont, chairman of the council: Would it not have been fair to say so?

Mr Kenyon: Possibly. The point of the article was to show our readers what the situation is like in the rural areas. I don't think many of our readers have ever physically seen a farm school."

Readers Digest editor Miss Wendy Pankhurst asked him if his article was a fair reflection of farm schools.

PROMISED

Mr Kenyon replied: "Yes, it was very fair. I believe the article shows exactly what is happening in our rural areas as far as the education of children is concerned."

He told her that he had never promised to give Mr Thesiko a copy of the article before publication.

Readers Digest research editor Miss Sylvia Dantu said she read the article to Mr Thesiko twice.

Earlier, Mr Thesiko said Mr Kenyon went to his school on August 15 1986, and introduced himself as being from the Department of Education and Training in Pretoria. It was only after the interview that Mr Thesiko realised Mr Kenyon was from the magazine.

The department and Readers Digest agreed to explore a possible compromise.

(Proceeding)

Throttled, stoned and thrown in a ditch

Two to hang for killing woman (68)

By Joe Openshaw

Two farm labourers who killed their 68-year-old employer by throttling and stoning her and dropping a 24 kg boulder on her head, were sentenced to death in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday after being convicted of murder.

The two, Lazarus Mance (39) and John Ndlovu (30), both of Stonehill Farm, were also sentenced to 10 years' jail for robbing her of a bakkie, watch and R60.

A 17-year-old youth who appeared with them on the two charges was found not guilty by Mr Justice B O'Donovan and acquitted.

The judge and two assessors found there were no extenuating circumstances and rejected as totally false a story by them they had been provoked into assaulting their employer, Mrs Marie Therese Goffin van der Borgh, who lived alone on the farm Doorn-spruit, Magaliesburg, because she had not paid them.

'TREATED LIKE AN ANIMAL'

"This is another instance of old people being attacked and robbed. Mrs van der Borgh was treated like an animal — she was dragged through the veld and then stoned to death," said the prosecutor, Mr S Schmetler, when asking for the death sentence.

"The two had every intention of robbing Mrs van der Borgh and the nature of the injuries indicates they intended killing her," the judge said.

The court found Mance and Ndlovu went to see

Mr van der Borgh on the night of July 16 last year and Ndlovu encouraged her to open the door and look out by telling her there was a fire on the mountain. He then grabbed her by the throat.

"Ndlovu throttled her until she lost consciousness. He and Mance loaded her on her bakkie and drove her 14 km where they took her clothes off and she became conscious. Mance hit her on the head with a stone and then they dragged her face down over rough ground and dumped her in a ditch. Ndlovu then dropped a 24 kg boulder on her head and they left," the judge said.

They returned to the farm where they ransacked her room and found R60 which they shared.

Ndlovu said in evidence he had worked for six months for Mrs van der Borgh and had only been paid for one month.

He had grabbed her and throttled her because he felt downtrodden and heartsore because of her treatment of him and had meant to hurt her and teach her a lesson — not kill her.

"The court formed an unfavourable impression of their demeanour as witnesses and concluded they were unabashed liars.

"Both Mance and Ndlovu were well-known to Mrs van der Borgh and the robbery could never have remained undetected while she was alive," the judge said.

Mr Justice O'Donovan noted the intention by the defence team to apply for leave to appeal against sentence of death.

ST Times
24/4/88

R35-to-R105 workers demand higher wages

By Robyn Chalmers

MORE than 6-million black farm workers and their dependants are living on a monthly wage of between R35 to R105.

This is disclosed in a Nation Union of Farm and Agricultural Workers of SA (Nufasa) demand to the Government for an improvement in wages.

Nufasa general secretary Sam Moswane says blacks employed in agriculture in the Transvaal and Highveld areas earn from R35 a month for ploughmen to R150 for those on vegetable farms.

SA Agricultural Union deputy director Kobus Kleynhans says at least 6-million blacks and their dependants work and live on white-owned farms.

Mr Moswane says that if the demand is not met, "the union will decide what action to take".

But there is little room for employees' action. Mr Kleynhans says that although the right to strike is inherent in common law, "if people walk out they are breaking their contract with their employer".

"The employer has the right to terminate the contract and order them off the land."

Mr Moswane says there is "no legislation to protect dismissed farm workers, accommodation is generally poor and most of them are illiterate".

Farm workers are excluded from:

- The provisions of the Labour Act, which means they cannot use the collective bargaining or dispute resolution machinery provided by the Act.
- Protection afforded under the Basic Condi-

tions of Employment Act, so their conditions of employment are governed only by common law.

- The Unemployment Insurance Fund.
- Legal protection from victimisation for trade union activities and the right to form registered trade unions.
- Minimum safety regulations governing working conditions.

A National Manpower Commission was appointed in 1982 to look into the working conditions of farm and domestic workers, and handed its findings to the Minister of Manpower on July 3, 1985.

The report has not been released. Manpower Minister Piet du Plessis said in a parliamentary reply that "consultations with organised agriculture are still in progress".

The discussions began in June last year.

Farmers owe a whopping R2,6bn

4

PRETORIA — Years of drought have sent farmers' debts to the Land Bank soaring.

GERALD REILLY

According to the bank's 1987 report, farmers owed in long- and intermediate-term loans a huge R2,633bn.

costs and interest rates, and other pressing debts.

This was an increase of R134,236m compared with the previous year.

Government paid a portion of farmers' interest commitments in terms of the bank's 20-year guaranteed drought relief loans.

At the end of last year, unpaid interest and capital instalments amounted to nearly R200m — R43m more than in 1986.

The bank says at the end of last year there were 33 993 long-term loan accounts in operation.

The bank says the increase in the amounts in arrears can mainly be ascribed to adverse climatic conditions, high input

The board used its powers of sale in 93 cases.

B/boy
26/11/88

ve developed uge complex.

any small complexes, sophisticated high-rise office
s, industrial buildings and a billion rand track record.
(011) 28-1066 today and find out more about
onship with J.H.I.



velopment and Project Management.

ndent property organisation in Southern Africa.

▲Kuper Hands 7252/91 JHE

Farmers square up against trade unions

FARMERS will pull out all the stops to prevent trade unions from becoming too powerful, says a consultant of the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU).

Dawie de Villiers, associate director of labour relations at Unisa's School of Business Leadership, says: "Farmers feel threatened by the formation of trade unions in the rural areas, and believe it is wrong."

Job total

"Unions pushing for better wages and higher standards of living do not fully understand the dynamics of farm life."

About 1,3-million workers are employed on farms. They are represented by six trade unions which are not recognised.

Statistics on the number of members they have are difficult to ascertain. Cosatu says its National Union of Farm and Agricultural Workers (Nufasa) has 22 000 members.

A report in Die Afrikaner, moutpiece of the HNP, says the Paper, Print and Allied Workers Union has 5 000 members in forestry plantations in Natal and the Eastern Transvaal and the Orange Vaal General Worker Union on Anglo American farms claims a membership of 5 000.

The National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) affiliate National Union of Farmworkers says it has 15 000 paid-up members.

Cosatu's Food and Allied Workers Union maintains that the unions have the greatest

By Robyn Chalmers

effect on corporate farms, but they are increasing their strength on small ones.

Professor de Villiers says: "Unions could force farmers to lay off many workers if they get higher wages. The only place for these workers to go would be towns and cities, which have chronic housing shortages and unemployment."

SAAU deputy director Kobus Kleynhans says farmers regard the unions as a nuisance factor.

"Nowhere in the world will you find an instance where unions have worked on farms," he says.

Common law

Conditions of employment for farm workers are governed only by common law, and unions are pushing for some form of regulation.

Professor de Villiers agrees that workers need protection, and says they should be included under the Basic Conditions of Employment Act.

"I have made numerous representations to the relevant bodies on this score, bearing in mind that because the Act was written for factory workers it has to be looked at in depth."

The major problems facing workers are relatively low wages and the lack of job security.

Handwritten signature: Howard

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

- St Catherine's
- St Dominic's Academy
- St Mary's Diocesan School for Girls
- South African Jockey Academy
- The Thomas More School
- Treverton College
- Treverton Primary
- Clifton Preparatory
- Deutsche Schule
- Keithleigh School
- Phoenix School
- Codwales Preparatory
- Epworth Primary
- Maresda School
- Clifton Preparatory School
- Cowan House
- Faith Outreach
- Highbury Primary
- Holy Childhood Convent
- Kainon School
- King's Primary
- Nardin Convent
- Pinetown Convent
- St Elmo's
- St Patrick's Primary
- Treverton Preparatory
- The Waldorf
- Carnel Junior Primary
- Carnel (Silverton Road)
- Chelmsford School
- Kenmore Private School
- Our Lady of Natal Convent

Non-White children attending White private schools

122. Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

- (a) How many non-White children are currently attending White private schools in the Orange Free State, (b) which schools are involved, (c) how many of these schools receive (i) 45 and (ii) 15 per cent subsidy amount for the Province of the Orange Free State in this regard and (e) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

- (a) 146,
- (b) Christian Brothers' College (Bloemfontein)
- Christian Brothers' College (Welkom)
- Convent and St Agnes (Welkom)
- St Andrew's School (Welkom)
- (c) (i) 4,
- (ii) 0,
- (d) R1 590 000,
- (e) 1987/88.

Pupils in private schools receiving financial assistance

123. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

- (a) How many (i) Whites, (ii) Coloureds, (iii) Indians and (iv) Blacks are currently studying at private schools receiving financial assistance from his Department and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

| | Cape | Natal | OFS Transvaal |
|-------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| (i) | 8 845 | 8 623 | 1 147 |
| (ii) | 1 484 | 407 | 40 |
| (iii) | 272 | 606 | 22 |
| (iv) | 471 | 598 | 57 |
| (b) | 1 Febru- 31 March 1988 | 25 April 1988 | 1 July 1987. |

Housing for farm employees: applications for financial assistance

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

- (a) How many applications for financial assistance in respect of the upgrading of housing for farm employees were (i) received and (ii) approved, and (b) what was the total amount granted for this purpose, in 1987?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

- (a) (i) 724
- (ii) 694
- (b) R19 198 526 (1987/88 financial year).

Handwritten circled number: 4

QUESTIONS UNDER NAME OF MEMBER

Abrahams, Mr T—
General Affairs:
 Agriculture, 939

Constitutional Development and Planning, 953, 954, 1111

Andrew, Mr K M—
General Affairs:
 Constitutional Development and Planning, 335

Defence, 102, 184, 185, 186, 206

Economic Affairs and Technology, 1163

Education and Development Aid, 10, 11, 13, 58, 160, 161, 163, 469, 573, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 601, 786, 848, 849, 911, 912, 913, 1020, 1168, 1169

Finance, 774

Home Affairs, 334

Justice, 335

Law and Order, 347, 348, 778, 1019

National Education, 604

Own Affairs:
 Education and Culture, 23, 24, 28, 175, 614, 616, 794, 795, 796, 919, 920, 921, 1176

Local Government and Housing, 1176

Barnard, Dr M S—
General Affairs:
 Administration and Privatisation, 1188, 1189

Constitutional Development and Planning, 404, 690, 691, 693, 704, 721, 725, 726, 727, 729, 730, 902, 903, 910, 950, 984, 989, 994, 997, 1096

Defence, 285

Education and Development Aid, 416

Home Affairs, 415

Justice, 381, 533, 534, 627

Law and Order, 838, 839, 1080, 1225

National Health and Population Develop-

ment, 396, 435, 436, 441, 442, 443, 445, 447, 448, 749, 752, 753, 754, 755, 757, 842, 945

Own Affairs:
 Education and Culture, 214, 425

Burrows, Mr R M—
General Affairs:
 Administration and Broadcasting Services, 60, 212, 849

Constitutional Development and Planning, 715, 784, 987

Defence, 11, 101

Education and Development Aid, 577, 613, 843, 1034

Finance, 338

Home Affairs, 789

Justice, 371

Law and Order, 12, 253, 465

National Education, 65, 67, 224, 287, 380, 460, 502, 1164, 1165, 1167

National Health and Population Development, 337, 394, 395, 435, 466, 758, 759, 762, 782

Own Affairs:
 Budget and Welfare, 478

Education and Culture, 20, 21, 22, 70, 72, 119, 120, 121, 122, 124, 125, 133, 135, 136, 171, 176, 191, 194, 214, 236, 345, 346, 479, 482, 615, 794, 796, 918, 1174

Chetty, Mr K—
General Affairs:
 Constitutional Development and Planning, 1114, 1119

Economic Affairs and Technology, 968, 969, 970

Law and Order, 875, 877, 1084, 1218, 1219, 1220, 1221

Transport Affairs, 543, 941, 1083, 1133



Determined farmworkers in Conservative Party territory prepare to enter the third week of their strike for better wages

Picture: TSAKS MOKOLOBATE

A strike rages, under the bluegums

5-7-2/5788
A HUNDRED farmworkers have been lying around in their red and brown overalls under bluegum trees on Impala farm for the past 18 days — but not because they are lazy.

For the National Union of Farmworkers (NUF) the work stoppage on the Magaliesburg farm is first real test of the union's ability to extend trade union rights to South Africa's 1.2-million farmworkers since it was launched two months ago.

The dispute began on April 18 when three shop stewards elected by the 120-strong workforce demanded that Impala's owners begin talking to the NUF about a wage hike.

According to senior shop steward Lazarus Motsoadi, who is also NUF's vice-president, about 100 workers went on strike after the farmer told the shop stewards to "f... off". Before midday he sacked the strikers and told them to leave the farm compound by the next morning.

Motsoadi called in their organiser, NUF general secretary Tshaka Moletsane, who advised the labourers to don their overalls and report for work every day while the union tried to get them reinstated.

Since then the situation has deadlocked with the farm owner refusing to talk to the union or the shop stewards. The union is investigating a legal challenge to the sackings. The farmer, who has threatened to go to court for an order to evict the labourers, keeps his farm going by employing jobless workers from surrounding farms and white schoolchildren in the afternoons, says Motsoadi.

Workers' grievances relate to wages they say range between R70 a month for women flower pickers and R450 a month for a truck driver who has been on the farm for 23 years.

The farmer provides free accommodation and gives each family one bag of mealie meal a month. Motsoadi says workers never receive compensation at work, even though workmen's compensation laws have been extended to farm labourers.

Last year three workers from the farm were killed in a truck accident while on duty. The farmer gave the families R200 to share for the funeral expenses. The

W/Mail (4) ~~TS~~
One crucial difference separates the Impala strike from the norm: Impala is not a factory. It's a farm.
By **THANDEKA GQUBULE** and **EDDIE KOCH**

union is trying to obtain workmen's compensation and a motor vehicle assurance payout.

Workers are frequently "klapped" (slapped) by the farmer and his two sons, says Motsoadi. "On Wednesday last week when I was under the tree he (the farmer) called me to the office and said, 'Lazarus leave the union. I will make you a great driver and give you good money'. When I refused he grabbed me by my clothes and threatened to beat me up."

Motsoadi says an old man called Petros Motsamai, whose son was killed in a truck accident, decided to go back to work. When he approached the farm office, he alleges the owner pointed a gun at him and threatened to shoot him.

After interviewing workers, the *Weekly Mail* asked officials in the farm office for comment. A member of the owners' family said a Mr van der Hoost was the only person who could talk to the press. "But he does not want to speak to you,"

she said. "We don't mind if you publish only the workers' side of the story."

Moletsane began building his union on the pig farms and nurseries that dot the road between Krugersdorp and the Magaliesberg. For him the outcome of the Impala dispute is crucial. Victory will convince NUF's members in the region, which the union sees as one of its power bases, that the organisation has something to offer. Defeat will be a serious setback for NUF's plans to use the region as a bridgehead into the maize farms of the Western Transvaal.

The obstacles the union faces are typical of those that the unions making some headway in the agrarian sector must contend with.

NUF cannot go to the industrial court to argue the dismissals were unfair as farmworkers are not covered by the country's labour laws. On the farms there are no minimum wages or basic conditions of employment, no methods of collective bargaining and farmworkers cannot claim unemployment insurance when they lose their jobs.

The workers say they have never signed written contracts, leaving NUF with only common law and the farmer's verbal agreement of employment with which to fight a legal battle for reinstatement.

First they were evicted, then their goods were confiscated

Farmer throws out family

(4)

C/Press 8/5/78

By CHARLES MCGALE
THINGS have gone from bad to worse for the Mthimkhulu family of Modderfontein in the eastern Transvaal who were thrown onto a dusty street pavement five weeks ago.

All their possessions, housed in a makeshift shack on the side of a road, have been confiscated by a messenger of the court. The goods are stored in a backyard owned by the Transvaal Provincial Administration's roads department.

The Mthimkhulus were thrown out of a farm, near Piet Retief, when farmer FE Johannes quarrelled with the family's breadwinner, Khindi, allegedly over pay. Khindi alleged that since he was employed on the farm in 1976, he earned an average of R5 a month with the promise that the rest of the money would be paid out "at Christmas".

The farmer's wife denied the allegation, saying no money was owed to the Mthimkhulus, and they were evicted from the farm because Khindi refused to work for the wages offered. According to the Transvaal Rural Action Committee, the farmer apparently sought a court order to evict the family without their knowledge. As a result, a television set, a power generator and a case of beer belonging to the family were confiscated to pay for the farmer's legal costs of R129.

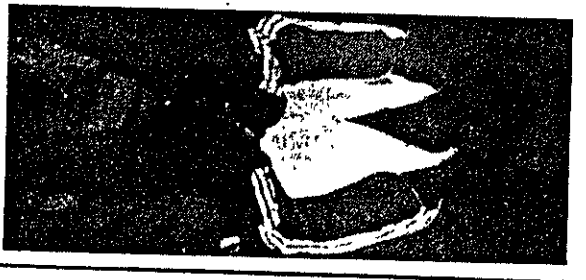
Lawyers at the Legal Resources Centre said the family had found accommodation in the kwangwane homeland and were willing to move from the pavement. Their problem was money to pay for transport to move.

While they were still trying to find means to move, trucks from the TPA arrived and confiscated all their goods. Left without shelter, the family was taken in by sympathetic friends in the neighbourhood.

"These people are willing to move, but they have no means. They were just thrown out onto the streets, and there their only shelter was demolished. What are they expected to do? Whose responsibility are they?" a Trade official said. Also evicted with Khindi were his sickly mother Esither, aged about 80, his wife and seven children.

The family spent a dreadful Easter weekend when heavy rains poured, and the pavement they were dumped on got waterlogged. When *City Press* visited the Mthimkhulus, we found almost all their belongings damaged by water. They had to spend chilly nights sleeping on mats on the grass.

Khindi Mthimkhulu.



Parliament in Brief

CME 11/5/88
Farm schools subsidized (4)

A TOTAL of 5 576 farm schools for blacks were subsidized to the tune of R136,7-million by the government for the 1987/88 financial year, the Minister of Education and Development Aid, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, said yesterday. Replying to a question by Mr Ken Andrew (PFPP Gardens), Dr Viljoen said a total of 486 991 pupils were registered at the farm schools which received an average subsidy of R24 509 each during the past year.

The striking farmworkers are charged

By EDDIE KOCH and
MUSA ZONDI

ABOUT 80 rural labourers from two farms in the Magaliesberg area have been charged with trespassing on property owned by Impala nurseries after being dismissed last month for staging a wage strike.

Farm owner Jurrian van Voorst has also made an urgent application in the Johannesburg Supreme Court for the dismissals to be declared valid and for an order that the workers vacate the farm and their compounds.

The workers, who live with their families in compounds located on the farm, have remained on the premises since the dismissals. Shop steward Lazarus Motsoadi says the farm owner has refused to allow the labourers to work, even though they have offered their services every day.

Thaka Moletsane, general secretary of the National Union of Farmworkers (Nuf), told the *Weekly Mail* that 82 union members on the farm had been charged with trespassing this week and summonsed to appear in the Krugersdorp Magistrate's Court on May 19.

The supreme court hearing has been postponed until May 18 and the union given until Monday next week to file papers arguing why the order should not be granted.

The labourers and their families will



W/Mail 13-19/88

Shop steward Motsoadi

Picture: TSAKS MOKOLABATE,
Learn and Teach

be allowed to remain on the farm in the interim and they have undertaken not to disrupt the workings of the farms.

The strike began on April 18 after workers demanded Van Voorst begin negotiations with Nuf about wage increases. The workers have also listed grievances involving alleged assaults and intimidation by the farmer.

Members of the Van Voorst family last week refused to comment.

Schools plan for Boland gets going

by TYRONE SEALE
Weekend Argus Reporter

IN PLACES where low wages, inadequate housing and ill health are rife, the Western Cape Foundation for Community Work is attempting to create a better deal for farm labourers' children.

The FCW, an Athlone-based organisation specialising in pre-school education, care and training, has spread its operation to the Boland.

In Franschoek, the foundation recently launched a pre-school programme at the local NG Sendingkerk.

Educare

At Agter-Paarl, the seeds have been sown for a home-based educare system where mothers on the farms will be involved in caring for and teaching the children.

Parents are discussing proposals for the scheme and FCW community workers expect it to start operating soon.

At Stellenbosch, 30 toddlers and three staff members, of all colours, have turned the Jakkeraland pre-primary centre in Jamestown into a success.

The FCW has a growing network of pre-school centres including those at Khayelitsha, New Crossroads, Mitchell's Plain, Blackheath, Athlone, Grassy Park, Ocean View, Malmesbury, Atlantis, Paarl and Wellington.

Problems

"There are great problems with learning, particularly in rural areas, and we are trying to introduce effective programmes to address this need," said FCW social worker Mr Trevor Lombard.

"One often has a case of a child in the care of a single parent who has to go out to work. The child is placed in the care of other people without an effective training programme.

"Little things go wrong — the child is not taken to clinics when it is necessary, or it isn't fed properly — and before you know it, the child is ill and the parent has to stay out of work to attend to the problem.

"Before you know it, the parent loses his or her job because of absenteeism and, as a result, there's a crisis in the home.

"We are hoping that through our multi-disciplinary approach involving psychologists, social workers, community health workers and administrative staff we will help communities who have these problems."

Curbed

Says Mr Lombard's colleague Ms Pat Birkett: "One of the main things we want to achieve is to break down the idea that a pre-school programme can only take place in a formal setting."

However, some farmers have tried to curb attempts at upliftment on their estates.

"Some farmers won't let one on to their property. We visited Simondium once with a church minister and he pointed out places where, he said, we should not even try to get in," Mr Lombard said.

"Our work is difficult, but we feel we must get to farm labourers and use the pre-school work as a step towards uplifting entire communities."

Bondage

In this instance, says Mr Lombard, upliftment means destroying values and practices that have held labour communities in bondage.

"One of the problems on many of the farms is that when a labourer becomes ill, he is fired because he could affect the rate of production.

"He immediately has to leave the farm and, if he has one, he has to take his family with him. This means the parents and children are uprooted and have to start all over again somewhere else.

"Should he die, the labourer's wife and children will be forced to leave the farm — unless the woman takes in another man as her husband."

FCW projects co-ordinator Ms Eunice Abrahams says: "We are here to make our expertise available. We hope that by using our diverse skills and services we will be able to end many of the long-standing educational problems in rural areas and the Cape Flats."

25 labourers
injured in (4)
truck accident

CARETOWN — Twenty-five farm workers, all from Klipfontein Farm in the Villiersdorp district, were injured when the truck in which they were travelling left the road on Viljoens Pass between Grabouw and Villiersdorp on Saturday.

The injured were taken to the Hottentots Holland hospital in Somerset West. Fourteen were reported to be in a serious condition.

The accident occurred on a sharp bend on Viljoens Pass.

BIG RENT PROTEST AT WELLER'S FARM

Sowetan
17/5/88
127
17



RENT protests have reached Weller's Farm near Vereeniging where shack dwellers protested paying R35 a month.

THOUSANDS of residents at Weller's Farm, a slum area 28 km south of Johannesburg, stayed away from work to protest against the payment of rent yesterday.

A woman was arrested and a man bitten by a police dog when residents converged near the entrance of the township to ask the Meyerton town council to reduce the monthly rent of R35.

The woman, Mrs Olga Luthuli, made a brief appearance in the Vereeniging magistrate's court where she was charged with failure to pay her rent. The case was postponed to June 1.

The station commander at the De Deur police station, Lieutenant Jacobs, confirmed that

BY ALI MPHAKI

Mrs Luthuli was arrested and said a man of about 26 years was bitten by a police dog. The man was rushed by ambulance to the Sebokeng hospital where his condition was described as satisfactory.

High

Weller's Farm residents claim that the R35 they are expected to pay is too high. Most of them earn between R50 and R100 a month and are employed in the neighbouring farms either as domestic workers or gardeners.

Trouble at the farm started late in February this year when residents were told to start paying R35 rent monthly. Before then there was no

payment of rent in the area.

A contingent of police stood at the entrance to the area and reporters were ordered to phone a Mr Prinsloo in Vereeniging to obtain permission to enter the area.

A police van drove around the slum and by late yesterday afternoon, there was tension with most residents standing in groups outside their houses.

182 (4)

Farm families face eviction

Staff Reporter

WORKERS at the Villiersdorp agricultural co-operative and winery are looking for housing for their wives and children after being told to move them off the premises where they have been living in temporary structures.

They were given until 5pm on Monday to dismantle the structures or lose their jobs.

There is no black township in the area and the co-op provides only single quarters for their workers.

Mr Jannie Raubenheimer, director of the co-op, said he was aware that the workers ignored the deadline and their families were still there.

"Earlier this month we called a disciplinary meeting with the workers and their union.

"We warned them that they were in danger of losing their jobs if they did not move their families," Mr Raubenheimer said.

"If they do not dismantle their shacks soon, we will call another disciplinary meeting and give the workers a second warning."

"I am still hoping that we can find a solution to this problem," Mr Raubenheimer said.

"It is impossible for us to allow the workers' families to stay here. The company does not want to contravene any laws."

About 18 families, mostly from Transkei, are living in the

corrugated-iron and wooden shacks next to the men's barracks.

The nearest township is Zwelethemba, 50km away near Worcester, which has a severe housing backlog.

Miss Ursula MacDonald, the Grabouw secretary of the Food and Allied Workers' Union, said the union had a meeting with co-op workers this week.

"The workers are resigned to the fact that they cannot live with their wives and children," Miss MacDonald said.

"We decided to ask management for an extension of the deadline, to give the workers an opportunity to dismantle the structures.

Miss MacDonald said this would probably take place tomorrow, when the workers had time off and could assist their wives.

"The workers are prepared to comply with management's request. All they ask now is a little time to find alternative accommodation for their families."

Miss MacDonald said the union and the Progressive Federal Party's unrest monitoring and action committee were looking for accommodation for the women and children.

"Some of them have relatives in Zwelethemba and Cape Town who we will approach to ask for temporary housing," she said.

Miss MacDonald said the union would continue to pressure the authorities for a black township in Villiersdorp.

Mr Jasper Walsh, PFP MP for Pinelands and chairman of the monitoring committee called on the co-op management and the municipality to consider alternatives.

"No black housing, or even land, is available in Villiersdorp for these people," Mr Walsh said.

"For many years the coloured labour preference policy, enforced by influx control, meant that the only housing for blacks was hostels for single men.

"But surely now something can be done for these people?"

Farmer, worker sue Minister

Sowetan 4

25/5/88

A POTGIETERSRUS peanut farmer and his employee, Mr Klaas Kgasela (31), who are suing the Minister of Law and Order for malicious prosecution, were implicated by two witnesses who claimed to have seen them breaking into a shop, a Pretoria Supreme Court judge heard yesterday.

Mr D.A.J. Swart (50) and Mr Kgasela, who is a foreman on the farm, are claiming R15 000. The two were arrested in connection with a burglary at a shop 3 km from Mr Swart's farm on February 27, 1986.

They were subsequently found not guilty on July 30, 1986 in the Potgietersrus Regional Court. They are claiming

By ALINAH DUBE

R10 000 and R5 000 respectively.

Mr Justice Esselen heard that Mr Swart only heard of his alleged involvement in the burglary when he met a Warrant Officer Schoeman at a hotel at Tins Mines, a settlement near his farm, on March 22, 1986.

"After speaking to me about the burglary case, Warrant Officer Schoeman said he had a confidential matter to discuss with me as a friend.

"He made mention of my having been involved in the case and that my car had been at the scene of the crime.

"He also stated that he did not have anything to do with the case but that a Sergeant Coetzee was the man who wanted to see me in jail," Mr Swart said.

He further told the court that after a long conversation he put it to Warrant Officer Schoe-

man who was laughing at the time that: "Uncle Piet, you are laughing, but it is deeply unfortunate that someone will have to pay for this."

Policy for General Education Affairs Act, 1984 (Act 76 of 1984), determined the general policy for norms and standards for syllabuses, examination and certification in respect of the pre-tertiary education. Hence, I have not yet considered this possibility in the context of my power to determine general policy. Facets of this topic are currently, however, part of the syllabuses of various school subjects.

(2) Yes. Since the general policy has not yet been determined.

(3) No. When proposals in respect of general policy are considered it may be mooted.

(4) No.

Mr R M BURROWS: Mr Chairman, arising from the reply of the hon the Minister, could he give us an indication as to whether the question of the reaching of the dangers of Aids is being co-ordinated between the hon Ministers responsible for education and the hon the Minister of National Health and Population Development?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I am not an inspector with regard to the activities of the hon the Minister of Education and Culture in the House of Assembly. He is an autonomous Minister and I suggest that the question be put to him.

Mr R M BURROWS: Mr Chairman, further arising from the reply of the hon the Minister, am I then to understand that this hon Minister as chairman of the Committee of Ministers of Education is not co-ordinating such education in schools?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, we have not had the question of Aids on the agenda of the Ministers of Education as yet.

Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: You are a monotonous hon Minister!

*25. Mr R M BURROWS — Finance. [Reply standing over.]

Private schools: registration/subsidies

*26. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

(1) Whether the Department of Education and Training registers private schools under its auspices; if so, (a) what total number of private schools is so registered, (b) what total number of pupils is studying at

these schools and (c) in respect of what date is this information furnished;

(2) whether such private schools may apply for a 15 or 45 per cent subsidy based on the per capita cost of educating a pupil in a State school; if not, why not; if so, when was this policy introduced;

(3) whether any applications for subsidies of this nature lodged by such schools in the 1987-88 financial year were refused by this Department; if so, for what reasons?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

(1) Yes.

(a) 59.

(b) 16 497.

(c) 3 March 1987.

(2) Yes, 16 April 1986.

(3) No.

Own Affairs:

Questions standing over from Tuesday, 24 May 1988:

Farm workers' homes: loans

*1. Mr W J D VAN WYK asked the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply:†

(1) Whether he is considering increasing housing loans in respect of homes for farm workers; if not, why not; if so, (a) when and (b) by what amount or percentage per home;

(2) whether he is considering making more funds available for this type of housing; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant particulars?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF WATER SUPPLY:

(1) No. loan amounts were increased during August 1987.

(a) and (b) fall away.

(2) Yes, negotiations in this respect is being conducted with Mr P T C DU PLESSIS, Minister of Manpower and of Public Works and Land Affairs.

Potchetstroom University: hostels

*2. Mr F J LE ROUX asked the Minister of Education and Culture:†

(1) Whether he will furnish information on hostels of the Potchetstroom Universiteit vir Christelike Hoër Onderwys, if not, why not; if so,

(2) whether it is the intention to erect a hostel for all races on the premises of this university; if so, what is the target date for the completion of the project;

(3) whether the member of the House of Assembly for the electoral division concerned was consulted in the matter; if not, why not; if so, what were his recommendations in this regard;

(4) whether it has been decided to approach the Administrator for approval for the erection of this hostel; if so, what are the relevant details;

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

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

(1) Yes, in so far as it falls within my jurisdiction since hostels are the responsibility of the Council of the Potchetstroom Universiteit vir Christelike Hoër Onderwys;

(2) no;

(3) falls away;

(4) falls away;

(5) no.

Potchetstroom University: Vaal Triangle campus

*3. Mr F J LE ROUX asked the Minister of Education and Culture:†

(1) Whether he will furnish information on classes and tests at the Vaal Triangle campus of the Potchetstroomse Universiteit vir Christelike Hoër Onderwys; if not, why not; if so,

(2) whether any problems are experienced with Coloured students at this campus in respect of the attendance of classes and writing of tests; if so, what are the relevant details;

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

†The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

(1) No, since these matters fall within the area of university autonomy;

(2) falls away;

(3) no.

African language examinations: White pupils

*4. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

(a) How many White pupils at Government schools (i) wrote and (ii) passed the Srid 10 examination in an African language in 1987 and (b) what were the African languages written by these pupils in the said examinations?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

Cape

(a) (i) 173; (ii) 160;

(b) Xhosa, Tswana;

Natal

(a) (i) 1, (ii) 1,

(b) Zulu;

OFS

(a) (i) 40, (ii) 40,

(b) Southern Sotho;

Transvaal

(a) (i) 545, (ii) 530,

(b) Northern Sotho, Zulu and Tswana.

Private schools: subsidies

*5. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

Whether any private schools (a) have not applied for and (b) have been refused subsidies in 1988; if so, (i) how many in each case and (ii) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

†The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

A similar question was asked by Mr D J DALLING as question 11. The hon member is therefore referred to the answer given on 1988-03-01.

Private schools: subsidy decisions

*6. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

Whether private school subsidies for 1988 have

Capt. Thomas 26/5/88 (4) (2)
Man crushed by grape press

PAARL. — A man died in a grape press at De Doorns yesterday.

Captain Grys Boonzaaier, Boland police liaison officer, said Mr Hlathe Boy Dema, age not given, was dragged into the press at De Doorn wine cellars and instantly crushed.

Capt Boonzaaier said Mr Dema was busy oiling the machine when another worker accidentally switched it on. — Sapa



Mr. Chris April

Dop pay system 'grave' problem

Mr 6/5
27/5/88
4

THE problem of the dop system in the Western Cape was becoming grave and stricter control was needed, the Minister of Health Services and Welfare, Mr. Chris April, said in the House of Representatives.

He said in debate on his budget vote that there was little he could do to prevent farmers from giving labourers alcohol as part payment for their work.

However, those who did not care about improving the lot of labourers would face the dire consequences of a festering sore of discontent.

This medieval system was driving indigent people deeper into the sub-culture of poverty.

A survey by his department showed that the dop system was prominent in places such as Durbanville and Phillipi, and was found as far away as Knysna and Kakamas. — Sapa.

yesterday.

CAP & Times 27/5/88

Dop system 'grave'

THE problem of the dop system in the Western Cape was becoming grave and stricter control was needed, the Minister of Health Services and Welfare, Mr Chris April, said yesterday. A survey by his department showed that the dop system was prominent in places such as Durbanville and Phillipi. Mr April also said vagrancy and prostitution were increasing in Cape Town. Surveys had shown that there were an estimated 500 to 600 vagrants and there were only two night shelters for boys and three for adults.

Why we fled 'Baas Cowboy': By the farmhands who trod 100km to get away

withheld 20-26/8/88

By GAYE DAVIS,
Cape Town

TEN men who walked 100km to Cape Town to escape a Piketberg farmer they were tricked into working for say that the man they call "Baas Cowboy" made them work six-and-a-half days a week in shifts of up to 15 hours, and paid them R5 a day.

Prevented from leaving, paid R5 a day for shifts of up to 15 hours... a glimpse into the harsh life of the farm labourer

The men, who said they were beaten regularly on the farm, said they had fled late at night for fear of being spotted by patrolling foremen who would tell the farmer, GJ Carstens.

Carstens, of Klipheuwel farm, earned the nickname "Baas Cowboy" from his style of labour relations.

He has denied the allegations, saying the men were "just trouble-makers seeking publicity". He said, for example, that he did not beat his workers: "It's bad to beat them when they cost so much — they just leave."

The men arrived in Cape Town last Wednesday after a three-day walk and just a month after being recruited in impoverished Botshabelo, a resettlement area 55km east of Bloemfontein and some 1 000km from Piketberg.

They said Carstens offered daily wages of R8,50 for labourers, R12,50 for tractor drivers and R15 for truck drivers.

Instead, they harvested potatoes and onions for R5 a day, six-and-a-half days a week, and were "paid" for overtime in tots of wine.

Carstens said this week the men had threatened his other workers. He dismissed all their allegations which include hiring under false pretences and refusal to return the ID books they surrendered on recruitment. He insisted they were free to leave the farm at any time.

The 10 men were recruited on April 5 at a Botshabelo general store owned by the township mayor, Sam Chaka. Carstens said Chaka regularly arranged his recruitment drives.

The 10 men said they travelled, packed into four trucks with about 100 others, for 28 hours before arriving on Klipheuwel farm.

They said they were warned against leaving and were housed in a compound apart from other workers "so that we wouldn't get to hear the farm's story", said Shadrack Maruping, who spoke on the men's behalf.

Of their weekly wages, R2,40 was docked for food — mealie meal, black sugared coffee for breakfast and mealie meal with unpeeled potatoes for lunch and din-

●To PAGE 2

P.T.O.

THE seeds of trade unionism are beginning to grow on the farms of South Africa, despite the harsh labour relations climate prevailing in the country.

The past few months have seen a number of strikes and disputes on the farms where 1,3-million workers and their five million family members live, and a growing militancy that has cultivated two new unions.

Three weeks ago the National Council of Trade Unions formed the National Union of Farmworkers (Nuf), claiming to have a membership of 20 000 in the Western Cape, Natal, Northern Transvaal and the PWV area.

A week later the National Union of Farm and Agricultural Workers of South Africa (Nufasa) announced at its unveiling in Pretoria that it had 2 000 members in the rural areas around Brits and Tzaneen and would seek affiliation to the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu).

These add to a line-up of unions which have for some years been making headway on the farms:

- The Farmworkers' Project, a division of Co-

Sowing union seeds

By EDDIE KOCH

satu's Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu), has been preparing since the launch of the federation for the national farmworkers' union called for in Cosatu's founding resolutions.

- The Paper Print and Allied Workers' Union (Ppawu), also a Cosatu affiliate, has 5 000 members in the forestry plantations of Natal, the Eastern Transvaal and the Tzaneen area.

- The Orange Vaal General Workers' Union (OVGWU), a small independent union, claims 4 000 members on Southern Transvaal farms,

mainly those belonging to Anglo American.

- The Farm Workers' Union belongs to the South African Allied Workers' Union (Saawu), a former Cosatu affiliate, and claims 5 000 members on Natal sugar plantations and forestry estates. Last year this union was involved in a strike by 1 200 cane-cutters on plantations belonging to the Tongaat-Hulett's group.

- The National Union of Forestry and Allied Industries' Employees was a member of the now-defunct Trade Union Council of South Afri-

ca and claims 5 000 members in the Nelspruit, Barberton and White River areas.

Nuf General Secretary Tshaka Moletsane says the climate for organisation in the rural areas has become more inclement in recent months; a view shaped by his experience of being chased over a maize field in the Brits area by a tractor with a sjambok-wielding farmer at the wheel.

Farmworkers are excluded from almost all leg-

The tenants who cling to land they do not own

By JO-ANN BEKKER

FOR years Johann Mthethwa herded 566 sheep on the fenceless farm of an absentee landlord in the south-eastern Transvaal. He said his job was to be a human fence.

In return for his arduous work, he received R10 and a bag of mealie meal a month, the farmer ploughed his fields for him, and — most importantly — he was able to keep an unusually high number of stock: 25 cattle and nine goats.

Then a new farmer bought the land. He asked Mthethwa whether he could drive a tractor, read or put up fences. A shepherd all his life, Mthethwa had acquired none of these skills. The farmer ordered him to leave immediately or pay a monthly grazing fee of R9 for each animal.

Mthethwa's experience is common among labour tenants, according to Anninka Claassens of the Black Sash's Transvaal Rural Action Committee, who has worked extensively with labour tenants in the south-eastern Transvaal.

Claassens, who delivered a paper on labour tenancy at the Sash's recent national conference, said labour tenants were caught in a paradoxical position. They were among the most exploited workers in the country; but, on the other hand, they were black farmers with access to land in white South Africa — "the victorious survivors of a holocaust of dispossession".

In terms of the labour tenant system, people secure access to agricultural land by working for the landowner. In its classic form the arrangement does not involve any exchange of cash.

Members of the tenant family work for the farmer half the time in exchange for access to land for ploughing and grazing. The most common contract is six months on, six months off.

Typically, Claassens said, one or more men in the family will work for the farmer while the women and children tend the family's fields. The contract is between the farmer and the family, rather than the individual family member.

Labour tenancy was introduced after the Land Act of 1913 was passed to formalise racial partitioning of the land. Black people could only own land in reserves which comprised 13 percent of the total country.

The system of labour tenancy was intended to replace earlier attempts to squeeze out productive black farmers, such as share-cropping, where black farmers had to give the white landlord half their crop in return for access to land.

But from its inception, labour tenancy was attacked by the state and white farmers who, Claassens said, wanted black farm dwellers to be "full-time servants rather than part-time farmers".

For decades there was pressure to substitute straight wage labour for labour tenancy. Legislation was repeatedly amended with this in mind. Labour Control Boards were introduced, registration of labour tenant contracts was enforced, registration costs were increased. Then finally, in 1980, the system was abolished throughout South Africa.

Labour tenancy continued to operate illegally, however. In the past legislation had set out certain protections for labour tenants to ensure the contract had reciprocal obligations for both parties. But with the outlawing of the system, "farmers got *carte blanche* to treat the workers as they liked", Claassens said.

She said farmers introduced a hybrid form of labour tenancy. The fields to which families were given access were far smaller than before, and new restrictions were placed on the number of cattle they were permitted to keep, generally now only six or 10 per family. In return — as a sop to the swing to wage-labour — workers received

monthly wages of R10 to R30.

One way people cope is for members of an extended family to contribute to the wages of the family member who works for the farmer.

Another common arrangement is for the tenant family to employ a stranger to fulfil its labour obligations to the farmer. He lives as part of the family and receives the farmer's R30 and wages ranging from R30 to R100 from the tenants.

Apart from the exploitation inherent in the labour tenancy system, Trac has documented many other abuses of labour tenants.

Claassens said there were many cases of torture — especially during interrogation of alleged stock thieves. One suspect, Krans Mlangeni, was carried into court in a blanket as he could no longer walk. The case was dismissed because of lack of evidence and Mlangeni was left lying semi-conscious outside the court. Other farmworkers hired a vehicle to take him home, but he died within two days.

Exhaustion and poverty are also common forms of abuse, Claassens said.

Aaron Zwane, from the Panbult area, works from before dawn till after sunset six days a week. His wages — which he calls tobacco money — are R10 per month for six months and R20 per month for the other six months of the year.

Farmworkers who are disabled by accidents at work are again and again evicted from farms. Old people who have worked for the farmer all their lives are ordered to leave.

One of the worst abuses is the farmer's power of summary eviction — which is often accompanied by impounding cattle, burning down dwellings and charging high grazing fees.

In most cases a "trekpass" serves as the eviction order. In the south-eastern Transvaal as in many platteland areas, Claassens says, a black family may not drive stock along the public road without a "trekpass" which states that "the said black is known to the undersigned white who vouches for the fact that the cattle as listed and minutely described are the lawful property of the said black".

With the abolition of the Influx Control Act in 1986, labour tenants were placed at a legal crossroads, according to Claassens.

The scrapping of the pass laws, which had kept farmworkers virtual slaves on the farms, meant they were no longer legally restricted from being employed in the cities.

It also meant labour tenant contracts were no longer illegal — although they have not been intentionally abolished by the government. When Chapter 4 of the Influx Control Act, was scrapped, so also was the prohibition of labour tenancy.

"Thus the labour tenant system can now be upheld in terms of the common law of contract — the working conditions and access to land agreed between a farmer and a labour tenant constitute a verbal agreement which is good in law," Claassens said.

Claassens found that although most young men and women left for the cities and town to escape the exploitation and abuse, there was a strong connection to the farm.

One of the main reasons was that there the family could maintain a base denied them by housing shortages in the city, the migrant labour system and, until recently, the pass laws.

The Ngwenyas, Claassens said, have a well-established homestead consisting of over 12 buildings, a cattle kraal, a vegetable garden and a



Labour tenant — always on the brink of landlessness and, right, the Tsotsetsi.

field. The Ngwenya grandparents live there along with their son Petros, his wife and young children, and it is also home for over 20 grandchildren.

Another reason for remaining on the land is that all their assets are tied up there.

In terms of cash income labour tenants are very poor. Their monthly wages are not enough to buy a bag of mealie meal. Yet in terms of agricultural capital they are often relatively wealthy.

Claassens said she had seen oxen change hands for over R1 000 each. Tenants often owned ploughs and sometimes tractors.

But this inherited wealth was very vulnerable in any other environment, Claassens said. If a family was evicted its assets became burdens weighing it down when it had to take to the road.

Labour tenants also remained on the farm because, like the shepherd Mthethwa, they never acquire cash savings and seldom get any education. The vast majority of farm families, says Claassens, can neither read, write nor speak a white language with any proficiency.

Between 1960 and 1974 an estimated 740 000 labour tenants were forcibly moved off white farms. More recent figures are not known.

Claassens said people cling to the farms with "utter tenacity". Most ignore the "trek-passes" which serve as their eviction notices. They accept convictions of trespass, fines and jail terms as they do other everyday hardships. Despite removals under the Squatting Act, civil proceedings, impounding of cattle and destruction of houses, time and again people will come right back and build again.

Behind this tenacity lies a deep connection with the land. People Claassens interviewed were scornful of the rapid turnover of white farm-owners.

"We are not people who are visiting or people who are passing through," a member of the Mlangeni family said. "We were born here. Another place we have not seen. We were born right here on this farm."

Union man. Nov

ALFRED TSOTSETSI, his wife and seven children have been living in a squatter settlement south of Johannesburg since December 4 last year, when they were forced off Swartkoppies the Rand Water Board farm near Vereeniging.

Sometimes Tsotsetsi picks up work on a construction site. On other days he waits on the side of the highway, hoping someone will pick him up as a temporary labourer.

Tsotsetsi has not always been unemployed and unable to give his family proper housing. For six years he worked as a tractor driver on Swartkop-

The CP say: Exterm

FARMWORKERS are currently excluded from South Africa's industrial relations machinery.

This means:

- They cannot form registered trade unions, and are not protected from victimisation for union activities with unregistered unions

- They have no access to the industrial court and therefore no redress for unfair labour practices.

- There are no regulations governing minimum wages, conditions of service, health and safety standards, unemployment insurance, working hours, overtime pay, sick leave, maternity leave, holidays, etc.

This has resulted in defeat after defeat for unions organising farmworkers.

In 1982, as a result of mounting pressure, the Minister of Manpower asked the National Manpower Commission (NMC) to investigate the conditions on farms and the desirability of new legislation to regulate the relationship between farmers and their workers.

The minister assured farmers that no changes to the conditions of farmworkers would be made without their co-operation. The purpose of the

Evictions in harsh soil

regulation governing relations between employers and labour. The Basic Conditions of Employment Act, which lays down minimum wages and hours of work and regulates other conditions of work, does not apply on the farms. Nor does the Labour Relations Act, which allows for collective bargaining. Farmworkers are not even covered by the Unemployment Insurance Fund.

"On top of this the Conservative Party has begun to take over the farming areas and we do expect toughness from the farmers and the govern-

ment in future, especially because of the by-elections and the municipal elections," says Moletsane.

Fear of a rampant rightwing is probably the main reason why the government has been silent about promises made in parliament last year to extend basic legal protection to farmworkers. Owners of small farms have been facing severe difficulties in recent years because of drought and a collective debt that reached R14,2-billion in 1987 — mostly as a result of inefficiency pro-

duced by decades of state subsidisation.

Now the government, committed to a programme of deregulation, has cut back on its aid to insolvent farmers. The result has been a swing to the Conservative Party and a resurgent racism.

Why, then, have unions been able to grow despite punishing conditions? Masia says the answer lies in the fact that more and more insolvent small farms are being taken over by big estates and corporations.

"Today agribusiness, which uses produce from

its farms to manufacture finished foods like frozen chickens and maize meal, makes up 10 per cent of the sector."

These companies include groups like Anglo's Premier Milling which have a tradition of dealing with unions. A glance at the membership of agrarian unions indicates that they would, in fact, be more accurately described as unions for workers employed by agribusiness.

Ppwawu's members are concentrated in forests attached to sawmills owned by Anglo's Mondi, Sanlam's Sappi and the American multinational Masonite. One of Fawu's strongholds is in the fruit canning industry in the Western Cape and the Nuf's only recognition agreements are with HM Leer, a Dutch company that markets farming equipment, a cotton mill in the Eastern Transvaal and fresh produce markets on the Witwatersrand.

Fawu organiser in the Eastern Cape, Sebastian Hempe, says his union has "identified large farms, those owned by farm factories and especially those forming part of an agribusiness operation as starting points" for the building of a national agricultural union.

Wearing overalls to beat the yellow jersey patrol

By EDDIE KOCH

Congress insurgent. Eventually a small group of workers signed up and encouraged their colleagues to join.

Six months later 680 out of the 800 workers at Twello had joined the union. Together with about 2 500 workers from the cardboard and packaging factories in Nelspruit, the big Ngodwana pulp mill near Waterval Boven and other sawmills and forests in the area, they make up the bulk of Ppwawu membership in the area.

It was on his way to a general meeting at Ngodwana that Mooi learned not to carry a briefcase. With plenty of membership forms in the case and some spare time, he decided to stop off at a plantation on the way. He found a group of workers having lunch near the edge of the forest and began signing them up.



Union organiser Mooi: humour in the face of harassment

ONE of the crucial lessons Lawrence Mooi has learned is union organisers in rural areas shouldn't wear bright clothes and carry briefcases when they go out to fight for the rights of farmworkers.

He has been recruiting forestry and sawmill workers in the Eastern Transvaal into the Paper, Printing and Allied Workers' Union (Ppwawu) for the past two years.

Mooi lives with his wife and two children in the tiny township of Matsulu, a collection of mud huts on the banks of the Crocodile River, some 40km east of Nelspruit. From here the river, flanked on either side by the rugged Lebombo mountains, winds its way down to the Mozambican border, where its name changes to Inkomati.

In the past five years the union movement has slowly cut a path that runs, almost in a straight line, from its power base on the East Rand across the highveld coal belt into the massive steelworks around Middelburg and Machadorp and down into the lowveld, where it runs out in the factories of Nelspruit.

From the small office that he shares with an organiser from the Food and Allied Workers' Union in the town, Mooi and his colleagues are trying to push the frontiers of trade unionism into the surrounding countryside.

Every day, including Sundays, he takes a taxi to the office, where he arranges his schedule for the day or holds meetings with workers. Sometimes, though, he hitches along the road that runs south into the mountains around Barberton to where Ppwawu has a number of members working in the forests.

It was on one of these days, soon after he took up the post of Ppwawu organiser, that Mooi pulled on a pair of orange trousers and a yellow jersey before leaving to recruit workers from the Twello forestry estate and Lomati sawmill.

In the forest, finding it difficult to make contact with a large number of workers, he decided to wait for them to return to their hostel in the township near Barberton that evening.

"I got a meeting of about 30 workers together and explained to them that I was from Ppwawu which organises in the forests and sawmills. At about 6.30pm I told them I had to leave so that I could catch the bus back to Matsulu. But they refused, saying they would call more people to join and that I must stay and discuss the union."

After the meeting, when Mooi stepped out into the dark, he noticed a troop carrier and two police vans moving down the road outside the hostel. He ducked behind an electricity box and after the vehicles had passed made his way to the market place up the road.

"A young boy came up to me and said 'Hey Buti! Did you see the soldiers? They are wanting you. They are looking for someone in an orange trouser and a yellow V-neck. They say you are a member of the ANC.'

"I pleaded with a middle-aged woman for help and she said 'OK. I've got my old boyfriend's trousers. You can take them.' But there was this problem. She refused to keep my orange trousers and I had to walk to the bus stop with them under my arm.

"Luckily there is a bucket system in the township. On that day the buckets had been put out for collecting. So I just dumped my old trousers into one of them and got on the bus."

After a few days he went back to Barberton, where he found that the workers' initial enthusiasm for Ppwawu had given way to suspicion. It took a long time to convince them that the union was legal and that he was not an African National



Family reap the bitter consequence of joining the union: instant eviction
Pictures: CEDRIC NUNN, Afrapix and EDDIE KOCH
he waits at the roadside for work

By EDDIE KOCH

ities, where he was paid a monthly wage of R94 and given a four-roomed house for his family.

When the Orange Vaal General Workers' Union (OVGWU) began recruiting on the farm in the winter of 1986, Tsotseti joined up. Seven months later he and eight other workers received a letter saying the board had "decided to reduce the strength of its staff" on the farm; the families would have to leave within six weeks. Six of those sacked, including Tsotseti, were shop stewards, and the other three were union members.

The workers demanded the water board legalise their eviction by obtaining a court order. When the board sought such an order in the Vereeniging Magistrate's Court, union lawyers argued the dismissals were part of a campaign to victimise prominent union members.

The board's lawyers denied the charge, saying it had applied fair criteria in selecting the nine. Almost all the 54 workers on the farm were union members, they said, and the board hadn't known six of the nine were shop stewards.

The court postponed the hearing until May this year. In the interim the board notified the union's lawyers it would lodge criminal charges of trespass against the nine, despite the fact that its application for an eviction order was still pending.

A supreme court application by the union to prevent the board from having the workers arrested in terms of the 1955 Trespass Act until after the civil hearing was rejected in September. Late in October, police arrested the nine workers, including their wives and some children, for trespassing. The case was postponed and workers given bail on condition they leave the farm.

Worn out by months of legal proceedings and police action, the nine packed their families and belongings on to a hired truck and left for the squatter settlement, called Wheeler's Farm.

Phil Masia, organising secretary for the OVGWU at the time of the dismissals, says the families' ordeal is a clear indication of the legal obstacles agrarian unions contend with.

"Farmworkers are not covered by the Labour Relations Act and we could not go to the industrial court to have the dismissals declared an unfair labour practice. Nor did we have any rights in terms of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act. On top of that, there are laws like the Trespass Act of 1955 and the Prohibition of Illegal Squatting Act of 1959.

SAAU is vehemently opposed to trade unions. The Conservative Party, which represents many farmers, has argued in parliament that farmworkers are "happy and satisfied" and therefore do not need "these goggas (insects)", as they called unions.

wards, and the other three were union members.

The workers demanded the water board legalise their eviction by obtaining a court order. When the board sought such an order in the Vereeniging Magistrate's Court, union lawyers argued the dismissals were part of a campaign to victimise prominent union members.

The board's lawyers denied the charge, saying it had applied fair criteria in selecting the nine. Almost all the 54 workers on the farm were union members, they said, and the board hadn't known six of the nine were shop stewards.

The court postponed the hearing until May this year. In the interim the board notified the union's lawyers it would lodge criminal charges of trespass against the nine, despite the fact that its application for an eviction order was still pending.

A supreme court application by the union to prevent the board from having the workers arrested in terms of the 1955 Trespass Act until after the civil hearing was rejected in September. Late in October, police arrested the nine workers, including their wives and some children, for trespassing. The case was postponed and workers given bail on condition they leave the farm.

Worn out by months of legal proceedings and police action, the nine packed their families and belongings on to a hired truck and left for the squatter settlement, called Wheeler's Farm.

Phil Masia, organising secretary for the OVGWU at the time of the dismissals, says the families' ordeal is a clear indication of the legal obstacles agrarian unions contend with.

"Farmworkers are not covered by the Labour Relations Act and we could not go to the industrial court to have the dismissals declared an unfair labour practice. Nor did we have any rights in terms of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act. On top of that, there are laws like the Trespass Act of 1955 and the Prohibition of Illegal Squatting Act of 1959.

2 in court

THE case of two white men charged with murder following the alleged beating to death of a farm labourer last year was postponed in the Louis Trichardt Magistrate's Court to July 29. (4)

88/9/11
50
The appearance of the two is a sequel to an incident at a Levubu farm on December 21 last year when they allegedly beat Mr Eric Sambo to death for riding over two dogs with a tractor.

Jakobus Vorster (21) and Mr Petrus Loernard (21) appeared before Mr P J Cronje on Monday.

R80-m ethanol plant expected to get OK soon

By David Canning

DURBAN — Cabinet approval is expected soon for an ambitious R80 million ethanol plant which will sustain 20 000 jobs and provide a major boost for sugar farmers and Natal business.

SA Sugar Association (SASA) chairman John Chance said the industry is expecting a "positive statement" shortly.

He was confident that the Cabinet, which had the final say, would give its go-ahead.

He told the annual conference of South African Sugar Technologists in Durban yesterday that the National Energy Council had asked SASA to reaffirm its interest in ethanol production under a set of parameters which the executives had supplied.

SASA had given its confirmation, with a few minor qualifications, "and we therefore expect that a positive official announcement on the future of the project will be made shortly."

Mr Chance said rapid progress had been made in bringing the association's ethanol fuel project — for which Richards Bay was considered the optimum area — to fruition.

Although extensive experience in a number of countries proved there were no technical problems with ethanol blends of 20 percent, SASA was considering the imple-

mentation of a 15 percent blend to be conservative.

A 150 million litre plant would provide for the present requirements in Natal "up to the Sasol interface". This would create a contiguous alcohol blend from the PWV through to the Natal coast.

A plant near Richards Bay would have access to an abundant supply of raw material and the effluent could be readily accommodated through the existing ocean outfall pipe. The effluent was non-toxic and would create no marine environmental problem.

"The plant will use upgraded molasses equivalent to 200 000 tons of sugar and 150 000 tons of final molasses.

"The production of ethanol will sustain 20 000 jobs supporting about 100 000 people in KwaZulu and it will make a significant contribution to the economy of Richards Bay and, in fact, the whole of Natal.

Most of the equipment for the plant would be manufactured in South Africa — saving many millions of rands in foreign exchange.

Explaining the motivation for the plant, he said sugar export prices would remain below the cost of production for even efficient producers "for the foreseeable future."

Star
7/6/88
Sugar

GET ORGANISED!

Overproduction will cut prices

Wheat farmers land up in costly trouble

4
3 WHEAT
Bldwy
8/6/88

PRETORIA — Wheat farmers were producing themselves into a costly crisis which would lead to a drastic reduction in the wheat price, Wheat Board GM Denis van Aarde said last night.

He said it was a result of maize farmers switching to wheat production on a large scale.

This was happening to such an extent that a serious shortage of wheat seed had developed.

The Central Western Co-operative reported last year 105 000 pockets of wheat seed had been sold to farmers in the western Transvaal and western Free State. This year's sales had increased by more than a 100% to 220 000 pockets.

Van Aarde said the prospect facing farmers was that on top of this year's more than three-million ton crop — local requirements were only 2,4-million tons — the new crop could reach 3,5-million tons under favourable conditions.

This would mean a surplus of

GERALD REILLY

more than a million tons which would have to be exported at a loss in terms of current prices of more than R200m.

Van Aarde said: "And we haven't got that kind of money. The load would have to be carried by producers in the form of substantially lower prices."

On the price of bread, Van Aarde said in spite of the fact producers would have to accept a big price cut unless government raised the subsidy, the bread price would have to be increased in October.

The milling and baking industries' margins would have to be adjusted.

The R100m bread subsidy was due to run out at the end of September.

Van Aarde said government would have to provide at least another R100m to maintain the bread price at current levels until the start of the new financial year in April.

4) 8/day 8/6/88
AGRICULTURE could not be rebuilt while coloured farmers were still discriminated against, James Swigelaar (LP Dysseisdorp) said yesterday.

Race bias hinders coloured farming

Speaking in the House of Representatives, he said government did not have the vision to deal with a troubled agricultural industry.

It was impossible to pursue deregulation while continuing with restraints on land possession, namely the Group Areas Act permit system for coloured farmers.

The permit system, a difficult and lengthy process, was holding coloured farmers back from the free enterprise system.

Immigrants could buy farms anywhere but people born in SA did not have this right.

There were 23 different aid schemes for white farmers but none for coloured farmers, he said.

Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentzel said the coloured agricultural industry had to develop itself from ground level if it was to achieve the status it desired.

It could be represented on the execu-

tive committee of the SA Agricultural Union only once it was sufficiently developed.

Rightly or wrongly, there were historical reasons for the fact that most agricultural land belonged to whites.

The permit system should not be over-stigmatised because before the establishment of the Group Areas Act, there was a free-for-all with whites buying up all the land.

Coloured farmers should realise that if the permit system was scrapped, restrictions on white farmers buying into any of the 23 areas set aside for coloured farmers, totalling 2-million hectares, would also have to go.

Coloured farmers would end up with less land than they had now.

It was government policy that there should be equal opportunities for all people at all levels. However, the ability of different communities was a factor. — Sapa.

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA — The drain of highly experienced teachers to the private sector is accelerating. Transvaal Teachers Association (TTA) secretary Jack Ballard said yesterday.

Main reason for the widespread and growing dissatisfaction was the slowness of government to react to the profession's major grievances, lack of status and inadequate salaries.

Teaching brain-drain picks up speed

Ballard said until a year ago defectors from the profession were mainly maths, science and accountancy teachers.

"Now, however, its across the board, and a new development, too, is that women teachers have joined the drift."

Ballard said during the recession

the TTA felt depressed conditions in the private sector would plug the drain. However, resignations had continued. The momentum increased about a year ago when the economy showed signs of revival.

Many of those leaving were joining the public service where salaries

and working conditions were often better than in teaching.

Ballard said another major grievance in the profession was that "we are lumped together with the country's vast bureaucracy, and we're no bureaucrats".

See Page 5

More farm debt woes

GERALD RELLY

ALREADY burdened with interest payments of nearly R2bn a year on accumulated debt of R14bn, farmers are likely to have to pay even more after the Amended Banking Act comes into operation from August, according to SA Agricultural Union economist Koos du Toit.

He said the amended act would have an influence on costs in agriculture.

The amendments result from recommendations of the De Kock Commission of Inquiry into the SA monetary system.

Du Toit pointed out that any increase in the ability of institutions to lend money and the Land Bank benefited by getting funds more cheaply.

Du Toit said Land Bank debentures issued after August would no longer qualify as liquid assets.

The Land Bank would, therefore, have to make use largely of bank overdrafts to obtain funds.

Political comment in this issue by Ken Owen. Newsbits by Neil Jacobson. Headlines and sub-editing by Michael Noon. All of Times Media Ltd, 11 Diagonal Street, Johannesburg.

Divaris hits out at avoidance packages Tax dodges attacked

KAY TURVEY

MORE than R1,5bn had been spent on the purchase of tax avoidance package products in the six months prior to the financial year ending February 29 1988.

Tax expert Costa Divaris, speaking at a tax reform seminar in Johannesburg yesterday, said the purchase of such packages, which included forestry, bloodstock and film schemes, had grown to such an extent they represented a vast threat to national revenue.

aggressively marketed as legitimate financial products over the past few years, particularly prior to the last tax year, he said.

The sale of forestry partnerships — which boost cost of assets by including financing charges — alone amounted to R800m just prior to the tax year end, he said.

Revenue could not afford to continue suffering losses because of these packages, but lacked the teeth to fight them, he said.

This had led to SA being identified internationally as a "lucrative venue

for the purveying of warmed-up, tax-avoidance leftovers from other jurisdictions".

However, Divaris said he believed the packages were vulnerable and already things appeared to be changing with the interest penalty, which levelled a 15% interest charge on failed packages.

He said the Finance Minister appeared to be fully aware of the cost to the fiscus of forestry, film and bloodstock schemes and had warned of retrospective tax legislation, which had now become a legitimate tool of fiscal policy.

Varsities discuss speech freedom

DISCUSSION of new draft rules governing freedom of speech is continuing at the universities of the Witwatersrand and Cape Town (UCT).

At both, the possibility has been raised of special committees being established to consider permission for speakers on their campuses.

In March it emerged that draft proposals for the control of meetings

were being circulated at Wits, including a provision for refusing permission for a speaker.

And at a recent public debate on similar draft rules at UCT, deputy vice-chancellor Professor J V O Reid noted a proposal that a specially elected body be set up to provide for arrangements for speakers of different viewpoints.

'Trade with SA OK'

PORT LOUIS — The Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry says it sees no reason why trade with SA should stop.

In a statement issued in Port Louis chamber secretary Jean-Claude Monocchio said reports worldwide had shown that blacks would suffer and the South African Government would institute new measures to become self-sufficient. — Sapa.

4/28/68
**Boshoff quits
to save "Volk"**

PRETORIA, — The "dark future" of South Africa has moved Professor Carel Boshoff, leader of the Afrikaner Volkswag, to resign his chair in theology to devote himself to saving the Afrikaner "Volk", he said yesterday.

He dissociated himself from a statement at the Reformed Ecumenical Synod in Harare yesterday by the Moderator of the Ned Geref Kerk, Prof Johan Heyns, that the church "had confessed its participation in apartheid with humiliation and sorrow". — Sapa

Langeberg bus disaster a tragic loss to workers

CP Correspondent

THE BUS disaster on June 2 has left the entire Langeberg work force, their families and friends, together with their union - the National Union of Food Workers - in deep mourning.

This was said by the president of the NUFW, Nonkohlakalo Mkhonjwa, in a written statement.

Four workers died in the disaster, and 43 others were injured, of whom 29 were treated and discharged on the same day.

Five were discharged last Friday and nine are still in hospital.

Those who died are Non-dumiso Njana of 8216 NU3, Jeffrey Saule of 1328 NU 9, Nokwandisa

Nkenke of 283 NU10, and Nontsikelelo Nceza of 667 NU5A Mdantsane.

Mkhonjwa said this was a very tragic loss, not only to the Langeberg workers, but to the entire working class movement, as these workers had been active in the union.

They would be buried tomorrow, said Mkhonjwa.

"We appeal to the East London community to contribute, in whatever form, as this is not only a loss to the workers alone but to the East London community as a whole," said Mkhonjwa.

All inquiries could be referred to the general secretary of the NUFW at telephone number 22030 in East London.

Free market system for agriculture

(4) 8/20/88
16/5/88

Farmers given bold new plan

INCREASING agriculture's profitability and self-sufficiency was the main objective of a strategic new plan for the development of a sound industry, SA Agricultural Union president Kobus Jooste said in Durban yesterday.

The attainment of the objective, he said, was by way of a market-oriented system, with a well-ordered market economy.

Releasing details of the plan at the SAAU's co-operative conference, Jooste said he was not pleading for a "licentious" free market that had no rules and laws.

The plan rejected control for the mere sake of control.

It drew a distinction between economic and socio-economic objectives.

It dealt with the issue of compensation for socio-economic services rendered by the industry.

The plan stressed the void be-

GERALD REILLY

tween the strategy for the co-ordination of production and marketing.

"The plan is aimed at the commercial agricultural sector and is based on the central importance of the farmer as independent entrepreneur, while always bearing in mind the realities in respect of affordability and feasibility," Jooste said.

He said it concentrated on areas where the industry could progress on its own, reports SAPA.

Other aspects addressed include maintaining strategic supplies, the utilisation and conservation of natural resources, labour productivity, labour relations, and capital and financing structures.

In addition, credit policy, structural adjustments, farming unit size, the market value of land, the handling of agricultural debt and the subsidising of production aids were addressed in the plan.

2 shot dead at farm

Sowetan 2016/08

(4)

TWO people were shot dead and three wounded in a hail of bullets after two youths opened fire on workers on a Paarl farm early yesterday.

Boland Police Liaison Officer, Captain Gys Boonzaaier, said at Paarl yesterday that two coloured youths approached labourers' houses on the farm, Silver Lining in Franschoek Road at 6.55am and demanded money from a 28-year-old black man.

When the man refused to hand over money, the

youths opened fire with a .32 revolver, killing the man and a 20-year-old woman.

The shooting continued and a 60-year-old man was seriously injured. Soon after the incident, he was taken to the Tygerberg Hospital in Bellville.

Two other black men were shot and are being treated in the Paarl East Hospital.

The police have launched a manhunt for the two coloured youths, Capt Boonzaaier said. — Sapa.

(4)

Hunt for gunmen

(4)

Some fear 21/6/68
BOLAND police were yesterday searching for two men who gunned down three migrant labourers on a poultry farm near Paarl after the workers refused to part with their money — probably only a few rands, according to their employer.

Two workers were injured in the attack.

Sugar market bounces back

By Dave Canning

As sugar prices hit a five-year high on international markets the South African sugar market is finally showing promising signs of growth and price advancement, says Sugar Millers Association chairman Glyn Taylor.

With a spot price on world markets of 12c a pound "within easy reach" and international consumption on the rise, "the only cloud on the horizon is the possibility of further sanctions," he said at the annual meeting of the association yesterday.

A good crop and the fruits of a successful domestic marketing drive meant the industry could well set aside more than R100 million this year for repayment of loans — a considerable advance on the R70 million spoken about at the Cane Growers annual meeting last week.

Improved marketing combined with the upturn in the economy and a price increase held below the rate of inflation led to falling sales being reversed and turned into a five percent real growth.

Manufacturers using sugar were offered incentives and promotions were introduced at wholesale and retail level, said Mr. Taylor.

Vice-chairman of the association, Dick Ridgway, told members to guard against complacency in the long-term. Sanctions still loomed "ominously" and the considerable ability of world producers to grow more when prices were rising meant bull markets did not last long.



South
23-29/6/88

Koos Cloete outside Conradie Hospital this week

Top paid at R80 a month

IT was Saturday afternoon. The sun was high and Koos Cloete was stalking baboons on the farm Brakputs, near Kamieskroon in the Northern Cape.

Cloete was manning a special trap used to catch baboons. Anything touching a rope attached to the trap would be shot by a shotgun-like device.

Cloete was determined to wipe out the pests which had been killing sheep and destroying wheatfields.

His mind wandered. In a few hours he would

be able to go home and rest.

"Suddenly I touched the trap and almost blew off my left arm," Cloete said at Conradie Hospital this week.

"I don't know if I will ever be able to work again. I will only know what the future holds when I leave the hospital."

He has been in hospital for more than three weeks and is uncertain how long he will have to stay.

Cloete, 32, said he did "a little bit of everything" on the farm and earned R80 a month.

"I am one of the highest paid workers because I have the longest service. I can do anything that needs to be done, including driving tractors and doing spadework."

A worker with little experience earned about R50 a month. This compared with what workers earned on other farms, he said.

"I was born on the farm. My father worked on the farm until his death about two years ago.

"I never learnt to read or write. I did not go to school because I stuttered. I have been looking after sheep and doing small jobs on the farm since I was about 16 years old.

"I don't think I will be able to drive a tractor again."

Cloete said he normally started work before sunrise at about 5am and continued working until after sunset, depending on the workload.

He lives in a single-roomed house on the farm. He does not pay rent and gets flour, meat, wine and cigarettes as part of his payment.

He uses his R80 to buy coffee, tea, two packets of cigarettes, four packets of tobacco, two packets matches and food.

"The only time I really have money to buy clothes is at Christmas when I get a bonus of between R150 and R300, depending on the harvest."

Conflicting signals

Sugar prices are firming on the international market and prospects for the crop are brighter than they have been for years. Ironically, even under this improved scenario, the outlook for SA growers is little improved.

Cane farmers considering increased plantings are coming under a barrage of conflicting market signals. Making the right decision will not be easy.

Worldwide, sugar consumption continues to rise steadily, eating into export stock levels. Domestically, consumption is stable and aggressive marketing techniques show promising signs of boosting sales.

In addition, news abounds of developing crop failures worldwide and international spot prices for sugar are surging (*Business* May 20). Monday's London sugar price of US\$240/t (fob) was 6% up on the previous fix, 12% above the May price of \$214/t and 64% above the June 1987 price of \$146/t.

It all adds up to a very positive scenario for those with room to grow. But despite the bullish climate, SA cane growers have been warned against "over-optimism."

Potential constraints on world prices and consumption dominated an address by chairman Laurie Gordon-Hughes to the annual meeting of the SA Cane Growers' Association in Durban last week. Among the downsides were:

- The limited ability of LDC importers to finance price rises — at last count their share of imports had risen to 60% of world trade;
- Considerable potential for increased pro-

FM 24/6/88⁸³

duction in the USSR — currently a major importer — as well as China. Gordon-Hughes warned that a major aim of *perestroika* was the stimulation of agriculture, and;

- The possibility of extended sanctions against SA.

On the domestic front, he noted that the proposed ethanol plant at Richards Bay was intended to absorb only part of the country's export surplus — not expanded production — and there was a mistaken belief that the time was ripe to correct the swing from cane production to timber.

"This is certainly no time to be thinking of any expansion of production. On the contrary, I believe that a policy of careful consolidation, based on the true economic value of export production as reflected in B pool prices, is still appropriate," he warned.

The short-term benefit from current, though fickle, price levels would be additional repayments of the loan burden accumulated to support prices in the past. A payment of R46m was made in April, reducing the debt to R281m. Moreover, Gordon-Hughes claims present indications are that a further amount "in excess of R70m" could be available for repayment later this year.

Adding to the farmers' quandary is that they were presented with a somewhat contradictory view at the SA Sugar Millers' Association annual meeting held later this week. In his address chairman Glyn Taylor took a strongly bullish view of the future.

"Sugar is on the recovery track, with increasing excitement running in both our domestic and the world markets . . . indeed, I believe that while we may have entered the decade with a whimper, we could well leave it with a roar," says Taylor.

Yet anyone who has been in sugar for any length of time knows the notoriously cyclical nature of the industry. Past experience has shown that farmers who make a snap decision on plantings now could learn to regret it later. ■

24/6/88 FM (3) Sugar

Dogs mauled us, court told

By YVETTE VAN BREDA
Court Reporter

WITNESSES told the Regional Court yesterday that they were mauled by three dogs which allegedly killed two people on the Paarl farm of a pilot and stock car driver.

Mr Flip Smit, 66, of Fraaigelegen farm, pleaded not guilty to two counts of culpable homicide and five of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

The state alleges that on July 3 last year Mr Smit's dogs, Shaka, Brutus and Kaffir, killed Mr Johannes Pekeur, 67, and that on April 4 last year they killed Mr Pekeur's 15-year-old grandson, Boo!

It is also alleged that the dogs attacked and injured five other people on the farm. Most of the incidents occurred on a farm road also used as an aircraft runway.

Mr Jacob Wyngaardt, in his late 60s, said he had worked on the farm for many years and groomed and fed the dogs. In April last year he was on his way to the farmhouse in the morning when he saw a blue jacket about 80m from the house.

As he bent to pick it up, he saw the naked and bloodied body of Boo!. He called the foreman and later the police and ambulance arrived.

Mr Frederick Truter, a warder at Victor Verster Prison, said that in July last year he had come to visit the Smits, when he saw a body lying in the middle of the farm road. The man was topless and his trousers were around his ankles.

After noticing the body was motionless, steaming and bloody, he drove to the farmhouse and told Mr Smit. Mr Smit called the dogs before they set off for the road. Mr Truter said he did not see blood on any of the dogs.

The man was identified as Mr Johannes Pekeur.

The hearing continues today.
Mr A J Burger was the magistrate. Mr M Stowe of the Attorney-General's office prosecuted. Mr D van Niekerk appeared for Mr Smit.

Govt gets stern with farmers

CAPE TOWN — Government has given farmers notice that one-channel marketing of agricultural products must come to an end and that the sector can no longer depend on "fat" subsidies to support pricing structures incompatible with what normal market forces dictate.

This new, sterner treatment of the agricultural sector comes in the wake of growing concern over the mounting debt burden incurred by farmers, which is well in excess of R13bn.

In recent weeks, the message has come in different forms from Finance Minister Barend du Plessis, Finance Deputy Minister Org Marais and Agricultural Minister Greyling Wentzel.

Blade
CHRIS CAIRNCROSS

It may well spell the end of the tight grip many of the agricultural boards have on this industry.

In short, it declares SA can no longer afford feather-bedding a farming community which is essentially product-driven and has displayed an alarming insensitivity to marketplace needs.

This ministerial resolve emerges out of a decision to accept the advice of the Economic Advisory Council (EAC), which called on government to promote a more market-orientated approach and initiate a major reconstruction programme for the sector, Marais explains.

Court hears tragedy of boy killed by dogs

By YVETTE VAN BREDA
Court Reporter

WHEN a farm labourer approached his employer and said: "Boss, boss must come and see your dogs have bitten my child to death," the man turned away and walked into a store, the Paarl Regional Court heard yesterday.

Mr Absolom Mouries was giving evidence in the trial of Mr Flip Smit, 66, of Fraaigelegen Farm, who is a pilot, stockcar driver, former racing driver and farm owner. Mr Mouries worked for Mr Smit and lived on the farm.

Mr Smit pleaded not guilty to two counts of culpable homicide and five of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

The State alleges that on July 3 last year, Mr Smit's dogs, Shaka, Brutus and Kaffir, killed Mr Johannes Pekeur, 67, and on April 4 last year killed Mr Pekeur's 15-year-old grandson, Booi.

It is also alleged that the dogs attacked and injured five other people on the farm. Most of the incidents occurred on a farm road also used as a runway.

Mr Mouries, Booi Pekeur's father, told the court that on April 3 his son had left their home to visit his aunt on a neighbouring farm. On April 4 Mr Mouries was informed that the body of his son had been found.

Detective Warrant-Officer Raymond Simpson said he was called to the scene where he saw the naked body of Booi Pekeur on the side of the road. "There were various bite marks all over his body and pieces of scalp were on the ground."

The hearing was adjourned to September 1.

Farmers warned to employ fairly

CAL TIPS 2/7/68
4

JOHANNESBURG. — Unions had started to organize farm workers into a force that could cripple the agricultural industry unless it sets up fair employment standards, Mr Phillip van Welbergen, a labour relations consultant, said yesterday.

"And unless South African agriculture can set some fair and professional employment standards, unless some dramatic changes are made now, it could lead to the complete disruption of South Africa's agricultural industry," he said.

The more than one million farm workers were poorly paid and educated and lived a serf-like existence.

"Should they lose their jobs, they lose home and hearth with it — and they have no recourse to complain.

"They have been excluded from the Labour Relations Act, which means they cannot go to

the industrial courts, which means they are effectively excluded from the collective bargaining machinery," Mr Van Welbergen said.

Farmers did not believe they were anything like big business.

But the average farmer had nearly R1m tied up in assets, at replacement value, working on a return on assets of 12%.

His workforce would be between 20 and 30 permanent workers and more temporary employees.

Unions were "stepping up the pace", specially in the Orange/Vaal region, Northern Free State, Western Transvaal and Vaal Triangle," Mr Van Welbergen said.

"The unions know the farmers have no way to combat any union activity.

"But what can unions promise the farm workers other than moral support?

"The unions can take matters to court on common-law principles, basically contractual

breaches.

"But in most cases there are no written contracts."

The urban employer had access to the Industrial Court, where he could charge workers with unfair labour practice, and indirectly get a claim against the union if shop stewards were involved.

Some corporate farms had a manpower policy.

"This means that there is a standard written code of practice in management.

"Hiring, job descriptions, appraisals, disciplinary and grievance procedures are all laid down and for all to see. It is binding to both boss and worker."

"There is a lot that farmers could do. They could learn how to set up fair and professional employment standards and sound labour relations.

"If this is delayed much longer, the agricultural industry could be faced with major unrest on a massive scale." — Sapa

No pension for farm worker of 33 years

MR. CE Mathebula of Acornhook is concerned about his elderly uncle's pension.

His uncle has worked for the same farmer for 33 years. This year the farmer told him this would be his last year on the farm. The farmer told him he should not expect to get a pension from him - not even a cent. Mr. Mathebula said his uncle is already getting an old-age pen-

sion from the State.

Unfortunately, there are no laws to protect farm workers - even those who have worked for a lifetime on the same farm.

If the farmer does not want to pay a pension, there is nothing the farm worker can do.

If the old man is already getting a government pension, he cannot claim anything else.

4

7/88

[Handwritten signature]

C/Pres

5 in court after
3 farm deaths

51718
51718
51718
West Rand Bureau (4)

Five men will appear in the Westonaria Magistrate's Court today following the death of three black farm labourers and the attempted murder of a woman on a Westonaria farm on Sunday morning.

A West Rand police spokesman said the farm labourers were attacked by a group calling themselves the "Marussians" on Kloof farm.

Three men were killed, in the apparently unprovoked attack, and one woman was shot in the upper leg, before the "Marussians" fled.

④ B/day 5/7/88

3 FARM LABOURERS KILLED IN GANG SHOOT-OUT

FIVE men were arrested on Sunday afternoon after police discovered earlier in the day a wounded woman and the bodies of three men on a farm in the Westonaria district on the West Rand.

West Rand police spokesman Major Tienie Halgryn said five men, allegedly members of a gang called "The Russians", were arrested in connection with the deaths of three men and the attempted murder of a 26-year-old woman.

All three men died of bullet

DANIEL SIMON

wounds.

Halgryn said the gang stormed the labourers' quarters on a farm called Kloof about 7am on Sunday.

"A fight broke out between the farm labourers and The Russians. Shooting took place and three farmworkers were killed and a woman was shot in a leg.

"Police immediately launched a search and arrested five men the same afternoon. The identi-

ties of the dead men are not yet known."

Halgryn also said an Everton, Sebokeng, woman and four of her children were killed at 10pm on the same day when lightning struck a house, setting it alight.

He said Lisa Lolwaza, 34, and four children aged 16, 12, four and three were burnt to death when lightning struck their house on Sunday night. Her husband Goodman and a son are in the Sebokeng Hospital undergoing treatment for burns.

Trade unions are making big inroads into farming

20/11/85 7/7/88

From MALCOLM FOTHERGILL

JOHANNESBURG. — Trade unions are making big inroads into farming with potentially dire consequences, says labour relations consultant Dr Phillip van Welbergen.

Unless the industry can set some fair and professional employment standards soon, it could be crippled by union action, he warns.

"There are more than one million farm workers, all of whom are poorly paid and poorly educated and who live a semi-like existence.

"They present a perfect breeding ground for unions."

Dr van Welbergen says if a farm worker loses his job, he loses home and hearth with it.

Nor does he have any means of complaining, because he has been excluded from the Labour Relations Act, which means he cannot go to the industrial courts, which means he is effectively excluded from the collective bargaining machinery.

"So who is going to break a lance on his behalf? The unions — that's who."

Having started in the large corporations and worked their way down into medium and now small businesses, the unions have now begun moving in on farming, says Dr van Welbergen.

They are particularly active

in the Orange/Vaal Region, the Northern Free State, the Western Transvaal and the Vaal Triangle.

"It is a natural spill-over to move from industry to farming. The unions have cut their teeth on industry and have learned a lot. They have also got the necessary infrastructure and are well organised."

The problem is that farmers do not believe they are anything like big business.

Yet the average farmer has nearly R1-million tied up in assets, at replacement value, and employs between 20 and 30 permanent workers.

However, while an urban employer can charge workers with unfair labour practice and indirectly get a claim against the union if shop stewards are involved, the farmer is excluded.

"The unions know farmers have no way to combat any union activity. What can they promise their workers other than moral support?"

Dr van Welbergen says some corporate farms already have a manpower policy dealing with matters such as job descriptions, appraisals and grievance procedures.

These farms are owned by large conglomerates who have learned the hard way that a manpower policy works.

Other farmers will have to create similar policies.

Families pushed into the cold

CAPE TIMES 13/7/88
Staff Reporter

THREE families — including a four-month-old baby — this week saw the roof ripped off the Philippi stable they have called home for the past several years.

The three families — a total of 13 people — spent yesterday huddled from the driving rain under plastic sheeting donated by the Western Province Council of Churches. The children slept under a tarpaulin.

When the Cape Times visited the farm Frylinks Poort yesterday, their furniture and possessions were stacked outside while a bulldozer levelled the ground around the building.

The tenants were told to get off the land this week when a new owner took over Frylinks Poort.

And the roof was removed on the instructions of the owner — while

their furniture and possessions were still inside.

Mrs Katie Williams said her husband Boy had lived and worked on the farm for 25 years, while she had lived there for 23 years. All five of their children had been born on the farm, she said.

"I do not know where we are going to live now, we have nowhere to go," Mrs Williams said.

A spokeswoman for the Black Sash, who visited the farm, said there were conflicting legal opinions as to whether the notice given the tenants was adequate or if they should have been given more time to find another place to live.

The new owner of the farm — transfer was taken July 1 — yesterday declined to be interviewed and forbade the Cape Times to take photographs.

Anglo fires

19

14-20/7/88
④
Souf

NINETEEN workers on the Anglo American-owned Vergelegen dairy farm in Somerset West have been dismissed.

The Somerset West Advice office says many of the workers are aged and some have been employed since 1955. One worker was sacked after 33 years service.

In addition, the sacked workers were told to leave the farm and now stood to lose their accommodation.

Paid off

Confirming the dismissals, Mr Mark Allan, manpower resources manager for the Anglo group, said most of the dismissed workers had relatives living on the farms which meant they could stay on in the homes.

He said the 19 were casuals working on a contract system and were paid daily.

"Some of these workers might have stayed here for a long time but they knew they could be paid off anytime when the

work was finished," Allan said.

A spokesperson for the Somerset West Advice office, Ms Cathy Rickard said many workers worked under the contract system and some had been on the farm since 1955.

Mr Xolisa Nobatinana with 33 years and Mr Sindelini Mcaba with 26 years had the longest service.

Nobatinana went to Transkei for two months because he was ill. When he returned he was paid R48 and told that he and all the other dismissed workers should leave the farm by Sunday.

"Now that they are old they are dismissed and sent home. Younger people are now employed on a casual basis," she said.

Rickard said the dismissals began after Anglo American took over the farm at the beginning of the year and started a new work programme.

"Some of those who have been working on the farm for more than 20 years were still paid R32 a week," she said.

Land-scheme change

PRETORIA — Government's land conversion scheme has been amended to make it more acceptable to farmers.

Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentzel said yesterday the scheme was part of a long-term strategy to promote structural changes and market-oriented production.

It was also intended to relieve pressure on natural veld as part of the grazing strategy.

Wentzel said some farmers had been reluctant to take part in the schemes.

The amendments include: "A participant will receive R140/ha in the first year.

GERALD REILLY

"If a farmer needs an establishment loan, an advance payment will be made to the relevant agricultural co-operative.

"Once pasture crops have been successfully established, the advance payment will be converted into a subsidy.

"Should there be no successful establishment within two seasons, or the applicant fails to honour the agreement, the advance payment will be converted into a loan — at standard rates of interest — for which application will have to be made to the Agricultural Credit Board."

THE resignation of Inyanda Chamber of Commerce president P G Gumede and the subsequent formation of a new chamber in KwaZulu-Natal, has left the biggest region of the National Federated Chamber of Commerce (Nafcoc) in a state of confusion.

Gumede, a former president of Nafcoc, resigned from the Inyanda presidency early this year, leaving it floundering for leadership.

This week he said the new KwaZulu-Natal Chamber of Commerce, under the presidency of James Mhlungu, was formed at the instigation of

Confusion over Nafcoc chamber

THEO RAWANA

KwaZulu Legislative Assembly members and was undesirable, since the Inyanda chamber had not been dissolved.

Mhlungu said the decision to form a new organisation was taken at a meeting on July 13. He said Gumede was present at the meeting.

Mhlungu said the new organisation had not been in contact with Nafcoc yet. The executive would present a new constitution to the general membership.

var worth Pension. The combination of big tax savings and

here for everyone — take advantage of

Bill threatens farm workers' family life

BLACK farm employees would become migrant labourers under the proposed Prevention of Illegal Squatting Amendment Bill, Legal Resources Centre attorney Geoff



● BUDLENDER

Budlender said on Friday.

He was speaking at a conference called by the Black Sash and other groups to outline the effects of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Amendment Bill, the Group Areas Amendment Bill and the Slums Bill.

All three Bills will be tabled in Parliament in August.

Budlender said if the Bill affecting squatters was implemented, the dependents of farm workers would no longer be able to live with them and farm employees would become migrant workers.

He said the squatting and group areas Bills sought to reverse the

onus by making an accused person prove his innocence.

The courts would be obliged to order the ejection of an offender or demolition of a building on conviction. They would no longer have discretion.

A sentence would not be automatically suspended by an appeal to the Supreme Court under these two Bills.

There would no longer be provision for an individual to obtain an interdict to prevent his eviction or the demolition of a building, even if he knew his tenancy was lawful.

He said the Bills were reminiscent of the emergency regulations because they placed wide powers in the hands of administrators, introduced wide prohibitions with sweeping penalties and were a systematic attempt to exclude control through the courts.

25/7/88

SUSAN RUSSELL

New bill threatens farm labourers

Cape Times 5/7/88
Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Black farm employees would become migrant labourers under the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Amendment Bill, according to Legal Resources Centre attorney Mr Geoff Budlender.

He was speaking at a media conference called by the Black Sash and other groups on Friday to outline the effects and consequences of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Amendment Bill, the Group Areas Amendment Bill and the Slums Bill.

All three bills are due to be put before Parliament in August.

Mr Budlender said that if the bill affecting squatters was implemented, dependents of farm workers would no longer be able to live with them.

This meant farm employees would in effect become migrant workers.

Mr Budlender said the courts no longer had discretion and were obliged to order the ejection of a person, or demolition of a building on conviction under the squatting and group areas bills.

A sentence would not be suspended pending an appeal to the Supreme Court under these two bills.

The punishment would thus be carried out even though the appeal had not been heard.

WE are not people who are visiting or people who are passing through. We were born here. Another place we have not seen. We were born right here on this farm."

These words, said by farmworker Mr Aaron Zwane, are recorded in a publication of the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (Trac) entitled *A Toehold on the Land, May 1988*

Mr Zwane, not his real name because he still works on the farm, is one of the millions of blacks directly affected by the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Amendment Bill, the Slums Bill and the Group Areas Amendment Bill presently before Parliament.

The Bills deal with housing and the resettlement of people in the rural areas and in the cities.

In its publication Trac quotes a farmworker who is part of a generation that has lived on the farm and who does not want to leave for the cities.

"The blacks were on the farm first. The Boers came later. They got the land by fighting, through the wars.

"They arrived and found our homesteads and made the law that we should work under them. The men must plough and the women must work in the kitchens.

"The law became 'hey you, come and load the trucks'. Yet you don't get a cent for that and you must wake up early in the morning and sleep late."

The Black Sash Urbanisation Group in its analysis of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Amendment Bill concludes that families of farmworkers are now threatened with even greater insecurity than they have experienced before

The group says that at the moment it is an offence to enter land or a building without lawful reason and to remain there without the permission of the lawful

ANOTHER FORM OF INFLUX CONTROL

FOCUS

By THEMBA MOLEFE

owner. If a person is charged with such an offence the State must prove he did

not have a lawful reason or the necessary permission

The amendment completely changes this. The accused will have to prove he did have lawful reason or the necessary permission.

"This is an absolute denial of the principle of law and justice that the

Black Sash view of 3 new Bills



"THE proposed legislation makes homelessness a crime and the offenders liable to penalties heavier than those meted out to violent criminals".

Black Sash Urbanisation Group.

Trac says. "The effects of this amendment are that people in rural areas who lose their jobs will be vulnerable to eviction and criminal prosecution while they look for other jobs.

"The law is non-racial but is most unlikely that the committees will order the eviction of white non-employees who live in the rural areas

"After all, all white pensioners, farmers, contractors and unemployed people all have the vote and must be treated with respect"

Trac comments further. "We fear that the Bill will be used selectively to evict people and that it heralds a return to the Nationalist dream that only those blacks who are economically active should be allowed in the white areas"

The Black Sash says more than five million people in the country are homeless. More than one million families do not have proper shelter

"Homelessness is arguably the most serious problem in South Africa at this time and is Africa at this time and what is the Government doing about it?" the organisation asks

"It is proposing to deal with the problem by"

- Breaking down houses,
- Removing people from where they are without providing any other place for them to be, and
- Re-introducing influx control with increased severity"

The Black Sash quotes the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Chris Heunis, as saying in Parliament in June that there was a shortage of 702 750 houses for blacks outside the homelands

"That means that 702 750 black families have no adequate shelter. Other authorities have estimated the shortage to be well over 800 000," says the Black Sash.

It says this means one out of every six South Africans is without shelter or is living "illegally somewhere where he or she is not supposed to be.

State must prove the case against an accused," says Black Sash

It says the penalties on conviction will be doubled to a possible fine of R2 000 or 12 months' imprisonment or both plus R20 or 14 days for every day on which the offence is continued after conviction

Farmworkers and their children fall outside the jurisdiction of local authorities. In such cases special committees may be established and if they believed that people who are not employees of the owner of the land are living there they must appoint an official to investigate

Such people may be ordered to leave the land within 30 days.

An owner who fails to evict such people is liable to a fine of up to R10 000 or five years' imprisonment or both in terms of the proposed legislation.

"This threatens the families of farmworkers who are not employees of the farm owner," says the

Sarkun 29/7/88

General

The FCI feared that if the Bills be-
came law:
 The speed of creation, and number of
test. — Sapa.
trying to find a means of survival will
only increase social instability and pro-

27/3 (4) B/day 29/7/88

New deal required for farmers

BLOEMFONTEIN — The amount realised from the sale of livestock when a farmer retires from farming because of poor health or advanced age should not be taxable, J Neethling of Smithfield told the 59th congress of the National Wool Growers' Association of SA in Bloemfontein yesterday.

If this was not possible, the amount realised should be treated in the same way as the gratuity of a salaried person: that the first R30 000 is tax deductible and the balance taxed the next year at the average rate applicable to the tax-

payer over the previous three years.

Neethling said when a farmer reached the end of his career he usually did not incur noteworthy expenses in the last year. Thus, his taxable income was relatively high.

With the realisation of the livestock, he possibly wished to buy a house or flat in which to retire or to invest the money to provide an income from the interest.

At present he had to pay income tax at the maximum rate, which meant that he would only receive 55% of the amount realised at present tax rates.

The stock with which a farmer was farming when he retired — or the average over the last three years — should be regarded as a capital asset, not taxable when farming ceased. — Sapa.

Rebate on Turkish | CADE ready for

Farm workers gather to stop family's eviction

Staff Reporter

ABOUT 90 workers marched on the offices of Eisenberg Agricultural College yesterday morning — and saved a family of 10 from eviction.

The family, who have been on the farm for 23 years, were given notice of eviction last week although three unmarried household members are employed on the farm.

An earlier notice had been temporarily dropped when the lessee, Mr. Barend Haremse, died of a heart attack on November 10 last year, the day they were due to leave the premises.

The Western Cape director of agriculture, Dr. J Burger, told the Cape Times yesterday that the eldest son had not yet made a new application for a lease. "I told him at the gathering yesterday that if he made an immediate application the family would be allowed to stay," he said.

Mr Roger Channels, acting for the Haremsees, said the employers had a common-law right to evict them. "But the Haremsees have a case considering the fact that members of the family are still working on the farm."

Dr Burger said that there was a housing problem on the farm. The three unmarried workers would have been offered accommodation had the family moved. "We provide housing for workers. Anybody not employed on the farm is usually expected to move. But we considered the fact that they have an elderly mother and a sister with a serious kidney condition and decided to consider the case on humane grounds."

Workers said four families had been evicted since the beginning of last year. They said the workers were unhappy about their lack of housing security on the farm.



FARM WORKERS MARCH . . . Workers at Eisenberg Agricultural College march on management offices yesterday to protest against the impending eviction of a family who have lived there for 23 years.



Search for ways to shed the red

④ SMC 19/8/88

Farmers have been told to cut their umbilical cord to the State for aid and become more financially independent.

Mr Dries Bruwer, president of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, told them last week not to expect others, notably the State, to bail them out when times got tough.

Many farmers support his call. They see greater involvement in the processing and marketing of products — and thus a share of the profits — as a new hope to pull the industry up by the bootstraps.

Many farmers are in dire financial straits, and all ways to gain greater independence are being discussed increasingly in organised agriculture circles.

This week the Orange Free State Agricultural Union is thrashing out a strategic plan at its congress in Bloemfontein for financial survival. On the agenda are suggestions to improve productivity, financial planning and farm management.

Citrus coup

Mr Bruwer says it has become imperative for farmers to take the initiative in processing and marketing agricultural products. Losing control of produce at farm gates means farmers allow others to reap substantial profits.

He says farmers should use the existing infrastructure of co-operatives to enter marketing.

Farmers should also start new co-operatives. He cites the example of citrus farmers at Letaba, who have started their own packing co-op.

When the price of packaging paper became prohibitive they formed their own co-op to supply a cheaper alternative. This was followed by a co-operative to make cheaper cartons. The initiative saved them



Many men of the land, after a long season of hard work, lose control of their produce at the "farm gate" — and allow entrepreneurs to reap substantial profits. But now they are putting their heads together to get co-ops to help them market produce and earn them a bigger slice of the rewards.

By HESS CUMMING,
Agricultural Correspondent

More and more farmers are looking to co-ops to process and market their products — in order to earn them a better share of the profits.

money, and also the consumers, said Mr Bruwer.

The enterprising Letaba farmers also realised soon that the juice extraction industry was controlled by vested interests.

They negotiated a deal with an independent company, became stockholders, and now earn R260 for a ton of oranges. This is 700 percent more than

the R37 a ton they earned previously by delivering oranges to one of the major processors.

On a grander scale, Vleissentraal, the central agricultural

co-operative for processing and marketing meat, has shown what can be done.

It was launched in 1932 to market members' products.

Today, with an annual turnover of about R1 800 million, it represents about 40 000 stock farmers belonging to 43 primary (local) co-operatives.

Mr Hendrik de Kock, Vleissentraal's public relations manager, says the co-op is an object lesson in what can be achieved if farmers become organised.

Other examples are ostrich

farmers who process and market their products under their own trademark, and citrus farmers who own and control the Citrus Exchange, with its internationally-known "Outspan" label.

South African Agricultural Union economist Mr Johan Pienaar cautions that this new trend must not be seen as the final solution to all of agriculture's financial problems.

Detailed feasibility studies to determine the profitability of capital-intensive processing ventures need to be undertaken.

But, he says, the time has come for farmers to become more businesslike and to shed the traditional image of mere bucolic tenants who seek the State's shelter in tough times.

Cash dilemma

The question remains whether agriculture can afford to help itself out of its present financial dilemma.

Total agricultural debt is R14 000 million, of which about 85 percent is owed to co-ops, the Land Bank and commercial banks.

Who will finance such capital intensive ventures? Funds are available, says Mr Pienaar.

Many sectors of the industry, notably those who export produce, have sound balance sheets.

Others with heavy debt burdens are nevertheless basically sound and will have no difficulty getting further loans to set up infrastructure for new ventures.

Co-operatives, or farmers setting up close corporations, will be able to secure loans from the Land Bank and commercial banks.

Those who plan to set up industries in designated industrial growth points, could also approach the Decentralisation Board for concessions, says Mr Pienaar.

Now it's over to the farmers.

Olympics.

... get the north to take part in the

CAPE TIMES 27/8/88

Tractor crushes worker

4

A MAN was crushed to death yesterday when the tractor he was driving overturned on a Greyton farm. A Boland police spokesman said Mr Basil Jacobs, 32, of the farm Lusmore, was killed when the tractor he was driving up a steep incline suddenly rolled backwards and overturned, pinning Mr Jacobs underneath.

MOI

Creating new jobs on farms 'difficult'

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The agricultural industry had a key role to play in the national economy as well as in providing jobs for about 1,3-million workers, Rural Foundation chairman F J Malan said yesterday.

Speaking at the foundation's AGM, he said when dependants of the workers were added, the total supported by the industry was around 6-million.

Malan said because of fast-rising input costs, the increasing debt burden, as well as a declining overseas market, it had become difficult to create new jobs in the agricultural sector.

He stressed the need for innovative thinking in the establishment and growth of small businesses in rural areas. The foundation was receiving increasing requests and proposals on small business development.

During the year the number of farm workers receiving in-service training more than doubled to 16 000, and about 186 000 farm people were involved in about 3 000 courses.

Employers had spent about R15m on improving workers' housing.

Boy dies after scalp ripped off: Owner of dogs in court

From ANDREA WEISS
Staff Reporter

PAARL. — The dogs that allegedly killed 15-year-old Booï Pekeur, on Fraaigelegen Farm near Paarl must have had big, strong jaws, Dr Martin Carel Muller told the Regional Court here today.

Dr Muller, who has been district surgeon in the area for 10 years, was giving evidence in the trial of Mr Flip Smit, 66, of Fraaigelegen Farm.

Mr Smit has pleaded not guilty to two counts of culpable homicide and five of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

The State alleges that on April 4 last year Mr Smit's dogs, three Rottweilers, killed Booï Pekeur and on July 3 they fatally mauled his grandfather, Mr Johannes Pekeur, 67.

Dr Muller said Booï's scalp was torn off, both upper arms were mutilated and there were lacerations and punctures on his limbs, torso and face. There were 40 punctures mark for each 100 square centimetres. There was also evidence of brain haemorrhage.

LEOPARD

Although the brain injuries could have been caused in a fight, the cause of death was due to loss of blood from the multiple injuries. Two major arteries in the upper arms were torn.

When asked if it were possible for a leopard to have caused these injuries, Dr Muller said that in 10 years' experience he had seen no such case, but it was theoretically possible.

There were no signs of an animal having eaten the body after death as would be expected in the case of a leopard attack. He did not wish to speculate on what breed of dog caused the injuries.

Under cross-examination Dr Muller said the dogs would not necessarily have had blood on them after the attack. He was not an expert on dogs but had seen dogs clean themselves with their tongues and by rubbing their bodies on the grass.

Dr Elisabeth Schöning, the State pathologist who examined the body of Mr Pekeur, said death was caused by multiple tears and bites. The body was covered in bite marks.

"BEWARE OF DOG"

It was difficult to say what size dog caused the injuries but she presumed it was a strong animal.

The court viewed a video showing struggle marks and dry blood on the farm road. A sign, "Beware of Dog" was displayed on a fence.

On the video Mr Smit said area was the dogs' domain. He alleged that fuel had been stolen from the tank of an aircraft on an adjacent airstrip, and tyres had been cut by people wishing him harm.

(Proceeding)

Mr A J Burger is on the Bench. Mr M Stowe of the Attorney-General's office is prosecuting and Mr D van Niekerk appears for Mr Smit.

Husband

Husband

Husband

Husband

(ii) (aa), (bb) and (cc):

| | (aaa) | (aa) | (bb) | (cc) |
|---|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Average annual electricity consumption per household (1905 KWh) | 9 413 | 18-20 | Whites | Indians |
| Pretoria | 16 996 | 21-25 | 211 283 | 38 956 |
| Johannesburg | 11 730 | 26-30 | 397 118 | 88 087 |
| Vereeniging | 7 665 | 31-35 | 393 146 | 87 733 |
| Durban | Not available | 36-39 | 347 683 | 87 186 |
| Cape Town | Not available | 40-45 | 251 808 | 66 690 |
| Bloemfontein | Not available | 46-50 | 345 065 | 86 117 |
| The subdivision of these statistics by population group is not available. | | 51-55 | 236 093 | 56 179 |
| (bbb) Average annual consumption per household is almost constant in established areas but rapidly increases in areas which recently have been electrified. Detailed data is not available. | | 56-60 | 198 254 | 42 709 |
| | | 61-65 | 181 277 | 33 752 |
| | | 66-70 | 156 730 | 24 757 |
| | | 71-75 | 135 379 | 17 444 |
| | | 76-80 | 107 211 | 10 759 |
| | | 81-85 | 80 001 | 5 841 |
| | | 86-90 | 47 799 | 2 455 |
| | | 91-95 | 16 867 | 1 017 |
| | | 96-100 | 6 740 | 232 |
| | | 101-older | 1 926 | 64 |
| | | | 563 | 25 |
| | | | 3 114 943 | 650 003 |
| | | | | 1 712 632 |

(3) Total electricity consumption (GWh in 1986)

(a) (i) Commerce and industry 63 743 (Not yet separately available)

| Other: | |
|--------------|--------|
| Residential | 17 644 |
| Mining | 29 942 |
| Transport | 6 156 |
| Agricultural | 2 863 |

Statistics for 1987 are not yet available, but projected, it will be approximately 3,5% higher.



Voters: race and age categories
1357. Mr A E NOTTHNAGEL asked the Minister of Home Affairs:†

According to the latest available voters' lists, how many voters in respect of each specified race group fall in each of the age categories particulars of which have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply?

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

According to the voters' lists as at 31 July 1988 the required information is as follows:

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Husband

Husband

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER SUPPLY:

| Agricultural College | (a) (i) Whites | | (a) (ii) Coloureds | | (a) (iii) Indians | | (a) (iv) Blacks | | (b) (i) Capacity | (b) (ii) Vacancies |
|----------------------|----------------|------|--------------------|------|-------------------|------|-----------------|------|------------------|--------------------|
| | (aa) | (bb) | (aa) | (bb) | (aa) | (bb) | (aa) | (bb) | | |
| Cedara | 173 | 73 | — | — | 3 | 2 | 90 | — | 75 | — |
| Eisenburg | 203 | 100 | 2 | — | — | — | 9 | — | 100 | — |
| Glen | 122 | 75 | — | — | — | — | 28 | — | 80 | 5 |
| Grootfontein | 106 | 61 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 64 | 3 |
| Porchestroom | 142 | 95 | — | — | — | — | 80 | — | 95 | — |

Information as on 1988-08-24

Note: Vacancies arose as a result of students who withdrew from the course.

Ostrich skins: RSA/Bophuthatswana trade agreement

1427. Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Agriculture:

Whether there is a trade agreement between the Governments of South Africa and Bophuthatswana regarding the tanning of ostrich skins; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

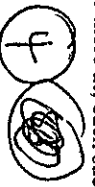
No.

Own Affairs:

Agricultural colleges: student numbers

179. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Agriculture and Water Supply:

(a) How many (i) White, (ii) Coloured, (iii) Indian and (iv) Black students (aa) had applied for admission to and (bb) were enrolled at each specified agricultural college under the control of his Department as at the latest specified date for which figures are available and (b) (i) what was the capacity of, and (ii) how many vacancies were there at, each such college as at that date?



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

'Killer dogs' not hostile, says owner

2/7/88
CML 7/88

BY YVETTE VAN BREDA

THREE Rottweilers who allegedly killed two people and mauled five others were friendly, not trained to attack, and less dangerous than dogs on neighbouring farms, their owner told the Paarl Regional Court yesterday.

Mr Flip Smit, 66, of Fraaigelegen farm, who is a farmer, pilot and stock-car driver, was testifying at his trial. He pleaded not guilty to two counts of culpable homicide and five of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

The state alleges that on July 3 last year, Mrs Smit's dogs Shaka, Brutus and Kaffir, killed Mr Johannes Pekeur, 67, and on April 4 last year killed Mr Pekeur's 15-year-old grandson, Booi.

It is also alleged that the dogs attacked and injured five farm labourers. Most of the incidents occurred on a farm road also used as an aircraft runway. The court heard that the road was used as a short cut to town and other farms.

Yesterday, Mr Smit told the court he had had Brutus put down. He said the dog was "my shadow" and the "dominant" one of the three.

"I don't think the dogs are dangerous, I think they're less dangerous than dogs on neighbouring farms. They're friendly with complete strangers."

Mr Smit said he was pressurized by the press, his partner who read about the matter in the Johannesburg newspapers and his wife.

The hearing continues today.

Mr A J Burger was the magistrate. Mr M Stowe of the attorney-general's office prosecuted. Mr D van Niekerk appeared for Mr Smit.

'Pressure' forced death of favourite dog

By ANDREA WEISS
Staff Reporter

PAARL. — A farmer whose dogs are alleged to have killed two people and bitten five told the Paarl Regional Court he had his favourite dog put down because of public pressure.

"That dog followed me like a shadow," Mr Flip Smit, 66, of Fraaigelegen said yesterday.

Mr Smit is charged with two counts of culpable homicide and five of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

The State alleges that Mr Smit's dogs, Shaka, Brutus and Kaffir, killed Booï Pekeur, 15, on April 4 and his grandfather, Mr Johannes Pekeur, 67, on July 3 last year.

It also alleges the dogs attacked and injured five people.

Mr Smit said he considered having the dog's teeth removed because his wife, chairman of a women's organisation in Paarl, was upset by public reaction to the case.

"I phoned my vet who said he didn't think pulling the teeth would help. I had no other option but to put the most nervous dog down. I did it for my wife's sake," he said.

His family had received death threats and anonymous letters, he said.

Mr Smit said he bought the three Rottweilers four years ago after a number of burglaries and attacks on his property. Strange dogs had also attacked ducks and sheep on the farm.

He said petrol had been stolen from his aircraft on the airstrip where

most of the alleged attacks took place.

Under cross-examination, Mr Smit said that four of the people allegedly attacked by the dogs lived on the farm.

When asked whether they had a right to be on the farm, he said they had a right to stay at home on the farm but did not have the right to be in the vicinity of the farmhouse at weekends or at night.

EMERGENCY

He said farm workers were instructed to go to the foreman's house in the event of an emergency.

They were to use private exits at night and visitors were expected to use a northern entrance to the farm and not walk past the yard, he said.

He denied his dogs would attack without provocation.

"I don't think I have dangerous dogs. They are no more dangerous than my neighbours' dogs."

(Proceeding)

Blacks farmers give a big helping hand to white cattlemen

(4) Times 9/9/88

DROUGHT-STRICKEN white northern Transvaal farmers are overwhelmed by a large gift of hay from black farmers in a neighbouring homeland.

KwaNdebele farmers have donated 3 000 bales of fodder to their white neighbours at a harvest day celebration where the Development Bank of Southern Africa signed a loan agreement of R20-million with the tiny homeland to improve agriculture.

Goodwill

This is possibly the first time black farmers have assisted their white counterparts in this way in South Africa.

KwaNdebele has had what Chief Minister Majozi Mahlangu said was a "largely successful agricultural season".

By MANDLA TYALA

He said KwaNdebele farmers occupied 230 farming units and had produced 30 000 tons of maize and 1 200 tons of wheat in the past year. About 1 400 new jobs in agriculture had been created.

"We have always been a nation of farmers and all we lacked in the past was the necessary arable land to practise agriculture."

Mr Mahlangu also appealed to neighbouring farmers to have a closer relationship with the KwaNdebele Agricultural Union.

The SA Agricultural Union (SaaU) which received the donation at Sybrandkraal on behalf of the farmers described it as "a gesture of goodwill and a hand of friendship stretched out by

the people of KwaNdebele".

The fodder has been distributed among farmers in the Koedoesrand area of northern Transvaal — a stricken grazing area.

A spokesman for the SaaU said the farmers were "very pleased" with the donation.

Asked about the racial aspect he said: "When your livestock is hungry and you receive a gift you do not look at the hand that produces the food."

Reverse

"In fact, the reverse is also true. White farmers from the Free State went into Lesotho recently to help out farmers there when the drought struck and there were no problems that they were whites from South Africa."

He added: "In fact the average white farmer does not see the KwaNdebele farmers as blacks. We are all in the same business producing food for the people of this country."

Meanwhile, the donation has not charmed everybody. The KwaNdebele Crisis Committee said it was ill-advised coming at a time when some people in the homeland had no food "to keep their bodies and souls together".

"It is a decision by a government that is obsessed with publicity."

F
I
e
e
l
s

Farmers get warning on big debt burden ④

PRETORIA — Farmers were told yesterday government was not prepared to load taxpayers with the enormous and growing burden of agricultural debts.

This was made clear in a statement by Deputy Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk at the Transvaal Agricultural Union congress.

He said, according to Sapa, the state could under no circumstances write off the huge farm debt at the expense of taxpayers.

Agricultural problems had to be solved by farmers who should accept responsibility for their decisions.

Van Niekerk said farmers receiving state aid in future would have to submit their books to government every year.

8/20/88 GERALD REILLY 9/9/88

Last year farmers' debts totalled R14,2bn and this is expected to rise above R15bn by the end of this year.

Commercial bank credit to the sector is expected to exceed R4bn this year.

Volkskas agricultural economist Andre Louw told Business Day last week the collective exposure of commercial banks and co-ops to short-term debt amounted to 53% of total agricultural debts.

The SAAU's Chris du Toit said that, included in farm aid this year, were subsidies on farmers' carry-over debt amounting to R95,9m and on production credit R10,5m.

He added that subsidies on consolidated agricultural debt would amount to about R45,4m.

Farmers in critical situation — Nampo

PRETORIA — Uncurbed inflation since the early 1970s has gnawed away at the roots of farmers' independence, the National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo) says in its official journal.

Devastating droughts in the early 1980s had further destroyed the maize producer's financial base. Spiralling interest rates had aggra-

vated an already critical problem.

Over the past two decades there had been an ever-increasing dependence on the state for survival.

Aspects vital to the farmer's survival such as a stable production environment were beyond Nampo's influence.

(4)

8/20/88
GERALD REILLY 12/9/88

Charge me - farmer

A BOLAND farmer accused of destroying workers' property because they belonged to a "kaffir union" has challenged the workers to lay charges against him.

Mr Evert Kotze, manager and co-owner of Witstaal Verspreiders in Hermon, has denied allegations made by about 50 workers who left his employ two weeks ago.

The workers claimed they were fired after Kotze discovered they had joined the South African Allied Workers Union (Saawu) and were planning a meeting.

They said they joined the union to improve their living and working conditions.

They alleged that after they were dismissed, Kotze,



Sacked workers prepare for 'bed'

his two business partners and the factory foremen came to the hostel where they were living. Possessions were destroyed, two workers threatened with a gun and a dog belonging to one of the workers killed.

Kotze, who last week re-

fused to comment when approached by SOUTH, this week said the workers had not been fired but had "mysteriously disappeared". He had no idea why they had left.

He denied any knowledge of assaults, destruction of

possessions, or the disappearance of workers' identity documents, bank books and money.

He said he had nothing to do with the hostel which belonged to his partners,

Asked about the alleged

shooting and roasting of the dog, Happies, he said he had heard the dog was shot because it had bitten sheep.

"In any event workers are not allowed to keep pets," he said.

Neither he nor his foremen carried guns or other weapons since there was no need for this. "Hermon is a peaceful place," he said.

"Workers are free to approach me on any of the allegations and are welcome to lay charges against me."

Kotze told South last week that the workers had been reinstated. This week he said he had no intention of reinstating them and had employed other people in their place.

"Work is carrying on as normal," he said.

The workers are now living in the Saawu offices in Cape Town.

Crime Reporter

THE Attorney-General of the Northern Cape is waiting for a police investigation to be concluded before he will decide whether to charge a farmer with attempted murder following the alleged shooting of four children earlier this month.

A police liaison officer, Major Van der Westhuizen, said that on September 6 four children from the Longlands area were shot, while apparently gathering wood on a farm.

According to earlier reports, 12 children aged between 12 and 20 years were gathering wood on the farm when the farmer "caught" them. He then ordered them to stand still and is believed to have fired a warning shot with his shotgun.

Shooting: A-G to decide on charge

CAR. Triks 26/9/88
4

Four of the children ran and the farmer allegedly fired a shot at them.

All 12 children were then loaded on to the farmer's bakkie and driven to Winter's Rush station from where the police took them to Barkly West. Four of the children were treated for shotgun wounds in the hospital.

The children are expected to appear in court on November 8 in connection with charges of theft.

The police are also expected to have finished their investigation and forwarded their report to the Attorney-General.

Three Boland farms hit by strikes

'We've had enough!'

By GEORGE HILL

THREE fruit farms in Grabouw were hit by strikes this week when about 80 members of the Food and Allied Workers Union protested against low wages and bad working conditions.

This week's strike is the third by farmworker in the last month. Recently, workers have gone on strike in Paarl and Kulsriver.

Workers, some have worked on farms for most of their lives, earned as little as R21 a week.

The workers on Heidelberg, Highlands and Sherwood farms downed tools on Monday. Negotiations between farmers and the union are continuing.

Sherwood workers accepted a R28 increase on Tuesday, which is more than double their previous earnings of R27 a week.

Salary

The workers at Highlands farm have refused an offer of a R4,80 a week increase.

Workers at Heidelberg and Highlands farms told SOUTH they refused to continue "working for starvation wages".

Mr Henry Pietersen, a "heavy-duty" driver at Highlands farm, said he drove to Saldanha, Epping market and Worcester up to three times a week, but only earned R61.

"I sometimes have to weld and do building work on the farm for this small salary.

"My eldest son had to leave school after finishing Std 8 because of the hardship. He made the sacrifice for his six brothers and sisters to learn," he said.

The men at Highlands earn R32,50 a week, while the woman earn R26.

The workers were also angry about their living conditions.

On Heidelberg seven families use one "toilet" — a hole in the ground under Mrs Christine Maloy's bedroom window.

"The stench is unbearable. We cannot open the windows and when it rains the hole fills up and dirty water runs into the house.

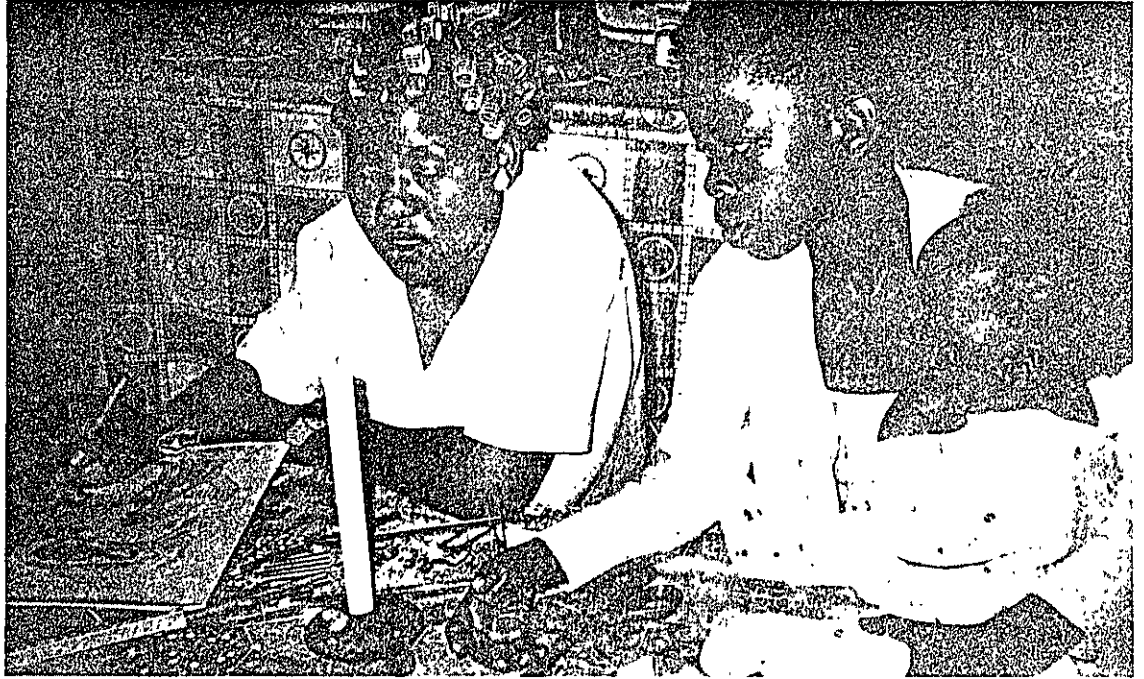
Workers claim their annual bonus amounts to R5 — a sum only paid if they worked a full year.

Mrs Christine Roman said the workers have decided not to return to work.

"Our treatment here is sinful. If we pack 455 boxes of apples a week we get R21.

The men must buy their own overalls. How are they suppose to buy overalls with the small salary they earn? We only paid R3 overtime if work until nine or 10 o'clock at night."

Fawu's farmworker organiser in the



Johana Malgas, 19, a mainculant at Groenberg Senior Secondary, with her sister Cathleen Maloy, 9, and brother Nelson Maloy, four months

Western Cape Mr Petrus Aploon, who lives with his wife on Heidelberg, has been given three days to leave.

"I will rather leave because I do not want any farmer to have a hold on me," he said.

Workers present at the negotiations alleged the owner of Heidelberg, Mr Pierre Reeves, had told Aploon to "voetsek" out of his office and that he was a "Cosatu gemors". Reeves refused to comment this week.

At Highlands farm, opposite Heidelberg, 21 workers downed tools. The workers, mainly Africans, earn about R27 while some earn R35.

Workers at both Heidelberg and Highlands work an average of 12 hours a day from 6am to 6pm. African workers are not paid overtime.

Workers are required to buy their own overalls and boots. The farmer charges them R20 for an overall.

When the workers started their strike on Monday their electricity was

cut. They pay R5 a fortnight for electricity and R10 for gas. Workers are also unhappy because they must pay R5 extra when their wives stay with them.

A worker, Mr Ezekiel Mokachane, said workers had to pay their own medical expenses when injured on duty.

"If the farmer pays, it's deducted from our wages."

Daniel Khuwa, who could not recall his age, said he had started with the present farmer's father "many years ago". He earns R27 a week.

The 21 workers and their families share three toilets.

Mokachane said he had started Highlands in 1971 earned R25 a week. "No matter what, we are going to see the strike out and stand together till the end," he said.

Reeves, the owner of Heidelberg, said that the press always criticised the farmers and spread "negative things" about them. He refused to comment further.



Ms Petros Jejana and her daughter Julia, 2, in kitchen of the house



Some of the striking workers. Standing are Henry Pietersen, Philip Jacobs and Lourence Tyiso. Sitting are Owen Saayman and Charles Langenhoven

Farmers told: Workers' unions 'inevitable'

Argus
12/1/88
(4) 1988

7
J
d
t
b

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — Farmers will have to face up to trade unions among farm workers in future, according to Mr R Dredge of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Marketing.

In the January issue of *Crops and Markets*, published by the Directorate of Agricultural Economic Trends, Mr Dredge said that "the current turmoil in South African labour relations" — the formation of trade unions, strikes and threats of strikes — could spread to the agricultural industry.

"Farmers will have to prepare themselves for these changes in the labour field by becoming *au fait* with modern personnel management techniques.

RECRUITING PROBLEMS

"If farmers are able to identify and correct real labour grievances through the application of sound personnel management techniques it will reduce to a large extent conditions which encourage agitation.

"This will pave the way for meaningful employer/employee negotiations," he said.

Farmers paid too much attention to mechanisation rather than improving productivity through sound personnel management techniques.

In spite of the high unemployment, farmers found it difficult to recruit workers because black and coloured workers were becoming less interested in farm labour.

British government and opposition figures
R19m for farm housing
THE government provided R19.2 million last year in financial aid for the upgrading of housing for farm workers, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Greyling Wentzel, said yesterday.

Howard

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------|--------------------------------------|---------|------------|
| Krystna
— Jood se kamp | White Municipality and Private Land | 700 | To a Pro-claimed Black Township | Unknown | Unknown |
| — Fecters | White Municipality and Private Land | 700 | To a Pro-claimed Black Township | Unknown | Unknown |
| — Whitelocation | White Municipality and Private Land | 140 | To a Pro-claimed Black Township | Unknown | Unknown |
| — Concordia | White Municipality and Private Land | 550 | To a Pro-claimed Black Township | Unknown | Unknown |
| — Fenters | White Municipality and Private Land | 600 | To a Pro-claimed Black Township | Unknown | Unknown |
| George
— Lawaikamp | Coloured Area | 1 200 | To a Pro-claimed Black Township | Unknown | Unknown |
| Port Nolloth
— Tent Town | Controlled Squatters | 250 | To place of origin | Unknown | Unknown |
| — Bloukamp | Controlled Squatters | 40 | To place of origin | Unknown | Unknown |
| Hopetown Coloured Area | Squatters living amongst Coloureds | 194 | Proposed Black Township at Hope-town | Unknown | 2 411 125 |
| De Aar
— Multi Camp | Squatters living amongst Coloureds | 472 | Nonzwakazi Black Township | Unknown | 6 372 000 |
| Middelburg
— Old Black Town-ship | Municipality need land for own use | 3 250 | Kwanonzame Black Township | 1991-92 | 546 662 |
| Uitenhage
— Farms in area | Must stay within a proclaimed Black area | 100 | Kwanobuhle Black Township | 1989-90 | 189 000 |
| Elliot
— Old Black Town-ship | Municipality need land for own use | ± 3 800 | Masibambane Black Township | 1991-92 | 11 013 305 |
| Cathcart
— Old Black Town-ship | Area too small and cannot be extended | ± 5 200 | Kati-Kati Black Township | 1991-92 | 13 880 525 |

Howard

| | | | | | |
|--|---|--------|---|---------|-------------|
| Willowmore
— Coloured Area | Living amongst Coloured | 613 | Premises ad-joining Coloured Township | 1989-90 | 1 184 422 |
| Kareedouw
— Old Black Town-ship | Needed to extend Coloured Township | 581 | New Black Township Xhosa | 1989-90 | 2 216 594 |
| East London
— Ziphunzana | Duncan Village must be upgraded. Squatters at Duncan Village, Cambridge and East London must also be accommodated | 62 322 | Reeston, East London and additional land | 1990-92 | 147 278 883 |
| — Duncan Village Proper | | | | | |
| Kenton-on-sea
— Noodkamp | Municipality needed land for own use. | 2 736 | To new Black Townships to be established on the farm Marselle | 1989-90 | 8 150 178 |
| — Coloured Farms Nankos | Squatters must stay within a proclaimed Black Area | 45 | | | |
| — Kinkelbos (Squatters) | | | | | |
| Aliwal-North
— (Commonage land) | Squatters living on Municipality land | 5 000 | Additional land at Aliwal-North | 1990 | 9 696 050 |
| Thornhill
— Loure | Squatters must stay within a proclaimed Black area | 150 | Land must still be identified | Unknown | 856 800 |
| — Thornhill District | | 273 | | | Estimated |
| — Plantasies (Hankey District) | | 20 | | | |
| Tsitsikama, Eerste-rivier, Bloukrans, Humansdorp | Squatters must stay within a proclaimed Black area | 304 | | | 579 600 |

Black workers: amount of money collected from farmers

1207. Mr K M ANDREW' asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:
What amount of money was collected from farmers in each specified region as contributions in respect of Black workers under the

Contributions in Respect of Black Labour Act, No 29 of 1972, in the 1986-87 financial year?

'The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:
This matter vests in the Administrators of the different Provinces and they furnished the following information:

(4)

The collection of contributions in respect of all Black workers under the Contributions in Respect of Black Labour Act was stopped after promulgation of the Abolition of Development Bodies Act, 1986 on 30 June 1986.

Black housing: amount spent
 1231. Mr J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:—

- (1) What total amount was spent by his Department on Black housing in the Republic during 1984 and the period 1 January to 31 May 1988, respectively?
- (2) how many dwelling units for Blacks were erected during 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987 and the period 1 January to 31 May 1988, respectively, out of funds provided by his Department for that purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

This matter vests in the Administrators of the different provinces and they furnished the following information:

| Cape Province | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| (1) 1984 | R18 461 477 |
| 01.01.88/31.05.88 | = R32 202 055 |
| (2) 1984 | = 3 807 |
| 1985 | = 1 569 |
| 1986 | = 9 424 |
| 1987 | = 2 191 |
| 01.01.88/31.05.88 | = 980 |

Natal

- (1) The Natal Provincial Government was not involved in the provision of housing for Blacks during 1984. No money was spent on housing as such for Blacks during the period 1 January 1988 to 31 May 1988.
- (2) None during the period 1 October 1986 and 31 May 1988.

Orange Free State

In respect of Black local authorities:

- (1) 1984 — R10 299 285
 1 January — 31 May 1988 — R899 607
- (2) 1984 — 1 841
 1985 — 1 251
 1986 — 189

Thursday

1987 — 66
 1 January — 31 May 1988 — 161

Transvaal

(1) 1984 — R53 884 805

Records are being kept on a financial year basis, therefore, the particulars for the period April/May 1988 and not for January/May 1988, are supplied. Amount spent R1 400 388.

- (2) 1984 — 1 798
 1985 — 4 694
 1986 — 3 039
 1987 — 728 dwelling units
 1 152 flats
 152 90% loans
 April/May 1988: 160 (all types of dwelling units)

Black housing: amount spent

1232. Mr J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:—

- (1) What total amount was spent by his Department on Black housing in the Republic during 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987 and the period 1 January to 31 May 1988, respectively?
- (2) how many dwelling units for Blacks were erected during each of the above-mentioned periods out of funds provided by his Department for that purpose?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

- (1) The following amounts were made available for loans for selfbuild schemes under the item housing in:

| Year | Financial | Year | Financial |
|----------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 1984 (1983/84) | R10 686 240 | 1985 (1984/85) | R15 927 000 |
| 1986 (1985/86) | financial | 1987 (1986/87 financial year) | R60 604 000 |

 1 January 1988 to 31 May 1988: The figures are unfortunately not yet available.
- (2) In addition the following amounts were made available for the provision of infra-structure such as roads, water, sanitation and electricity:

Thursday

1984 — R39 732 760
 1985 — R36 242 500
 1986 — R38 851 000
 1987 — R226 928 000

(The 1986/87 amounts include additional funds made available.)

The amounts as mentioned above include the towns in the self-governing areas and on South African Development Trust land.

- (2) 1984 — 3 091
 1985 — 3 191
 1986 — 2 497
 1987 — 1 239 (Only Trust Towns)

The South African Government has implemented selfbuild schemes within all the self-governing territories and Trust Towns and no longer builds family housing units. Furthermore the functions regarding housing and development of towns have been transferred to the self-governing territories who now have decision-making powers.

The number of houses mentioned above have thus been erected by Blacks in terms of the selfbuild scheme with loans provided by the South African Development Trust.

Development bodies abolished: officials transferred

1238. Mr J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:—

- (1) Whether any officials of development bodies that were abolished in terms of the Abolition of Development Bodies Act, No 75 of 1986, have not yet been transferred to other permanent posts in the Public Service; if so, (a) how many in respect of each such development body, (b) why not and (c) when are these transfers expected to be finalized;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

This matter vests in the Administrators of the different provinces and they furnished the information in respect of (1):

- | Province | (a) 1 026 | (b) | (c) |
|---|-----------|-----|-----|
| Orange Free State | | | |
| Southern OFS Development Board — 190 | | | |
| Orange-Vaal Development Board — 69 (part) | | | |
| Natal | | | |
- (a) 1 026
 - (b) In terms of section 4(5) of the Abolition of Development Bodies Act, 1986 (Act 75 of 1986) staff employed in the Sorghum beer industry have been placed under direct control of the Administrator, with the result that such staff have not been transferred to Public Service posts. Negotiations are presently underway to privatise the Sorghum beer industry.
 - (c) The process of privatisation is time-consuming, but a target date of 30 April 1989 has been set.

- (2) A statement pertaining to the privatisation of the sorghum beer industry will be issued at an appropriate time in which the position of the staff will also be dealt with.

Farmer dragged man with bakkie for 'discipline'

Court Reporter

1765 14/10/88 4

A VREDENBURG pig farmer has sentenced to three years for dragging a farm worker behind his bakkie as "discipline" for stealing a bottle of wine and neglecting the pigs.

Jakobus Visser, 32, of Rietvlei, Aurora, pleaded not guilty in the Vredenburg Regional Court yesterday to a charge of attempted murder.

He was alleged to have beaten Mr Piet Carolus, 23, with a black plastic pipe, tied his hands and dragged him 70m along a gravel road behind a bakkie on January 3.

Visser was convicted of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm and sentenced to three years.

WORKERS ON HOLIDAY

Visser told the court that on Sunday, January 3, all his farm workers were away on holiday except Mr Carolus and his father.

Mr Carolus's job was to look after the pigs and when he found that his cellar had been broken into and a litre bottle of wine was missing, he checked the pigs and found an adult pig in the pen with eleven piglets.

He said that if the adult pig had eaten the piglets he would have lost R1 000.

Visser told the court that Mr Carolus, who had shared the wine with his father, begged him "with tears in his eyes" not to take him to the police because he already had a suspended sentence hanging over his head.

Visser took Mr Carolus to the farmhouse and beat him with a metre length of plastic pipe "on the rump (stert) where I normally do" to discipline him.

Visser said his mother came out and told him to "stop beating Piet so hard, you'll injure him".

She gave him a length of rope to tie him up instead.

He tied Mr Carolus's hands behind his back with one end of the rope and fastened the other to a bakkie railing "so he didn't escape".

"In the back of my mind I was planning to take him to the police."

"CLIMB ON"

Walking to the bakkie cab he ordered Mr Carolus to "climb on" and before switching on the ignition Visser felt "Piet's weight" on the back and drove to the pig pen with the intention of moving the baby pigs.

Visser said when he alighted from the bakkie he found Mr Carolus on the ground.

Mr Carolus did not look badly injured and he thought the man had fallen off.

He said that when he untied the rope around Mr Carolus's wrists he felt "something damp" but it was dark and he could not see what it was.

Mrs Tessa Heunis, for the State, asked Visser why, if Mr Carolus was not injured, he did not ask him to help move the baby pigs.

Visser replied that he had "no special reason" for taking Mr Carolus straight back home instead.

Medical evidence was that Mr Carolus, who will never again be able to use his arms normally, had all the skin scraped from his arms, his elbow bones were sticking out, and he had abrasions on his head, legs and toes.

The magistrate, Mr J M Lemmer, said Visser had abused his position of authority and had intended injuring Mr Carolus, and the community would expect this offence to be suitably punished.

After sentence Visser was released on R100 bail pending an appeal.

ma-
la
Su-
he
al-
ers
ur-
a
ich
ne-
and
yn-
a
tus
(1)
7.
S
7
Mr
to
lec-
pa-
ely
ent
ms
op-
re-
are-
dd-
s be
stri-
lop-
our
our
ely

The latest edition goes on sale here today. It contains 15 000 records, 3 000 of them new.

not been effective will be investigated fully and urgently," he said.

Mr Clothier said among materials burnt was a layer of polyurethane used as an insulating material.

Farmer dragged man behind bakkie

(4) Court Reporter

Cape Times 14/10/88

A VREDENBURG farmer was yesterday jailed for three years for assaulting his employee by tying him to the back of a bakkie and dragging him 70 metres along a gravel road as punishment for stealing a bottle of wine.

The farmer, Jacobus Visser, 32, of Rietvlei, Aurora, was convicted of assaulting Mr Piet Carolus on January 3 with the intention to do grievous bodily harm.

He had pleaded not guilty to attempted murder, but was convicted on a lesser charge.

Mr Carolus, who no longer works on

the farm, told the court that he broke into the farm cellar and stole a litre of wine. That night Visser came to his house and confronted him.

Mr Carolus said he had confessed to the theft and begged Visser to take him to the police. He said Visser said: "No, I will deal with this myself."

Visser beat him with a plastic pipe and threatened to shoot him. Visser then bound his hands and tied him to the back of the bakkie, Mr Carolus said.

He was dragged along a gravel road to a pigsty. "Bones were sticking out of my arms," Mr Carolus said. He added that he was covered in blood and badly hurt.

A wide range of reporting, comment and pictures in the Cape Times

Farmer dragged man behind bakkie

4 Court Reporter

A VREDENBURG farmer was yesterday jailed for three years for assaulting his employee by tying him to the back of a bakkie and dragging him 70 metres along a gravel road as punishment for stealing a bottle of wine.

The farmer, Jacobus Visser, 32, of Rietylei, Aurora, was convicted of assaulting Mr Piet Carolus on January 3 with the intention to do grievous bodily harm.

He had pleaded not guilty to attempted murder, but was convicted on a lesser charge.

Mr Carolus, who no longer works on

CAPT T. H. S. 14/10/88
the farm, told the court that he broke into the farm cellar and stole a litre of wine. That night Visser came to his house and confronted him.

Mr Carolus said he had confessed to the theft and begged Visser to take him to the police. He said Visser said: "No, I will deal with this myself."

Visser beat him with a plastic pipe and threatened to shoot him. Visser then bound his hands and tied him to the back of the bakkie, Mr Carolus said.

He was dragged along a gravel road to a pigsty. "Bones were sticking out of my arms," Mr Carolus said. He added that he was covered in blood and badly hurt.

Killing: farmer sentenced

④
Vorster
2/11/88

A WHITE farmer who killed a black labourer following the death of the farmer's two dogs was yesterday found guilty of culpable homicide and sentenced to five years. The entire sentence was suspended.

Jacobus Voster (21) and Mr Johannes Leonard (21) of Levhubu, appeared before Mr Justice JJ Strydom in the Louis Trichardt Circuit Court.

They both pleaded not guilty to murdering Mr Eric Sambo (35) on December 12 last year.

Mr Vorster's sentence was suspended on condition that he pay R130 a month for five years to Mr Sambo's wife and four children. Mr Leonard was sentenced to three months imprisonment or R500.

The case followed the death of Mr Sambo at Mr Voster's farm late last year. Mr Sambo had been employed as a tractor driver by Mr Voster's father. On that day, he had been sent to Voster's farm to plough.

When he returned from a lunch break on that day, he accidentally drove over two dogs that had been lying under the tractor. The two dogs died.

Farmer killed man who ran over dogs

Cape Times 4/11/88
(4)
JOHANNESBURG. — A farmer who killed a labourer after he had driven over two dogs was yesterday found guilty of culpable homicide and sentenced to a suspended five-year jail term.

Jacobus Vorster, 21, and Johannes Leonard, 21, of Levhubu, both pleaded not guilty in Louis Trichardt Circuit Court to murdering Mr Eric Sambo, 35, in December last year.

Vorster's sentence was suspended on condition that he pay R130 a month for five years to Mr Sambo's wife and four children. Leonard was fined R500 (or three months' imprisonment).

Mr Sambo, a tractor driver employed by Vorster's father, was killed on December 12 while ploughing on Vorster's farm. He had accidentally driven over two dogs which were lying under the tractor when he returned from lunch. — Sapa

Govt rates relief for debt-ridden farmers

PRETORIA — Cabinet has decided to give farmers a measure of protection against the two percentage point increase in interest rates.

Announcing this yesterday, Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentzel said the different debt consolidation, debt carry-over and production credit schemes were being studied urgently by his department in conjunction with the Land Bank and the Finance Department.

The aim was to determine the costs of additional aid.

He added agriculture had entered a recovery phase after years of drought and floods.

It was not in the national interest, he said, to delay the long-term recovery process because of a monetary measure which, it was hoped, would be of short duration.

Meanwhile, SA Agricultural Union president Kobus Jooste said the in-

4 B/day 4/11/88

GERALD REILLY

crease came at a critical time for agriculture which was in the process of recovering from the devastating impact of successive droughts and floods.

The two percentage point rise would mean an additional R200m being added to the total annual interest on agriculture's debt of more than R14bn.

The higher rates would drastically increase pressure on the industry, Jooste said.

Interest payments constituted the largest single cost item in the industry.

Jooste welcomed Wentzel's assurance that interest rate subsidies on government aid schemes would be raised.



● WENTZEL

UPROAR OVER SENTENCE

6111 102

JACOBUS VORSTER, a 22-year-old white farmer, walked free from court last week after torturing and killing a black farm labourer in a case that is causing uproar in the black community and earning outraged comparison with the Sharpeville Six sentence.

4 Sowetan 11/88

Farmer walks free after killing

The facts of the case are horrific, Eric Sambo was a 35-year-old tractor driver employed by Vorster's father, Piet Vorster, local chairman of the ruling National Party. In December last year, he was "lent" to Jacobus to work in the fields.

He stopped threshing for lunch and when he returned to his tractor, Vorster's two Rottweiler-Dobermann dogs were asleep under the machine. Sambo, apparently failing to notice, ran over the dogs and killed them. He offered to have his meagre wages docked to pay for new dogs. But, according to one report, the old man warned him to leave, because Jacobus would be "lilyd" when he

found out. Sambo took his advice, but a month later he was spotted at the roadside by Jacobus Vorster, who brought him back to the farmstead and tied him to a tree, with his arms stretched around the trunk.

Vorster and a friend, Johannes Leonard (21), beat Sambo with fists, sjamboks and sticks. Vorster also fired two shotgun blasts near

According to the Sowetan newspaper, they held a barbecue that night in the garden where Sambo was still bound to the tree. The newspaper alleged that during the meal they whipped him against the London Sunday Times.

Sambo "just to frighten him a bit". The next morning they continued to beat him and ordered four labourers to join in.

shotgun blasts near Times.

Union to get tough with squatters

The South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) has issued guidelines to its members countrywide on ways to deal with the "squatter problem" on farms.

Mr August du Preez, SAAU media services manager, said farmers nationwide could order squatters off their farm, and if they refused to leave, they could report the matter to the provincial administration offices and the police station.

If another farm was occupied by squatters, but the owner failed to do anything about it, the neighbour could notify the local police station and the provincial administration offices, he said.

Mr du Preez said the SAAU and the Manpower Committee realised that "squatting on farms is a serious problem". He said the 1951 Illegal Squatting Act was difficult to implement and until such

4/11/88
By Janet Heard

time as the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Amendment Bill was passed, these guidelines had been drawn up to assist farmers.

This announcement was broadcast in a radio report yesterday.

The announcement has been criticised by various organisations and legal representatives who specialise in squatter issues.

Mr Geoff Budlender of the Legal Resources Centre, said: "The announcement is worrying because it indicates a more active role by the Agricultural Union to encourage its members to remove squatters, which will only increase homelessness."



Union issues 'guidelines' on squatters to farmers

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) has issued guidelines to its members countrywide on ways to deal with the "squatter problem" on farms.

Mr August du Preez, SAAU media services manager, said farmers nationally could order squatters off their farm, and if they refused to leave, they could report the matter to the Provincial Administration offices and the police station.

If another farm was occupied by squatters, but the owner failed to do anything about it, the neighbour could notify the local police station and the provincial administration offices, he said.

Mr du Preez said the SAAU and the Manpower Committee realised that, "squatting on farms is a serious problem". He said the 1951 Illegal Squatting act was difficult to implement and until such time as the Prevention of Illegal Squatting amendment Bill was passed, these guidelines had been drawn up to assist farmers.

Mr R Malan, SAAU general services assistant manager, said the guidelines were issued on behalf of the Manpower Department.

Criticism

He said the union hoped that the new Bill, when enacted, would, "help solve the problems of illegal squatting on farms".

"Once the matter is reported, there are certain actions which authorities may take, but they vary depending on the area," he said.

The announcement has been criticised by various organisations and legal representatives who specialise in squatter issues.

Mr Geoff Budlender of the Legal Resources Centre said: "The announcement is worrying because it indicates a more active role by the Agricultural Union to encourage its members to remove squatters, which will only increase homelessness.

"It is a mystery why they think they need even greater powers than they have already," he said.

The existing Illegal Squatting Act already authorised the owner of the farm, the local authority, or provincial administration, to demolish the homes of squatters, he said.

Mr Budlender said farmers could not take action against squatters settled on land that did not belong to them.

Mr Alan Morris of the Transvaal Action Committee (Trac), said: "When looking at so-called illegal squatters, one must look at the history of the worker, and how long they or their family have lived on the land, and whether they have previously had permission to live on the land. One finds they often have the right to be on the land ... a century ago, the land belonged to blacks.

"They or their family have often lived on the farm for generations, and have previously worked for the farmer."



LOOKING FOR LAUGHS: This four-week-old hyena hits out with its mother to face the audience at the Pretoria Zoo.

PICK 'N PAY Advertisement Feature

Birthday fun in Pinelands and Milnerton

PICK 'n Pay stores in Milnerton and Pinelands start birthday celebrations this month. It is the Milnerton store's 14th birthday while Pinelands celebrates 10 years.

The managers of both stores — Glen Buckett in Milnerton and Manuel de Andrade in Pinelands attribute the success of their stores over the years to the loyal support they have received from the community in which they trade, and both pledge to continue to offer excellent service in the years to come.

Fun and Games

Guess-the-weight contests are being held at

MRS Sarah Sambo (31) is a mother of five. The ages of the children range from nine years to 21 months. She lives at HaMashau, about 20km from Elim Hospital east of Louis Trichardt.

Mrs Sambo lives in two dilapidated huts which are in dire need of repairs. They are repairs that are unlikely to be made as she has no money. The children wear dirty tattered clothes with no shoes. But then shoes in this family count as luxuries.

She works as a domestic servant at a Levubu farm where she earns R70 a month. This represents the sum total of the family's monthly income.

She is a stay-in servant and only goes home once a month to see the kids.

She is a widow. Her husband, Mr Eric Jumara Sambo, was killed late last year by a white farmer. He had accidentally caused the death of two doberman dogs belonging to Jacobus Vorster (23).

White farmer gets off with light sentence



MARIA Sambo ... grieving.

SARAH Sambo ... grieving.

How an accident in which two dogs were killed cost Eric Sambo his life

Shocked

Vorster and his friend were recently sentenced to suspended sentences or fines. Vorster was also ordered to pay R130 a month to Eric's girlfriend who was in court when the matter was finalised. Mrs Sambo was at work on that day.

The sentences imposed by the court have shocked many.

But for Mrs Sambo, whether the two had got death sentences or not is immaterial. Eric is gone and she has five kids to house, clothe and feed. The death of the two dobermans caused her husband's death.

Who was Eric Sambo? Born at the Levubu farms about 36 years ago, Eric grew up among the

Levubu bananas. His father died at an early age, leaving his younger sister, Maria, still being breastfed.

He worked for several farmers in the area until he was hired by Mr Vorster, a former director of Agriven at Thoho-ya-Ndou, and owner of Jika Farm.

Eric would bring some money to his mother at his sister's cottage where she stays, every month before heading for HaMashau to see the children and bring them food.

His tale begins in October last year when he accidentally caused the death of the two pups belonging to Jacobus



By **MATHATHA TSEDU**

Beatings went on during drinking spree and braai

Vorster. So scared was Eric at what had happened, that he ran to Jacobus' father and pleaded that money be deducted from his wages to pay for the two dogs.

Maria says that Mr Vorster was sympathetic and even spoke to his son about it — offering to buy a set of puppies to replace the two. But Jacobus was adamant. He wanted his dead dogs from Eric — alive.

Fate

Eric in the meantime had gone into hiding with Jacobus searching high and low for him. At one stage in November, according to Maria, Jacobus came to her and demanded that she tell him where Eric was.

"When I told him that I did not know he said to me: 'Where I find him I will kill him. He killed my puppies and I will knock him down with my car or shoot him dead,'" Maria said.

Time and luck ran out for Eric and fate led him to the main road on the evening of December 11 where Jacobus, travelling in another man's car, accosted him.

Evidence in court was that Eric was brutally assaulted on the spot before he was loaded on the back of the van with his bicycle and driven to Jika Farm, the Vorster property. A live-in farm hand who was on duty at Jika on that night said in a statement to the police that Eric was chained to a tree and heavily assaulted with sticks.

A gun was also placed on his head, loaded, and the trigger pulled — with the bullets going above Eric's head. A drinking

spree and a braai were on the go with Eric being beaten at intervals. Jacobus and his friends later left Eric tied to the tree.

The farm hand untied Eric when the latter cried out that he was dying and should be rushed to hospital. The farm hand was threatened with violence for this when Jacobus and company returned. Eric spent the night in the cold outside tied to the tree and the beating continued the following morning. Other farm hands were also ordered to join in the beating.

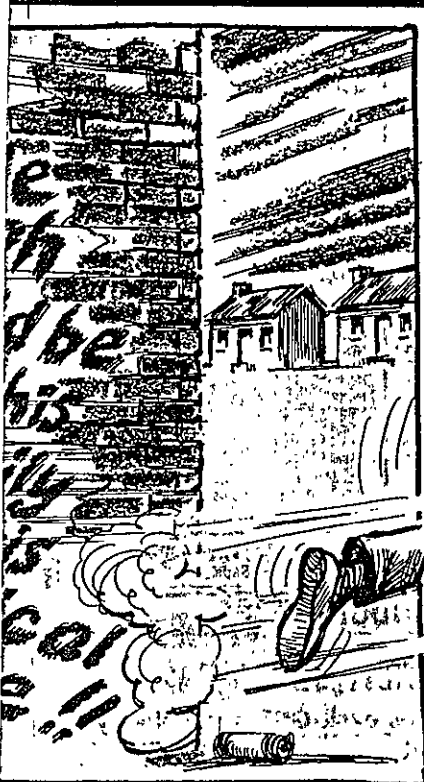
Later that morning, about 9.30, Maria saw Jacobus arrive in his van at the butchery where she was employed. "He said 'Maria kom kyk hiero'. I followed him and at the back of the van I found Eric lying on his stomach with two black men sitting on each side.

"I exclaimed and said 'Where did you find him? Why do you call me to show me a dead body?' The two black men said Eric was not dead. Jacobus then took his burning cigarette and put it on Eric's exposed leg. His whole body was wet and his eyes were no longer blinking. But his leg moved very slowly showing that he was feeling the heat.

"Jacobus then said he was taking Eric to the police station where I will never see him again. He then drove off," Maria said as she struggled to hold back the tears.

Maria went back to work, she said, and when she got off at 1pm that Saturday, she phoned the Levubu police. The police told her to come to the station where she was informed that Eric had died and was at the mortuary in Louis Trichardt.

• To be continued tomorrow



Political comment in this issue by Aggrey Klaaste and Sam Mabe. Sub-editing, headlines and posters by Sydney Mathaku. All of 61 Commando Road, Industria West, Johannesburg.

The reproduction of broadcast without permission of articles published in this newspaper on any current economic, political or religious topic, is forbidden and expressly reserved to The Argus Printing and Publishing Company Ltd under Section 12(7) of the Copyright Act 1978.

• Write to the Editor at PO Box 6663, Johannesburg 2000. Nom-de-plumes can be used, but full names and addresses should be supplied or the letter will not be published.

ERIC Sambo died on Saturday, December 12, 1987. A post mortem report revealed that he died of brain haemorrhage, resulting from a beating by Jacobus Vorster and Leonard.

At least three weeks were to pass before the police arrested the two men. The arrest followed an outcry after the incident was first revealed by the *Sowetan* on December 24.

A senior police officer in Pietersburg, when contacted for confirmation of the incident at the time, at first said the information sounded more like a "Christmas fairy tale." Later, however, after we asked him to check the information out, he confirmed the incident and that no one had been arrested.

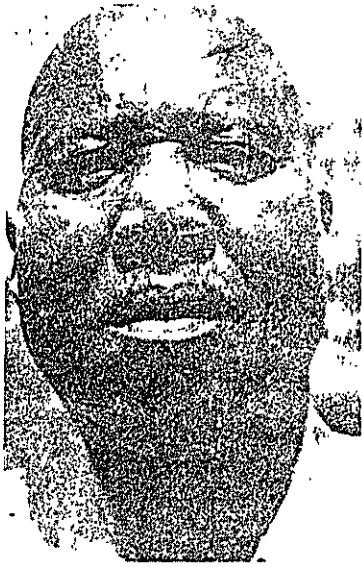
Eric Sambo was buried at HaMajosi village about 30km from Levubu. The funeral was held on January 3 and all expenses were paid for by his nephew. The police arrested Jacobus, Leonard and four black farmhands.

All six were charged with murder in Louis Trichardt. The two whites were given free bail and released on their own cognisance. The blacks were given R200 bail each. None of them could raise it and Jacobus paid for the others. The attorney general later dropped charges against the four black men and only Jacobus and Leonard appeared before Mr Justice J J Strydom on

Death of Eric Sambo

MAN WHO SPOKE FOR FARMER

FOCUS



HEADMAN Mudau Ndwambi . . . house petrol-bombed.

to ask what the outcome was "I could not understand. Even the black policemen said it was not fair. I am so confused about this thing that I cannot even tell my mother what was happening

"Why was I not called to testify? Why were the other people not called? They saw the whole thing and Jacobus came to me several times looking for Eric. Surely we should have been heard before judgment was passed," Maria said.

Prosecutor Malan said he had realised after the two witnesses that he would not be able to secure a conviction for murder. "I consulted my head office and I was authorised to accept the lesser plea," he told the *Sowetan* last week

The sentence has shocked many people who feel that it was too lenient, taking the circumstances of the crime into account. Transvaal Attorney General, Mr Don Brunette, has indicated that the case may be reviewed. He said this could depend on whether "an error in law" had been made.

The Zoutpansberg Advice Bureau (ZAB) and the Black Lawyers Association's legal education centre in Johannesburg are assisting the family with civil claims against Jacobus. Some lawyers are looking into the possibility of petitioning for a retrial

On the whole, the general outcry is that justice does not seem to have been done when a man who whips another to death over two dogs, is effectively fined about R10 000 and left roaming the streets. Was the sentence fair and befitting the crime? Would the outcome have been the same if the racial makeup of the victim and the assailant were interchanged? Only Judge Strydom knows

Jacobus Vorster gave him a plot

By MATHATHA TSEDU

Meanwhile Maria, the only relative who was present, still waited outside the court.

The State closed its case and the defence called headman Mudau Ndwambi of Dzananwa village, TaTshakuma, to testify about Jacobus' character. Mr Ndwambi said Jacobus was a good neighbour who gave his subjects work.

What he did not say was that Jacobus had given him a plot on his farm to plough. He, however, confirmed this to the *Sowetan* when we interviewed him at his home which was recently petrol bombed. He said that he had worked with Jacobus' father at Agriven at Thoho-ya-Ndou.

October 31 this year.

Two witnesses were called to testify while others, including Eric's sister Maria, were waiting outside the court. The prosecutor, Mr W Malan of the attorney general's office, accepted a defence offer to plead guilty to a lesser charge of culpable homicide.

With the deal struck, the need for further witnesses fell off.



MARIA points to the grave of Eric Sambo.

Political comment in this issue by Aggrey Klaaste and Sam Mabe. Sub-editing, headlines and posters by Sydney Matlhaku. All of 61 Commando Road, Industria West, Johannesburg.

The reproduction or broadcast without permission of articles published in this newspaper on any current economic, political or religious topic, is forbidden and expressly reserved to The Argus Printing and Publishing Company Ltd under Section 12(7) of the Copyright Act 1978.

• Write to the Editor at PO Box 6663, Johannesburg 2000. Nom-de-plumes can be used, but full names and addresses should be supplied or the letter will not be published.

R3 000 homicide judgment will be studied by Attorney-General

By Claire Robertson, (4)
Pretoria Bureau

The Transvaal Attorney-General is to study the judgment in which a man who beat a farm labourer to death for killing his dog was fined R3 000 for culpable homicide.

His crime will also cost Jacobus Vorster (23) a total of R7 800 over the next five years because he was ordered to pay compensation of R130 a

month to his victim's widow.

The amount of R7 800 was described yesterday as a "heavy compensatory fine" by the Attorney-General, Mr Don Brunette.

REACTION

Vorster also received a five-year jail sentence, suspended for five years.

The case has drawn outraged reaction from

members of the legal profession.

Mr Brunette confirmed yesterday that he would study the Louis Trichardt Circuit Court judgment, but pointed out that the sentence was "out of the hands of the State" although it was possible to take a judge on appeal for "unreasonableness".

The State could object to a judgment on a point of law, he said.

Star 15/11/88

Farmers 4 welcome new labour rules

Star
16/11/81
By Clyde Johnson
Lowveld Bureau 184

NELSPRUIT — Lowveld farmers have welcomed Manpower Minister Mr Pietie du Plessis' announcement that the employment of Mozambicans is to be allowed.

Although no employment conditions have, as yet, been announced, the mere fact that farmers can again legally employ Mozambicans has been described as good news.

During January this year, farmers were warned that unless documented lists of Mozambicans still in their employ were submitted within two weeks they would face heavy fines.

The ruling then was that no Mozambicans whatsoever were allowed to be employed.

Internal Affairs authorities said they had, at that stage, received little or no co-operation from farmers.

SMALL RESPONSE

In the Barberton area only 51 percent of the region's 96 farmers had made their lists available. Likewise, only half of Komatipoort's farmers co-operated.

Nelspruit was considered a problem area where only 10 percent of the farmers responded.

Southern Lowveld Farmers Union representative for Mozambican labour, Mr Willern Joubert, welcomed the announcement.

"Mozambicans, traditionally, since 1938, have been an integral part of the Lowveld's agricultural labour force and farmers experienced great difficulty doing without them during the past year," Mr Joubert said.

Some farmers who have employed Mozambicans since 1964 said it was physically impossible to repatriate them. These people had, in the meantime, been married, raised families, and in fact had no ties in Mozambique.

● See Page 7.



Limited rights for workers

DAVID Joemat and his wife, Lena, work from sunrise to sunset everyday on the farm where they grew up.

"I love working on the land," he says, "The only trouble is the money."

Joemat gets R30 a week. His wife gets R18.

An annual holiday is unheard of as is an annual bonus.

"The feel of the earth between your hands is a good one," he said. "The fruit we pick now tastes of that soil and the sun and the rain - all the things that make up the land."

It was because he missed being in touch with nature that David returned from the city to the farm.

"It is difficult to survive on that little pay. We manage to buy food but that is all," he said.

"There's no money for clothes. What furniture we have is what people have given us. The thought of anything new is out of the question."

What worries David most is the future of his two children.

"I pray every night that they manage to get away from here and find jobs in the city when they grow up. I know that their only chance is to get a good education but under the conditions we live in that's difficult."

This was elaborated on by a student leader who grew up on the same farm but is now attending school in Cape Town.

"Many of the children I went to school with have already left school because their family needed them to become bread winners," he said.

They did not even finish primary school

so it is almost impossible for them to ever leave the farms.

"It is very difficult for children to study when there is no food in their stomachs or when they have to help with farm work in their spare time.

Many of the workers still live in houses that can best be described as hovels.

Families of up to 15 people squeeze into one or two rooms, often with little ventilation, cardboard ceilings and dirt encrusted floors.

Workers complained of primitive sanitation and inadequate water supplies.

"We have to fetch water from a dam," said one worker.

Some farmers have provided the workers with new houses with electricity. But at R9 a week for electricity this is a mixed blessing.

Destined to poverty

KATINKA Joemat, 78, knows she can be evicted at any time from the farm where she has worked for more than 60 years.

"I have worked here since I was a little girl of 12. But now that my husband and I are sickly and cannot work anymore, we can no longer stay for free in the cottage where we have lived most of our lives," she said.

"We have to pay R18 rent to the farmer from our R109 pension every month.

"I grew up on this farm. This is where I raised my family of seven children.

"This is where my parents are buried. My family is part of this farm but if I don't pay the rent I will have to leave. It doesn't seem fair."

Joemat moved to Robertson in 1922 with her parents. Until a few years ago she worked on the land as a labourer alongside her husband.

Today two of her children still work as labourers on the farm. The others are scattered throughout South Africa and Joemat doesn't often hear from them.

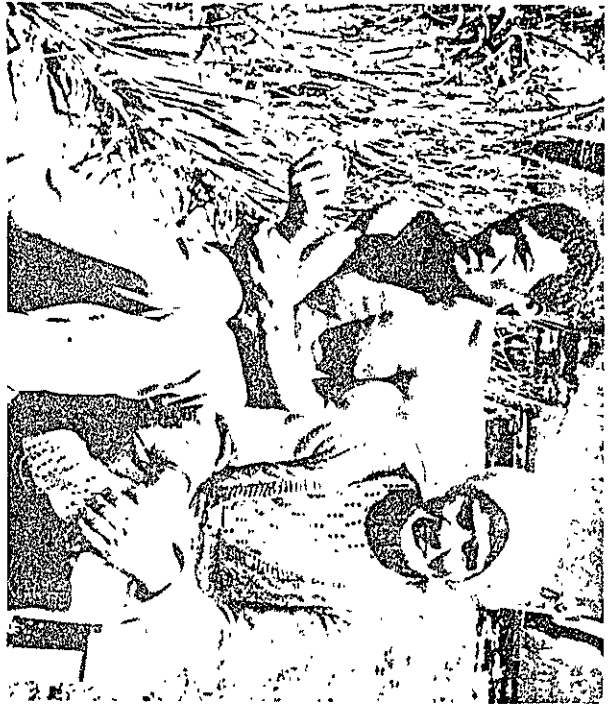
Nowadays much of her time is spent tending to her husband who is practically bed-ridden. She also keeps an eye on her grandchildren while their parents work on the farm.

Sometimes she sits in her carefully tended garden in front of the house.

"I often think about all the fruit we harvested", she said.

"After so many years surely we should have received something in return."

Farmworker Katinka Joemat, 78, has lived and worked for a lifetime in one place. Instead of living the rest of her life in peace, she faces eviction from a house where she has lived for 60 years. CHIARA CARTER reports:



Katinka Joemat and her son, David, outside their home.

PICTURE BY NATALIE GOLDSMITH



Willem Louw has been homeless ever since he lost his leg

Lucky to be alive!

WILLEM Louw is lucky to be alive after being trapped in a fire four years ago.

But sometimes he wishes he had died. "I lost the use of my legs in that accident. But I also lost my job and my house," he said.

"Now I have to go from house to house each night to look for a place to sleep."

Most times he has to sleep in little corners, because the houses are small.

"Those who work have it hard," he said. "But I would give anything to still be able to work. Then I would have a place to call my own."

Louw worked on the farm for ten years.

"Some nights I could not even move. I was so exhausted from the day's work in the hot sun," he said. "My youth was devoted to that farm."

Because the accident happened outside working hours, he did not get workman's compensation?

When he came out of hospital he learnt he had lost his job and therefore his house.

Without family on the farm, he was forced to rely on the charity of friends and acquaintances on neighbouring farms.

"I lost everything in that fire but the greatest loss was my pride. Once I was a worker, now I am a beggar," he said.



Political Survey
By GERALD SHAW

A READER has written to the Cape Times questioning the description in last week's column of South Africa as a violent society in which the victims of brutality are frequently poor and black — "such as farm labourers who are beaten mindlessly and mercilessly by their employers, to the point of death".

Mr Tom Cleary of Rondebosch suggests I owe it to readers to disclose publicly the hard facts on which this perception is based.

The information he seeks is to be found in the court records of this country in every province since the time of Union and in the records of the Cape Colony going back to the notorious Black Circuit in the early 19th century.

Some cases of assault of farm labourers do not come to court and some which do are not reported in the newspapers. Here is a brief sample of cases reported in recent years:

● **November 1988, Louis Trichardt Circuit Court:** Jacobus Vorster (23) fined R5 000 with a five-year suspended sentence for culpable homicide. He tied a farm labourer to a tree and beat him to death. The court also ordered that he pay the labourer's widow R130 a month for five years.

● **August 1988:** A Still Bay farmer, Everitt Kleinhans (27), who clubbed a farm labourer to death, was found guilty of culpable homicide and sentenced to five years' imprisonment, three of them suspended for five years.

● **April 1985:** Three Breede River farmers and a wine-maker were each fined R200 in Worcester Magistrate's Court for assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm. The victim was beaten with a pickaxe handle and a length of hosepipe.

● **November 1984:** A Van Rhyndorp farmer (56) and two prison warders were each fined R1 000 and sentenced to four months' im-

Is a legacy of slavery still lingering on the farms?

Cape Times 25/11/88

prisonment (suspended for four years) after a convict labourer died two weeks after they assaulted him.

● **July, 1982:** The Appellate Division ordered an increase in damages payable to a Transkei contract labourer by a farmer from Rawsonville, Cape — described as "sadistic" by the Chief Justice — who assaulted two labourers. They were hung from beams in a packing shed and beaten. One died.

How is this kind of thing explicable in a law-abiding, church-going agricultural community?

A two-year study in the four provinces completed in 1981 by Mr Eugene Roelofse, an independent ombudsman, concluded that both farmers and employees in certain communities accepted cruelty to labourers as part of agricultural life and

that light sentences for offenders compounded the scandal, which was endemic.

Mr Roelofse, who compiled a weighty dossier of case histories, campaigned for possession of a sjambok to be declared illegal.

Is cruelty to farm labourers rooted in the old slaveholding culture of the Cape? Mr Neville Fleurs, an Inspector in the Department of Education and Culture, believes so — and has said as much in a postgraduate thesis at Unisa.

Mr Fleurs found that some farmers in that era were cruel and vindictive towards their slaves, over whose lives they had absolute control on their isolated farmsteads. "Short of murder," he concluded, "the power of the master was absolute."

It seems that in a frontier society, far from the support or the reach of the law, farmers believed it was their

right and duty to punish their labourers, as they were entitled to punish their children, for their own good. This customary attitude, rooted in the lawless colonial frontier and a paternalist, slave-owning era, persists today in parts of rural South Africa.

There is another side to the picture, of course. There are many model employers among the farmers of the south-western Cape, as their employees will testify, and as anyone who has visited an estate like Drie Jonge Gezellen in Tulbagh will confirm. The Rural Foundation is also doing first-rate work in raising standards of housing and education, pensions and health care. Much headway has been made.

But the shadow remains. And there is no area in which reform has been more fiercely resisted.

The findings of the Manpower Commission into domestic and farm labour, completed in 1984, have yet to be tabled. A draft bill has been promised but farm labourers are still excluded from the benefits and protection of the Labour Relations Act and are defenceless against exploitation. * The Government hesitates to act.

Yet what happens in South African agriculture is being closely monitored abroad. With our wine and fruit exports vulnerable to sanctions, the Government's timidity is potentially disastrous for farmers and labourers alike, for the Western Province — and for South Africa.

* *Your Guide to Farm Workers and the Law, Cape Town, 1988. (Sponsored by the Black Sash.)*

Workers 'evicted from land of their birth'

MARITZBURG. — Hundreds of farm workers in the Weenen area claimed they had been evicted, their cattle impounded, and their homes destroyed by absentee landlords and other farmers.

Farm workers, about 200 of them in tents, are living in makeshift accommodation in an emergency camp on the outskirts of Weenen.

The farm workers claim that on the slightest pretext they are being chased off the land where they, their parents and their grandparents were born.

However, the farmers say those evicted are growing dagga on the farms, are lazy, often drunk, steal cattle and allow their herds to wander unchecked.

Mr Amos Majola, 39, claimed he was given two months' notice to get off former PFP MP Mr Graham McIntosh's farm, Zypherfontein, after Mr McIntosh accused him of stock theft.

Mr McIntosh said the workers' claims were "grossly exaggerated".

"Are you suggesting I am not allowed to terminate the services of workers who openly steal from me, who are lazy, who are always drunk and who grow dagga on my farm?" Mr McIntosh asked. — Sapa

EX-MP in evictions row

By SHAUN HARRIS

A FORMER Progressive Federal Party MP has been accused by black farm workers of evicting people from his farms and knocking down their dwellings.

They also say he has confiscated and threatened to sell their trespassing livestock.

Mr Graham McIntosh, who held the Maritzburg North seat in Parliament for nearly 10 years before being defeated in the last general election, is one of a number of farmers in the Weenen district of Natal who, labourers say, are forcing them off the land they have lived on and farmed for years.

ROOTLESS
... young
Khishiwe
Mtshali, who
lives in a
tent at the
Weenen
emergency
camp



Workers upset by actions of PFP member

about the welfare of black people. Specific allegations against Mr McIntosh came from three farm labourers. Mr Owen Sisibo, who works on a farm adjacent to one of the two farms Mr McIntosh owns in the Weenen district (the lives on another farm in the Estcourt district), said the former MP had confiscated 45 of his goats which had wandered on to his land, and had sold them to another farmer.

Mr McIntosh replied that one of his biggest farming problems was people "stealing grazing" and that Mr Sisibo used his land because the farmer he worked for would not allow him to keep goats on his farm.

Mr McIntosh is, however, still acknowledged as one of the most fair and progressive farmers in the Weenen district, and has the nickname "Siyabonga" (Zulu for "We thank you") among people working for him.

He was also one of the few farmers in the area willing to talk to the Sunday Times about the plight of farm labourers.

But his critics say they are especially angered by some of his actions because they believed that as a member of the PFP he was concerned

about the welfare of black people. Specific allegations against Mr McIntosh came from three farm labourers.

Mr Owen Sisibo, who works on a farm adjacent to one of the two farms Mr McIntosh owns in the Weenen district (the lives on another farm in the Estcourt district), said the former MP had confiscated 45 of his goats which had wandered on to his land, and had sold them to another farmer.

Mr McIntosh replied that one of his biggest farming problems was people "stealing grazing" and that Mr Sisibo used his land because the farmer he worked for would not allow him to keep goats on his farm.

Mr McIntosh is, however, still acknowledged as one of the most fair and progressive farmers in the Weenen district, and has the nickname "Siyabonga" (Zulu for "We thank you") among people working for him.

He was also one of the few farmers in the area willing to talk to the Sunday Times about the plight of farm labourers.

But his critics say they are especially angered by some of his actions because they believed that as a member of the PFP he was concerned



GRAHAM MCINTOSH
Angered labourers

would have kept the proceeds from the sale of the cattle to give to the owner when discovered.

A complaint also came from Mr Amos Mjole, who said Mr McIntosh had dismissed him after falsely accusing him of stock theft.

Mr McIntosh admitted that Mr Mjole was not charged with stock theft, but said he had called in the SAP Stock Theft Unit after other men who worked for him had reported that Mr Mjole had stolen 14 head of cattle. There was not enough evidence to prosecute him.

Concerning allegations that he had evicted people from his land without the necessary court orders and had demolished their homes, Mr McIntosh would only say:

"The courts are dealing with some of these matters and my lawyers are working on it."

Several other allegations were made against Weenen farmers at the emergency camp which, originally intended as a temporary transit camp for evicted labourers, has recently been given permanent status.

Long-term plans are for the camp to be developed as a township, with occupants ultimately being offered freehold or leasehold rights.

But little besides the most basic of facilities have been set up so far — as a permanent home, the camp offers a grim existence.

Ejected

Mrs Ntonjama Sibise, mother of four children, said she had been living in the extension to the emergency camp — two rows of 25 tents serviced by two pit latrines — since September.

"Before we came here we lived in the bush for two years. We were thrown off a farm," she said.

Mr McIntosh said the camp's permanent status was a positive step because the civil service "could now grind into gear" and develop a township.

Plight

But Mr McIntosh, who admits some of the allegations but offers his explanation of events, says the removal of people from the



EX-IMP in evictions row

Arson not suspected in Cosatu inferno

By BILL KRIGE

COSATU has condemned a "cowardly attack by agents of apartheid" after its East London offices were gutted by fire — but police don't suspect arson. The police liaison officer in the Border region, Major Trevor Hayes, said five men were working on the probability that the blaze was caused by an electrical fault.



A FORMER Progressive Federal Party MP has been accused by black farm workers of evicting people from his farms and knocking down their dwellings.

By SHAUN HARRIS

They also say he has confiscated and threatened to sell their trespassing livestock.

Mr. Graham McIntosh, who held the Marlitzburg North seat in Parliament for nearly 10 years before being defeated in the last general election, is one of a number of farmers in the Weenen district of Natal who, labourers say, are forcing them off the land they have lived on and farmed for years.

ROOTLESS
... Young Kishitwe Mthshali, who lives in a tent at the Weenen emergency camp

Workers upset by actions of PFP member

about the welfare of black people. Specific allegations against Mr McIntosh came from three farm labourers. Mr Owen Sibibo, who works on a farm adjacent to one of the two farms Mr McIntosh owns in the Weenen district (he lives on another farm in the Estcourt district), said the former MP had confiscated 45 of his goats which had wandered on to his land, and had sold them to another farmer.

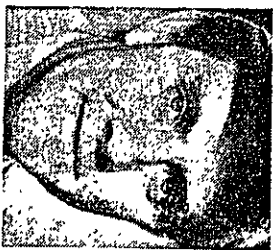
Mr McIntosh replied that one of his biggest farming problems was people "stealing" goats, and that Mr Sibibo used his land because the farmer he worked for would not allow him to keep goats on his farm.

Mr McIntosh is, however, still acknowledged as one of the most fair and progressive farmers in the Weenen district, and has the nickname "Siyabonga" (Zulu for "We thank you") among people working for him.

Accused

Mr Sidumo Nkhabinde said 20 of his cattle went missing, and he later discovered they were on Mr McIntosh's land. "I think Mr McIntosh was wrong because he took my cattle to the stock sale to sell, instead of to the pound."

Mr McIntosh's response was that he often found stray cattle on his farms, and in this instance found 26 cattle on fields he needed for winter grazing. He had tried to establish their ownership and



GRAHAM MCINTOSH, Angered labourers

would have kept the proceeds from the sale of the cattle to give to the owner when discovered.

A complaint also came from Mr Amos Mjole, who said Mr McIntosh had dismissed him after falsely accusing him of stock theft.

Mr McIntosh admitted that Mr Mjole was not charged with stock theft, but said he had called in the SAP Stock Theft Unit after other men who worked for him had reported that Mr Mjole had stolen 14 head of cattle. There was not enough evidence to prosecute him.

Concerning allegations that he had evicted people from his land without the necessary court orders, Mr McIntosh said he had demolished their homes. Mr McIntosh would only say:

"The courts are dealing with some of these matters and my lawyers are working on it."

Several other allegations were made against Weenen farmers at the emergency camp which, originally intended as a temporary transit camp for evicted labourers, has recently been given permanent status. Long-term plans are for the camp to be developed as a township, with occupants ultimately being offered freehold or leasehold rights. But little besides the most basic of facilities have been set up so far — as a permanent home, the camp offers a grim existence.

Ejected

Mrs Ntonjama Sibise, mother of four children, said she had been living in the extension to the emergency camp — two rows of 25 tents serviced by two pit latrines — since September.

"Before we came here we lived in the bush for two years. We were thrown off a farm," she said.

Mr McIntosh said the camp's permanent status was a positive step because the civil service "could now grind into gear" and develop a township.

Plight

But Mr McIntosh, who admits some of the allegations but offers his explanation of events, says the removal of people from the



JOHANNESBURG. — Big business yesterday prepared to hit back at Boksburg — South Africa's new apartheid town.

With 60 Conservative Party-controlled municipalities in the Transvaal ready to follow Boksburg's lead in turning back the apartheid clock, commercial giants led by OK Bazaars and Tradegro joined the growing row, threatening to drag the government along with them.

OK Bazaars managing director Mr Gordon Hood said the indications were that Boksburg's black residents were already taking their business to neighbouring towns.

Sales at the Boksburg outlet were markedly down, while other East Rand stores have improved.

"If a race group decides it is not wanted in town, it may boycott the businesses in that town," Mr Hood said. "It has happened before."

Tradegro chief executive Mr Donald Masson said his group would not make any new investments in towns like Boksburg where CP councils re-imposed old apartheid measures.

'Financial sabotage'

Both men voiced total opposition to the CP's actions. Mr Masson said he was convinced the government will take steps to counter the CP's move.

Tradegro would maintain its existing investments in Boksburg, mainly in the form of retail stores like Dions, but would not stand for any discrimination in its stores, he said.

The Boksburg Chamber of Commerce condemned the town's partition as "financial sabotage" and predicted that massive disinvestment of overseas companies could result.

The president of the chamber, Mr Johan Viljoen, said the decision to segregate amenities would only apply pressure to multinational companies operating in industrial Boksburg and give them the excuse to disinvest.

Some of the multinationals who had promised to remain in South Africa could be "pushed over the edge".

"We are very concerned at the effects that the decision will have on the welfare of the town. It could cost us millions of rands.

"Not only will South Africa lose, but the people of Boksburg will suffer in lost jobs and reduced buying power."

Interleisure chairman Mr Ian Heron, whose firm runs a string of fast-food outlets and restaurants including Bimbos and Captain Dorego, said Interleisure was "totally against racism".

Even if the CP only managed to re-impose apartheid on property controlled by CP councils, Interleisure would "make the strongest representations to government".

Mr Raymond Ackerman, chairman of Pick 'n Pay — which has one supermarket and one hypermarket in Boksburg — has promised to lobby for change and possibly discuss the Separate Amenities Act with the government.

"Through our own efforts and those of business organisations we will try to have their action reversed."

The action could mitigate against the positive overseas reaction to South Africa following government moves over Mr Nelson Mandela, the Sharpeville Six and Angola, he said.

The managing director of leading multinational Colgate Palmolive, Mr Gerald Kocker, said the situation was "just ridiculous" and vowed to do everything to "convince those people they are not doing the right thing".

While disinvestment was not an option, his organisation might decide to support an increasingly popular idea to have their factory rezoned to nearby Benoni.

But even as the volume of protests against the CP's return to old-style apartheid grew yesterday, the unrepentant Boksburg town council said it

To page 3

From page 1

would stick to its guns. The chairman of the Boksburg town council management committee, Mr Gideon Fourie, said the CP represented most of the town's wards and would carry out its mandate from last month's elections.

He also announced that a new suburb, Willowmore Park, would be proclaimed for exclusive white residence and Indian families living in the area would have to move out.

Meanwhile the PFP is expected to join Boksburg's outraged black residents in taking court action against the right-wing council's moves to restore Verwoerdian-style apartheid.

A party source said the matter was being considered by the Boksburg PFP, though local chair-

man Mr Tony Dutton could not be reached yesterday for confirmation.

Black residents have indicated they are investigating the feasibility of an urgent court application to set aside the council's apartheid measures.

A municipal by-election in the town is expected to give an indication of whether Boksburg residents believe their council has gone too far.

Parties to the left of the CP have rallied around independent candidate and president of the SA Amateur Swimming Union Mr Issy Kramer, who is fighting the election with the unofficial backing of the NP and has also been offered support from the PFP.

A major protest meet-

ing in the town is being planned by numerous sports bodies for Thursday.

CP leader Dr Andries Treurnicht will address a public meeting in the town next week when he is likely to insist that the party continue to implement its policy at local level, regardless of the reaction.

Own Correspondent

CP

BUSINESS

CP 6
Toni's
29/11/88

4

CP 6 Toni's 29/11/88

Farmers warned on aid cut-off

PRETORIA — Farmers have been warned they can expect little further financial assistance from government.

(4) GERALD REILLY

At a meeting with the National Maize Producers' Organisation (Nampo), Deputy Finance Minister Org Marais made it clear it would be difficult for government to extend further financial support for the industry.

of financial ruin would force them to change their strategies.

Marais was told the financial position of farmers continued to deteriorate as the inflation screw turned tighter.

Nampo chairman J H Viljoen said farmers could not look down this road for protection against adverse economic conditions.

Stressed was the serious impact of two successive fuel price hikes, rising interest rates, higher vehicle licence fees and other rocketing costs.

These could not be foreseen by farmers as they were not directly related to market forces, Viljoen said.

Maize farmers would have to scale down production and look urgently at other crops and activities with more viable profit margins.

Farmers were being pressed deeper into financial distress by the input spiral and it was clear the foundation of the agricultural industry would weaken further.

This was their greatest hope for survival, otherwise falling prices and the threat

threatened.

Domestic, farm workers seeking a better deal

S/Time 11/12/88

4



NEW Manpower Director-General Joel Fourie says that domestic and farm workers should fall under the Labour Relations Act.

Considered to belong to the category of enlightened officials, Mr Fourie should make a contribution to workers' interests, furthering that made by Piet van der Merwe.

Mr Fourie's attitude to farm and domestic workers should be applauded. As two of the most exploited sections of South Africa's workers, they need attention.

There are more than a million black farm workers, most of whom are poorly paid and uneducated. They earn between R35 and R200 a month.

Losing their job means they lose all. They have no route to follow, having been excluded from the Labour Relations act. They cannot go to the Industrial Courts for redress, and are effec-

tively excluded from the collective bargaining machinery.

Farm workers are also excluded from protection under the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, the Unemployment Insurance Fund, minimum safety regulations governing working conditions and legal protection from victimisation for trade union activities and the right to form registered unions.

Domestic workers are as badly off as farm employees. Central Statistical Services figures show that SA's estimated 1,5-million domestic workers are paid between R105 and R160 a month.

Reports of assault, sexual abuse and starvation wages are rife. The SA Domestic Workers Union (Sadwu) takes thousands of employers to the Small Claims Court each year for these offences.

In an attempt to alleviate the problems of domestic workers, Sadwu has set a minimum wage of R350 a month.

The problems facing farm and domestic workers are huge, and the exploitation obvious, but answers are hard to find.

Although urging that they should fall under the LRA, Mr Fourie acknowledges that it cannot happen overnight — might not even occur.

Mr Fourie says: "We are negotiating for the agricultural sector to fall under the LRA, but there is much opposition. There are other problems and it will take time to solve them.

"Because there is no real need for domestic workers, it has been proven time and again that the moment you bring them under the LRA, there are fewer employed."

Farmers are generally opposed to unions. They see that unions have made farming the next target.

Unions are stepping up the pace, especially in the Orange-Vaal region, Northern Free State, Western Transvaal and Vaal Triangle.

A good year for farmers, says Wentzel

PRETORIA — The country's agricultural industry had started to pick itself up from the floor after the devastating blow of four successive drought years with a fine performance in the year-ending September, Agriculture Minister Greyling Wentzel said at the weekend.

He said net farming income for 1987/88 totalled R4,61bn — an increase of 38% over the previous year.

The agricultural sector's contribution to the gross domestic product amounted to 9%.

The gross value of agricultural pro-

ducts increased by 19% with a similar increase in gross income in the year-ending September.

Wentzel said spending on intermediate goods and services increased by 15%, with sharp increases in fertilisers and fuels during the year.

The higher expenditure level could be attributed to an 11% increase in the cost of farming inputs.

By far the largest price rise was in fertilisers — 20%.

Wentzel said the value of capital

assets in the industry at the beginning of the year was estimated at R48bn.

At the end of last year, accumulated farmers' debt amounted to R13,3bn.

Investment in machinery, implements and vehicles rose sharply by 13%, compared with less than 1% the previous year.

Wentzel said consumer spending on food continued to increase steadily.

In the 12 months to end-September, it rose by 19%.

Prices of food in the period rose by 18% against an increase of 12% in non-food items.

(X) B/dawn GERALD REILLY 12/12/88

THE LAST OF A DYING BREED

2 (4) W/Feb Argus



FISHERMAN Vincent Cloete, at sea.

VINCENT Cloete is a fifth generation Kalk Bay fisherman and it shows. He pulls fish out of the water like other people pluck daisies.

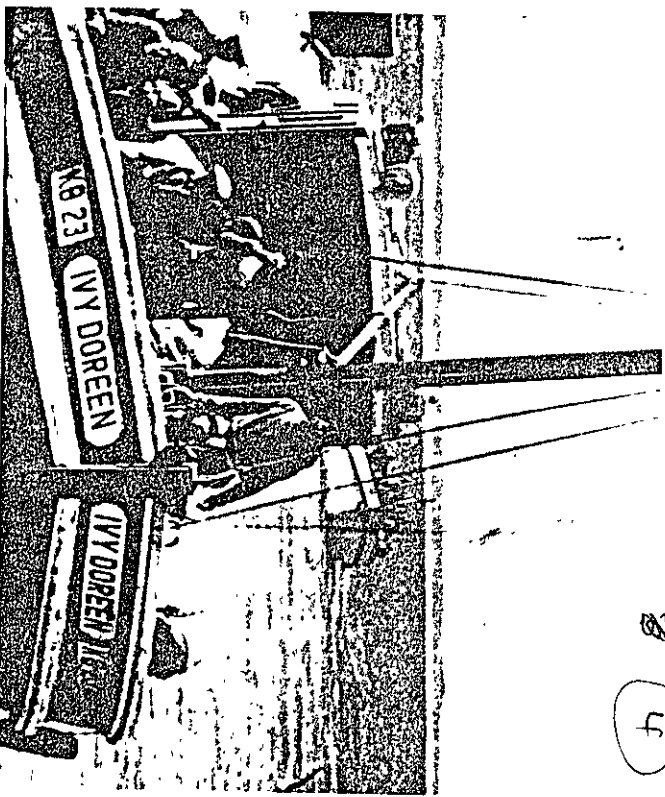
With a hand line fed over the wooden hull of his boat, he can pull 60 fish an hour. From the shimmering sea, his deft and skilled hands reading the species and size of his prize at first tug.

He is the last of a dying breed, no sons will step into the shoes of this fisherman and many of his contemporaries have moved to more productive shores.

The reason? The declining fish numbers in False Bay mean that it is no longer viable for small time fishermen. His is a story told up and down the coastline, the last generation of men who learnt the art from their fathers and grandfathers, and whose sons have forsaken a life on the waves for more lucrative ventures.

It's fun and the dark forms of fisherfolk huddle on the wharf at Kalk Bay. There's a sharp breeze about but they ward off the cold in thick hand knitted jerseys and bright oil-skin dungarees of orange and yellow that defy the darkness. Big wooden fishing boats list like drunk at the quayside, and when each of the crew has taken his allotted piece the vessels head out, humping over the waves, seawards.

The boats nose into the dove grey dawn, leaving behind the tall chalk mountains where almost a hundred years ago lime was mined to white wash houses.



PICTURESQUE Kalk Bay harbour — home to many False Bay fishermen.

Now False Bay fishermen find it hard to make things meet

by CAROLYN MCGIBBON, Weekend Argus Correspondent
Pictures: BILLY PADDOCK and OWEN COETZER

Around the perimeter of the bay there are lights, a friendly signal of human habitation, giving a sense of security to False Bay. The bay is surrounded by two pinners of land at one edge stands Hanglip, the other end is Cape Point, and this is where skipper Vincent Cloete directs his craft.

He drops anchor several hundred metres offshore, and the boat veers to starboard and port till it settles into a rhythmic roll. It is not yet sun up and the water has a cold metallic sheen.

Cloete and his crew do not use rods. They have little wooden spindles on which the line is wound. They throw a weighted lure from the boat, then feed out line to the required depth.

Cloete keeps his thumb on the pulse of the line. His thick, work-worn hands take on a greenishness, as he holds the line, pain facing the sky. At first bite he strikes and deftly brings in his catch. Every trade has its own slang and fishing is no exception. If, by chance, an angler picks up two fish at the same time, his crew shout out: "Nitor" to stabilize his luck.

Cloete can barely keep up. He can hardly fillet a sardine and halt up quickly enough for the hungry shoals in the water beneath. Today the Hottentot and steenjes are biting, they're small, but scailable, and the happling piscacean pile fills his basket to overflowing.

"I've been a fisherman for more than 40 years now. It was

never a good living, and two generations ago fishermen started sending their sons to school to get better jobs, because they thought they would only be poor from fishing.

"The sons don't come fishing any more, and that's a loss, because the vacancies on fishing boats are being filled by guys who are not born fishermen and never become as efficient as born fishermen."

It is only when one learns the skill from one's father as a boy that one can be a really good fisherman, he says, and proves it by doubling the catch of any other member of his crew.

"It's like swimming, if you start to learn to swim at 16, even if you have the best coach in the world, you will never swim as well as someone who started at five. It's also instinct. You're either born with it or you're not. Fishing is in the blood.

"The good fishermen are really dying out. They don't fish in False Bay any more. They get on big boats on the east and west coast and only come back to False Bay when there's a good run."

Cloete blames the decline in fish numbers on the netters. "Poachers from the west coast" who moved into the bay 25 years ago.

"They broke up the shoals of the best fish. Fish aren't stupid.

They won't remain in an area where they are being disturbed, so they moved off."

The large nets that trawled the sea floor picked up everything in their path, with a devastating effect on the ecology. Now only trek netters are allowed to operate, but they too are enemies of the line fishermen.

Said Cloete: "We catch fish only when they are ready, when they want to feed. The nets catch everything."

Hamish Fyfe, who used to fish commercially, and now heads the Western Cape Marine Conservation Society, believes that the damage to the ecological chain by netters is incalculable and ought to be more strictly policed.

His organisation succeeded in getting trawlers banned from False Bay, and since then they have seen an improvement in a number of species such as geelbek and red steenbras.

Other species have taken longer to recover. Chokka, a relative of the octopus, are sought after for calumari and bait and highly prized by fishermen. But their breeding grounds were upset by the netters, who disturbed the eggs laid on the sea bottom, thus robbing the ecology of a vital link in the food chain and decreasing the new population of chokka.

The main objection of fishermen to netters is that they catch indiscriminately and although there is legislation to stop abuse, it is often ineffective or ignored.

Says Mr Fyfe: "The trek netters can't see what they have caught until they bring the nets in. There may be thousands of under-sized fish, which are not allowed to be caught and ought to be thrown back, but they are often dead by the time they are landed."

C/Pres 3/1/88

By REVELATON NTOULA

THE death of a farmhand allegedly tied to a tree and flogged to death over two days had a sequel in the Louis Trichard Magistrates' Court when two white farmers and four black farm labourers appeared in connection with the killing.

A spokesman for the Police's division of public relations in Pretoria confirmed that the six, Jacobus Vorster (21), Piet Lenert (20), Wilson Osau (53), Samuel Nomakhava-

Flogged dead - 6 appear (4)

hani (28), Petrus Noekhwevha (52), and Wilson Muhanelwa (30), all from the Levubu district near Pietersburg where the killing is alleged to have taken place, have been charged.

They were not asked to plead and the two farmers were released on their own

recognisance while the labourers were granted bail of R200 each. They will appear again on January 8.

Labourer Eric Sambo (35), was allegedly tied to a tree after accidentally killing two dogs belonging to a farmer by running over them with a vehicle. He was allegedly punched and sjambokked for two days while tied to the tree.

News of the killing has shocked the Louis Trichard-Pietersburg farming community.

AGRICULTURE — LABOUR

1989

Woman dies: Youths fined for assault

PRETORIA. — Two teenagers, accused of assaulting a farm worker who apparently died of the injuries sustained, were yesterday convicted in the Pretoria Magistrate's Court on a charge of assault with intent to commit grievous bodily harm.

Leonard De Beer, 18, of Plot 124, Haakdoornboom, and a 17-year-old youth, were fined R500 (or six months), while a further 12 months jail was conditionally suspended for five years.

The accused admitted assaulting Mrs Betty Mahlangu during December, 1987, who died in hospital shortly after the assault, but pleaded not guilty to a count of culpable homicide. — Sapa

We are treated like slaves - farmworkers

4
Colum
15/1/89

By DAN DHLAMINI

A NUMBER of dismissed farm workers near Potchefstroom have made damning allegations of "slavery" against their employer - Kekkelle Poultry Farm.

The workers claim that the farming company pays a pittance. They said they were forced to work under unbearable conditions and were - allegedly - assaulted and given electrical shocks for minor mistakes.

In a telephone interview, an employee speaking for the company, declined to comment. He said the matter was between him and his workers. Those who alleged assault should go to the police.

The allegations came to light last week after the entire 30-strong workforce staged a work-stoppage - demanding salary increases, better working conditions and protective clothing. Jacob Thagaswane, 38, told *City Press* the disgruntled workers had decided to approach their employer about their complaints.

Tales of torture with the 'electric tokoloshe'

He said most of the workers earned R110 a month. They wanted an increase or to switch to fortnightly payments. They also demanded that the company should ensure they were not assaulted.

Thagaswane said one of the employees demanded to know who was behind the idea and who the ring-leaders were. He said, he - together with Isaac Moleko, Shadrack Nana and five others - was singled out as "rotten potatoes" and ordered to pack and go.

The fired workers said their work mates had been talked into returning to Kekkelle by promises of more money. Moleko said one of the staff had often warned them not to join a trade union because they were "an insurance managed by crooks who would squan-

der their money".

He said they were afraid to go to the police.

He said both men and women were subjected to whipping for mistakes such as breaking eggs, spilling chicken seed or failing to report for duty.

For serious mistakes such as negligence leading to the death of fowls, Moleko said the culprit would have to "see a tokoloshe" - an electric apparatus with which the culprit would be subjected to electrical shocks.

Nana recounted an incident when his wife failed to report for work. When she arrived the next day, a foreman was ordered to give her two lashes on her buttocks. "I volunteered that I be whipped

instead of my wife because I could not watch her being walloped," said Nana. He said he had on several occasions been taken to the "tokoloshe".

The men sought help from the Western Transvaal and Northern Cape Council of Churches in Potchefstroom.

The Church field workers have vowed to get rid of the "Kekkelle farm tokoloshe" and to investigate the other allegations. Levy Present of the Western Transvaal and Northern Cape Council of Churches Advice Bureau said the Church condemned the alleged actions on the farm and was considering helping the workers to take legal action.

"Trade unions must organise farm workers to curb malpractices such as these," said Present.

According to a Black Sash booklet, *Your Guide to Farm Workers and the Law*, the government had, in 1982, set up a commission of inquiry into farm workers' working conditions. The investigation was completed in 1984, but has not yet been published.

200 teachers withdrawn

THE Department of Education and Training (DET) has withdrawn 200 teachers from five high schools in Diepkloof, Soweto, after attacks on headmasters and other teachers by former pupils last week.

At least one teacher was stabbed in an attack.

This was announced yesterday by the DET's acting director of the Johannesburg region, Peet Struwig.

Struwig said the teachers, including headmasters, had been withdrawn and would be kept away until parents and other community members undertook to ensure their safety.

Struwig said the teachers were withdrawn on Friday after former pupils attacked them because they had been refused admission.

SIPHO NGCOBO

The attacks started after the headmaster of Fidelitas High School pointed out to eight of the boys that their transfer documents from other schools were faulty.

After they were told they could not be enrolled, the nine boys went on the rampage attacking teachers, ransacking the principal's office, smashing windows and damaging teachers' cars.

The pupils then proceeded to other schools and continued with their attacks.

The other Diepkloof schools that are out of operation after these attacks are Bopasenatla, Madibane, Diepsdale and Namedi.

Struwig said the schools had not been closed, but confirmed lessons were not being held.

Farmworker wins back right to home

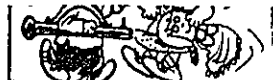
CAPE TOWN — A Stellenbosch wine farmer was ordered in the Stellenbosch Magistrate's Court to restore a man with throat cancer to the farm cottage from which he had been evicted.

Gideon Ndewu, who has had cancer for 10 months, was evicted from a cottage on the farm Monterossa, belonging to F O de Franchi, just after New Year.

In an affidavit before the court, Ndewu said although he had been operated on and was still being treated, it had not prevented him from working, but on January 4 he had been ordered to leave.

The magistrate granted an interim interdict restoring Ndewu to the cottage. — Sapa.

Zach is tons says Gibson was found dead on arrival. — Sapa.



Farmers 'must accept unions'

THE agricultural sector should prepare itself for the emergence of stronger labour organisations, Manpower and Public Works and Land Affairs Minister Pietie du Plessis said in the latest edition of the SA Agricultural Union's (SAAU) publication *The Farmer*.

In one of the most overt recommendations for the incorporation of agricultural trade unions into state industrial relations machinery, Du Plessis said farmers had to accept the changing times in which they lived.

He said it would be prudent for a *modus operandi* for the orderly handling of trade unions to be worked out.

In September 1987 Du Plessis said draft legislation to protect agricultural workers could be expected soon, but nothing has been forthcoming since then. The National Manpower Commission's report, which was drawn up in 1984 and focused on the agricultural sector, has not been released.

Farmers would be forced to put their relations with workers "under the magnifying glass" as union activity intensified, Du Plessis said in the report.

Farm workers have been excluded from labour legislation such as the Labour Relations Act, Wages Act, Basic Conditions of Employment Act and the Unemployment Insurance Act.

Farmers must prepare themselves for the "conceivable pattern of events",

RICHARD BARTLETT

he said. "The way must be prepared for inter-action with worker groups."

He said the following points should be considered:

- Improvement of farmer-worker relationship;
- Provision of suitable accommodation and housing;
- Minimum conditions of employment, including a living wage, holiday and sick leave benefits and maximum hours of work;
- Involvement of workers in farming operations to improve job satisfaction and loyalty;
- Attending grievances before they can develop into trade union action; and
- Drawing up a contract of service.

He acknowledged these were the main demands of trade unions and areas that could result in difficulties for employers if they were not attended to.

Trade unions would have power because many agricultural goods were perishable and this was a threat which could not be ignored. This, and possible industrial action abroad, such as refusals to offload SA goods, could not be ruled out if changes were not made.

Closer economic ties with the rest of Africa were certain to develop and were closely linked to "the unfolding constitutional developments".

"The path to the future runs through Africa," said Du Plessis.

Star 23/1/89

4

Court victory for elderly workers turned off farm

One month notice ruled unlawful

Two grey-haired men in the dock last week stared unbelievably as the magistrate declared that one month was a totally inadequate period of notice to give to farmworkers who had laboured for decades on the same farm, never receiving wages for their work.

"The court finds that the notice which the complainant gave to the two accused was insufficient ... unreasonable and unlawful. The court finds both accused not guilty of trespass," declared magistrate Mr M C Prinsloo of Wakkerstroom.

The case was over. But the accused, Mr Johannes Mtjali (74) and Mr Kleinboo Nene (74) of Klipspruit farm, scarcely stirred. Slowly (after the magistrate had departed) they turned, the success of their defence gradually dawning on them.

Not wanted

Both knew they were still not wanted on the farm by its owner, Mr E van der Merwe, and in due course adequate notice might be given.

"I don't think it's going to simply be easy now," Mr Mtjali said. He indicated that relations with the farmer might be strained "if you light a fire you can't easily put your hand in the fire."

He added that receipt in October of a warning not to plough and formal notice to vacate their homes at the start of November had deterred them from planting their annual crops.

"We'll just rely on God to help us eat this year."

Mr Mtjali remained incredulous that Mr van der Merwe, whom he had watched growing up and for whose grandmother he had worked, should even think of turning him off the farm.

By Jo-Anne Collinge

Mr Mtjali was born on Klipspruit and Mr Nene had worked there for more than 30 years, according to court evidence. In return for the right to remain on the farm, keep stock and plant crops they, or members of their family, provided free labour for Mr van der Merwe.

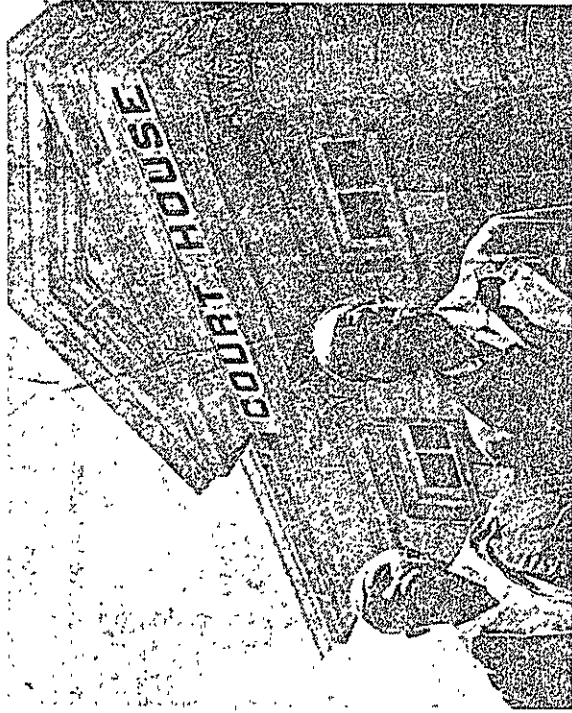
Differences arose when Mr Nene was no longer able to offer one of his sons as a labourer and was obliged to continue working himself. He was, the court heard, no substitute for a young man.

The prosecution argued that farming was a demanding pursuit and the farmer could not go short of labour. The old men would have to go so that new workers could be taken on.

All their lives

The defence said it was reasonable and humane that farmworkers should live out their days where they had worked all their lives.

Mr Prinsloo tended to the view that it was the sons of Mr Tjahi and Mr Nene who were leaving them in the lurch, not Mr van der Merwe. But his verdict followed the Supreme Court judgment in the Radebe case, in which it was held that a month's notice to a labour tenant is no notice at all.



Victorious but still wary... Mr Johannes Mtjali (left) and Mr Kleinboo Nene pose outside the Wakkerstroom courthouse, their fate in a farmer's hands.

Book helps farmworkers

Staff Reporter

While the Government continues to drag its feet over farmworkers' conditions, organisations in the private sector are making modest progress in establishing rights of farmworkers.

A recent contribution to this process is the publication of the first volume of a guide to "Farmworkers and the Law".

Published by the Rural Legal Services Project, the book is written in simple English. Editions in Zulu, Xhosa, Sesotho and Afrikaans are in the pipeline.

The purpose of the work is set out in the preface: "The law affects every farmworker every day. More and more oppressed people are starting to take control of their own lives so they want a better understanding of the law and how they can use the law."

The book tells how the courts function and outlines the law in various situations. It contains a list of organisations which assist farmworkers — legal aid services, advice offices, trade unions.

The authors say the section on employment compares some of the industrial laws to the law for farmworkers, making it easier to see the differences and what changes in the law farmworkers could work for.

9/16/89 (4)
January 26, 1989 3

Farm death: Outrage over light sentence

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The sentence imposed on farmer Jacobus Vorster for his part in the death of a labourer in 1987 was "so grossly inappropriate as to induce not simply a sense of shock but one of outrage and concern", the Johannesburg Bar Council said yesterday at a press conference.

Vorster was given a wholly suspended five-year sentence for his part in the murder of Mr Eric Sambo in December 1987.

He and his co-accused Petrus Leonard were charged with murdering Mr Sambo by assaulting him on December 11-12, 1987.

Statement against the judgment

Star 26/11/89 (4)
The Bar Council statement reads: "According to the transcript of the judgment of Mr Justice Strydom, it was Vorster's youth and the rashness (on-besonnenheid) which goes with it, plus a small amount of liquor abuse, which landed Vorster in this problem situation.

"In fact, however, Vorster was 22 years old at the time of the crime and farmed on his own farm."

"The record shows that liquor had at most a minimal effect."

The Bar Council also remarked on Mr Justice Strydom's finding that Vorster would suffer "embarrassment" resulting from a criminal conviction, so that whenever he applied for a passport he would have to state any previous convictions and the punishment therefore.

"Apart from the fact that the record contains no reference to any evidence along these considerations, it seems hardly relevant, if compared to the fact that this person had been the cause of the brutal death of the deceased.

"The judge also took into account that when the

accused applied for a firearm licence, he would have to make a similar revelation.

"The connection between these factors and an appropriate sentence in a case like this is not one that has previously been judicially discerned," the statement said.

The statement said the court found that some of the blame lay at Mr Sambo's door.

There was a reference in the facts agreed to by the State and defence, that about two months before the killing Mr Sambo, who at that time worked for Voster's father, switched on a tractor which was connected to a bushcutter, even though Mr Sambo knew two puppies were there, and he had been warned not to switch on the tractor.

Because he did so, one pup was maimed, the other killed.

"The judge held that if the deceased had heeded the warning, this incident would never have taken place. This conclusion is inexplicable, since the record reveals no evidence that the incident with the puppies, two months before the killing, played any part in motivating either of the accused."

CAF 70015
20/1/89

Man
killed,
farm
foreman
fined

Own Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH. — A former Cradock farm foreman who was alleged to have beaten a black man to death, was fined R200 (or 10 days) by the Regional Court here. He was convicted of assault.

Lourence Jacobus Prinsloo, 30, was charged with culpable homicide arising out of the death of Mr Mncedisi Alfred Bangani.

Mr Bangani died on December 23, 1987, allegedly of injuries he had received in an assault on Langkloof farm on November 26, 1987.

Prinsloo pleaded not guilty to the charge, and alleged that any injuries Mr Bangani received were inflicted when force was necessary to effect a lawful arrest for trespassing and house-breaking.

In his verdict the magistrate, Mr P Campbell, said there was evidence that after receiving complaints, Prinsloo had armed himself with a rifle and gone to confront Mr Bangani.

There was evidence that Mr Bangani was hit, kicked, trampled and struck with the rifle. Two labourers helped Prinsloo to subdue Mr Bangani.

Helpless

On his way to the police, Prinsloo was alleged to have kicked and trampled the bound and helpless Mr Bangani.

According to Prinsloo, he was involved in a "life-and-death" struggle with a person he suspected was a dangerous terrorist.

If this was true, Prinsloo was entitled to defend himself with whatever force was necessary, and the court had to acquit him of culpable homicide.

But the assault at the house occurred when Mr Bangani was helpless. Prinsloo's kicking him under the circumstances was unlawful and his attitude was perhaps shown by his remark that Mr Bangani was "still being cheeky".

He found Prinsloo guilty of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

Miss G von Hasseln appeared for the state. Mr J Eksteen, instructed by Coetzee and Coetzee of Cradock, appeared for the defence.

Sentence 'induces a sense of outrage'

THE sentence imposed on farmer Jacobus Vorster for his part in the death of a labourer was "so grossly inappropriate as to induce not simply a sense of shock but one of outrage and concern", the Johannesburg Bar Council said in an exceptional statement yesterday.

Last November Vorster was given a wholly suspended five year sentence by Mr Justice J J Strydom in the Supreme Court sitting in Louis Trichardt.

Vorster's apparently light sentence got wide publicity and this and the judge's findings were harshly criticised

SUSAN RUSSELL

in the media.

The chairman of the Johannesburg Bar Council, M Labe, SC, issued yesterday's statement at a Press conference in Johannesburg. He said the council did not usually comment on judgments, and in that sense their decision to issue a statement was exceptional.

"The Bar Council felt it was necessary to make a statement," he said, "because of the fact that the sentence imposed was the subject of widespread concern".

Vorster and his co-accused Petrus Leonard were charged with murdering Eric Sambo by assaulting him on 11-12 December 1987.

They pleaded not guilty to murder, but Vorster pleaded guilty to culpable homicide and Leonard to assault. Their pleas were accepted by the State and they were convicted on the lesser counts.

Vorster was sentenced to five years imprisonment, the whole of which was suspended. One condition of suspension

● To Page 2 →

Sentence induces a sense of outrage

was that he pay Sambo's widow and children R130 a month for five years.

Vorster was also fined R3 000 (or 12 months) but the fine was payable over five years at R250 a month. Leonard was fined R500 or three months imprisonment for assault.

The two men caught Sambo on December 11, 1987, and took him to Vorster's farm. They assaulted him and after kicking him while he was on the ground they tied him to a tree where he remained overnight. The assault was resumed the next morning after which Vorster took Sambo to the police. He died shortly afterwards.

The Bar Council statement said that according to a transcript of the judgment Mr Justice Strydom found it was Vorster's youth and rashness and a small amount of liquor which got him involved in the assault. In fact, the state-

ment said, Vorster was 22 at the time and worked his own farm.

Mr Justice Strydom also took into account the embarrassment which Vorster would suffer as a result of a criminal conviction.

"Apart from the fact that the record contains no reference whatever to any evidence along these lines, these considerations seem hardly relevant if compared to the fact that this person had been the cause of the brutal death of the deceased," the Bar Council said.

"If there grew up in the community a belief that such a crime could merit so trivial a punishment, the maintenance of law and order would be gravely endangered and no law-abiding citizen would be safe from violent and callous killers," the Bar Council said.

| Johannesburg Stock Exchange | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| All Gold
BD Index | Indust
BD Index | JSE Ov'n
Index |
| 1085,2 | 2785,9 | 2189,0 |
| ↑ | ↑ | ↑ |
| 1085,1 | 2747,1 | 2169,0 |

9/Dec 26/1/89

← © From Page

Bar Council raps judge for 'trivial punishment'

MGHS 26/11/89 (11/10)
The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The Johannesburg Bar Council has criticised the sentence imposed by a Supreme Court judge on a farmer who caused the death by beating a labourer tied to a tree.

The Bar Council said the sentence was "so grossly inappropriate as to induce not simply a sense of shock but one of outrage and concern."

It is unusual for the Bar

Council to criticise a Supreme Court judge.

The case involved Louis Trichardt farmer Jacobus Vorster, who caused the death of Mr Eric Sambo.

The trial was heard by Mr Justice J J Strydom in Louis Trichardt Circuit Court in November. The council said it called for the record some time ago but it became available only recently.

Vorster was accused of mur-

der but was convicted of culpable homicide after the State agreed to accept his plea of guilty to the lesser charge.

Mr Justice Strydom sentenced him to five years' jail, completely suspended on conditions which included payment of R130 a month to the widow and children of the man he killed.

Vorster was also fined R3 000 (or 12 months), payable at R250 a month over five years.

The Bar Council said that if the community began to believe that such a crime could merit "so trivial a punishment the maintenance of law and order would be gravely endangered and no law-abiding citizen would be safe from violent and callous killers".

In another conclusion the statement said: "The trial judge also took into account factors in mitigation of sentence of which there was no evidence or insufficient evidence."

Suzman

CALL TONKS 27/1/89

wants

judge

impeached



Mrs Suzman

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Mrs Helen Suzman said yesterday that she would seek to remove a judge who gave a suspended sentence and a fine to a white farmer who beat a black worker to death.

Mrs Suzman said she would move a motion in Parliament to have Mr Justice J J Strydom impeached for what she said was an outrageously lenient sentence.

She said Parliament had the power to remove a judge from office under the Supreme Court Act.

The farmer, Jacobus Vorster, was sentenced last September after he tied black worker Mr Eric Sambo to a tree for two days, beating him to death because he had run over two of the farmer's dogs.

Mr Justice Strydom sentenced him to five years' imprisonment, suspended on condition that he pays R130 a month to Mr Sambo's widow and children.

He was also fined R3 000 payable in instalments. A man who helped Vorster beat Mr Sambo was sentenced to a R500 fine or three months in jail.

The Johannesburg Bar Council attacked the sentence saying it was "so grossly inappropriate as to induce not simply a sense of shock but one of outrage and concern".

The council said the sentence was "so trivial a punishment (that) the maintenance of law and order would be gravely endangered and no law-abiding citizen would be safe from violent killers".

Lawyers see little hope of reopening controversial tree-death trial

SUSAN RUSSELL

LAWYERS say no channels exist for a retrial of farmer Jacobus Vorster, whose lenient sentence for killing a labourer caused a domestic and international outcry.

In a resurgence of widespread criticism have come calls for the impeachment of the trial judge.

Vorster received a five-year suspended jail sentence for admitting the culpable homicide 13 months ago of Eric Sambo. Co-accused Petrus Leonard was fined R500 for assault.

FFP MP Helen Suzman said yesterday she would move for Mr Justice J J Strydom's impeachment in the next session of Parliament.

This follows an exceptional step by the Johannesburg Bar Council in issuing a public statement criticising the lenient sentence imposed on Vorster by Mr Justice Strydom.

Vorster was also fined R3 000 payable at R250 a month and ordered to

pay R130 a month to Sambo's widow.

The farm labourer died after being tied to a tree and beaten because he accidentally ran over Vorster's dogs with a tractor several weeks before.

Johannesburg Bar Council chairman M Labe SC said there was no avenue through which Sambo's family could have the case reopened.

He added: "We are informed that the Attorney-General is not appealing the judgment. We do not know the

reasons but it must be borne in mind that the A-G has only very limited right of appeal in criminal cases."

Mr Justice J J Strydom, when sentencing, took into account the "embarrassment" Vorster would suffer with a criminal conviction.

A spokesman for Justice Minister Kobie Coetzee said it would be inappropriate at present to comment "on the utterings of politicians on topics which obviously call for proper and objective deliberation".

ISEM

Soweto hat

man s yoa saoid JVS T HIR

Suzman to seek judge's impeachment

By PETER FABRICIUS
Political Staff

MP Mrs Helen Suzman said today she would seek the support of the other two houses of Parliament for her attempt to impeach a judge who gave a suspended sentence to a farmer for beating his labourer to death.

Mrs Suzman, Progressive Federal Party MP for Houghton, said today that it would not be easy to remove Mr Justice J J Strydom for his "outrageously lenient" sentence on the farmer Mr Jacobus Vorster in the Louis Trichardt Circuit Court in November.

The Supreme Court Act stated that a judge could not be removed except by the State President "upon an address by all three Houses of Parliament praying for such removal on the grounds of misbehaviour or incapacity".

She would try to introduce an impeachment motion in the House of Assembly and would approach the other two houses to try to persuade them to introduce similar motions. These impeachment addresses must be made in the same session of Parliament.

"I don't underestimate the difficulty of impeaching this judge, but I am certainly going to try," she said.

She added that Mr Strydom had a "long history" and this would be brought into her motion.

Today Minister of Justice Mr Kobie Coetsee said it would be "inappropriate to comment at this time on the utterings of politicians on topics which obviously call for objective and proper deliberations."

Vorster was accused of murder but found guilty of culpable homicide and sentenced to five years jail suspended on certain conditions and also fined R3 000 (or 12 months jail).

The Johannesburg Bar Council has taken the unusual step of criticising the judgment of Mr Justice Strydom as "so grossly inappropriate as to induce not simply a sense of shock but one of outrage and concern".

● Mr Justice Strydom today remained unbowed by the criticism and said he had done his job, reports Sapa.

He said Mrs Suzman could "with pleasure" present a motion to Parliament to have him impeached.

Concerning the sentence, Mr Justice Strydom said: "As far as I am concerned, my function in the state process is completed."

"I have done my work and am not going to defend myself against allegations made by other people."

(4) (P)

Impeach Judge Call

MP Mrs Helen Suzman is to try to impeach in Parliament a judge who gave a suspended sentence to a farmer for beating his labourer to death with a stick because he ran over his dogs.

Mrs Suzman, Progressive Federal Party MP for Houghton, said yesterday that Parliament had the power to remove a judge from office under the Supreme Court Act.

She said she intending taking action under this Act to remove Mr Justice J J Strydom for his "outrageously lenient" sentence on the farmer Mr Jacobus Vorster in the Louis Trichardt Circuit Court in November.

He was accused of murder but found guilty of culpable homicide and sentenced to five years jail suspended on certain conditions and also fined R3 000 (or 12 months jail).

Tied

He and a labourer assaulted Mr Eric Sambo on December 11 1987, then he was tied to a tree and assaulted and beat with a stick.

Mr Vorster then took him to the police and he died shortly afterwards of internal bleeding.

The Johannesburg Bar Council has taken the



Mrs SARAH Sambo . . . wife of the killed man.

unusual step of criticising the judgment of Mr Justice Strydom as "so grossly inappropriate as to induce not simply a sense of shock but one of outrage and concern."

Mrs Suzman said yesterday she welcomed the Bar Council's statement. "I believe this is a matter which should be

taken up in Parliament and this is something I intend to do."

Meanwhile summons of a civil case for the dependants of Mr Eric Sambo are to be served on Jacobus Vorster before the end of February, attorneys acting for the family disclosed yesterday.

Suzman will seek support to impeach 'lenient' judge

Star 27/1/89
By Peter Fabricius,
Political Correspondent

The support of the two other Houses of Parliament is to be sought by Mrs Helen Suzman in her attempt to impeach a judge who gave a suspended sentence to a farmer for beating his labourer to death.

Mrs Suzman, Progressive Federal Party MP for Houghton, said today it would not be easy to remove Mr Justice J J Strydom for his "outrageously lenient" sentence on Jacobus Vorster last year.

The Supreme Court Act stated that a judge could not be removed except by the State President "upon an address by all three Houses of Parliament praying for such removal on the grounds of misbehaviour or incapacity".

She would try to introduce an impeachment motion in the Assembly and would approach the two other Houses to introduce similar motions.

'LONG HISTORY'

These impeachment addresses must be made in the same session of Parliament.

"I don't underestimate the difficulty of impeaching this judge, but I am certainly going to try," she said.

She added that Mr Justice Strydom had a "long history" and this would be brought into her motion. She said she had received calls from all over the world supporting her stand.

The Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, said it would be "inappropriate to comment at this point on the utterings of politicians on topics which obviously call for objective and proper deliberations".

The Johannesburg Bar Council has taken the unusual step of criticising the judgment of Mr Justice Strydom as "so grossly inappropriate as to induce not simply a sense of shock but one of outrage and concern".

CAF 70015
20/1/89

Man
killed,
farm
foreman
fined

Own Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH. — A former Cradock farm foreman who was alleged to have beaten a black man to death, was fined R200 (or 10 days) by the Regional Court here. He was convicted of assault.

Lourence Jacobus Prinsloo, 30, was charged with culpable homicide arising out of the death of Mr Mncedisi Alfred Bangani.

Mr Bangani died on December 23, 1987, allegedly of injuries he had received in an assault on Langkloof farm on November 26, 1987.

Prinsloo pleaded not guilty to the charge, and alleged that any injuries Mr Bangani received were inflicted when force was necessary to effect a lawful arrest for trespassing and house-breaking.

In his verdict the magistrate, Mr P Campbell, said there was evidence that after receiving complaints, Prinsloo had armed himself with a rifle and gone to confront Mr Bangani.

There was evidence that Mr Bangani was hit, kicked, trampled and struck with the rifle. Two labourers helped Prinsloo to subdue Mr Bangani.

Helpless

On his way to the police, Prinsloo was alleged to have kicked and trampled the bound and helpless Mr Bangani.

According to Prinsloo, he was involved in a "life-and-death" struggle with a person he suspected was a dangerous terrorist.

If this was true, Prinsloo was entitled to defend himself with whatever force was necessary, and the court had to acquit him of culpable homicide.

But the assault at the house occurred when Mr Bangani was helpless. Prinsloo's kicking him under the circumstances was unlawful and his attitude was perhaps shown by his remark that Mr Bangani was "still being cheeky".

He found Prinsloo guilty of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

Miss G von Hasseln appeared for the state. Mr J Eksteen, instructed by Coetzee and Coetzee of Cradock, appeared for the defence.

Foreman convicted of assault for man's death

A FORMER Cradock farm foreman who was alleged to have beaten a black man to death was convicted of assault and sentenced to R200 (or 10 days) by the Port Elizabeth Regional Court on Friday.

Lourence Jacobus Prinsloo, 30, was acquitted on a charge of culpable homicide arising out of the death of Mncedisi Alfred Bangani. Bangani died on December 23,

Own Correspondent (4) 1987, allegedly of injuries he had received in an assault on the farm Langkloof on November 26, 1987.

Prinsloo pleaded not guilty to the charge, and alleged that any injuries Bangani received were inflicted to effect a lawful arrest for trespassing and housebreaking.

Magistrate P Campbell said there was evidence that Prinsloo armed himself with a rifle and went to confront Bangani. He then hit, kicked, trampled and struck the man with his rifle.

But Campbell said the State been unable to prove that serious injury was caused by the kick; when any of the fatal injuries occurred; or who they were inflicted by.

Ciskei police deaths came

SARANDA

Workers trek to Cape Town after walk-out

Cape Times 3/2/89

Staff Reporter

until later.

A TRANSKEI worker told yesterday of his long walk from Piketberg to Cape Town after he and 46 others left a potato farm where they believe they had been unfairly treated and 27 of them headed for Cape Town.

Mr Ntuthuzelo Maratsha, of Thabankulu, said he and 63 other men had been recruited as contract labourers on January 20 and brought to the Piketberg farm of Mr Gideon "Cowboy" Carstens.

Speaking through an interpreter, he said the workers had been dissatisfied with the quantity of food they had been given, with their living quarters, their working conditions and the treatment meted out to them at work.

They had understood they would be paid R7 a day but after a week they had been given only R15 each. The farmer had said via an assistant that he would keep the rest of their wages

A supervisor had been very angry when the dissatisfied workers approached him. He had had a gun with him when he spoke to them and told them they could walk back to Transkei if they wished, Mr Maratsha said.

The workers had held a meeting on Sunday night and decided to go to the police. The Piketberg police had told them they were unable to interfere.

"So we decided to come to Cape Town on foot," said Mr Maratsha. "Forty-six of us left the farm but only 27 walked to Cape Town."

Mr Carstens could not be reached for comment yesterday but his wife Sally confirmed that a group of dissatisfied workers had recently left the farm. It was not the first time this had happened, she said.

The workers were under contract and the arrangement was that they get the rest of their wages "when they go home", she said.

Slain worker's family starves

by JAAP BOEKKOOI

Weekend Argus Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG. — The widow and five children of Mr Eric Sambo, the worker beaten to death by Levubu farmer Jacobus Vorster, 23, are living in near-starvation in a hovel in Venda.

The Johannesburg Bar Council has unanimously condemned the suspended sentence and fine imposed on farmer Vorster, and warning has been given about a motion asking Parliament to dismiss the presiding Mr Justice J J Strydom.

Meanwhile, Mrs Sarah Sambo, 36, is as usual cutting *morog* (wild spinach), gathering leaves and catching fish to feed her family in a small hut in the village of Mashau.

For reasons which are not clear, Mr Justice Strydom — who fined Vorster R3 000 payable over five years for beating, kicking and whipping Mr Eric Sambo to death after tying him to a tree — did not make an order of payment to Mr Sambo's wife and children.

Instead, he made a monthly R130 order in favour of Mr Sambo's girlfriend, Miss Mamma Shlenga.

Last visit

"I have never seen Mamaila and I cannot see why she should receive money for the death of my lawful husband who visited us every weekend," said Mrs Sambo.

She only knows Vorster from hearsay, and from Eric's weekly descriptions of him "as a kwaai baas".

"I remember Eric's last visit to us when he looked fearful and said: 'The baas wants to kill me'."

Miss Maria Sambo, younger sister of the dead man, said: "Just before his death, Eric told us that the baas had promised he would kill him, no matter what — either by shooting him, or by running him down in his car — since he had accidentally run over two of his dogs with a tractor.

"We've not eaten any meat since Eric died, only the fish which we catch, pap and veld plants. As you see, we are very thin and the children have had no new clothes.

"I never saw Eric again, for



Mrs Sarah Sambo and her family, who are starving at their home in Mashau, Venda, after her husband was beaten to death by his farmer employer.

at the funeral they did not allow me to open the coffin. They said Eric was too badly bruised for me to look at him for the last time."

Mrs Sambo did not understand the moves to condemn the judge, but she said she was happy that Eric's death had not been forgotten.

But Maria Sambo said: "I am very grateful for all this protest against the lenient judgment."

"Farm workers in this area are often abused, but to my knowledge my brother was the first one to die. This protest to Parliament will make farmers think twice before they assault their workers."

Mrs Sambo said: "My neighbours are good to me and sometimes give me a piece of soap. Now they might help me

to visit my mother-in-law some distance away. She had a heart attack after Eric was killed."

The Vorster homestead is situated on the Louis Trichardt-Punda Maria road — just past a sign proclaiming: "Last slaughter-house in the RSA ... wors and liver specials."

Jacobus Vorster, who farms pecans and macadamia, nuts, arrives at high speed in his expensive BMW luxury car.

"I want to be polite to you. No pictures, please, and I'll discuss anything with you but the case," he says.

"I realise I'm lucky, and that if the case had taken another turn I would now be in jail. Feelings have run high in this community and I have received threats. I have ignored them, however."

He is a young man with tanned hair and moustache, and a pleasant, open face.

Halogen floodlights surround the house — which also carries a CB antenna, and about 10 dogs roam the property.

"That's all I want to say," Vorster says. "It's been a difficult year for us and I will have to plant cash crops in the meantime.

"I don't want to appear impolite, but some journalists have been here and written things that aren't true."

• This week the Johannesburg Bar Council said that after studying the Vorster case, it had found Mr Justice Strydom's sentence at the Louis Trichardt Circuit Court in November "so grossly inappropriate as to induce ... a sense of shock and outrage".

Slain worker's family starves

4/2/89

by JAAP BOEKKOOI

Weekend Argus Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG. — The widow and five children of Mr Eric Sambo, the worker beaten to death by Levubu farmer Jacobus Vorster, 23, are living in near-starvation in a hovel in Venda.

The Johannesburg Bar Council has unanimously condemned the suspended sentence and fine imposed on farmer Vorster, and warning has been given about a motion asking Parliament to dismiss the presiding Mr Justice J J Strydom.

Meanwhile, Mrs Sarah Sambo, 36, is as usual cutting *morog* (wild spinach), gathering leaves and catching fish to feed her family in a small hut in the village of Mashau.

For reasons which are not clear, Mr Justice Strydom — who fined Vorster R3 000 payable over five years for beating, kicking and whipping Mr Eric Sambo to death after tying him to a tree — did not make an order of payment to Mr Sambo's wife and children.

Instead, he made a monthly R130 order in favour of Mr Sambo's girlfriend, Miss Mamaila Shilenga.

Last visit

"I have never seen Mamaila and I cannot see why she should receive money for the death of my lawful husband who visited us every weekend," said Mrs Sambo.

She only knows Vorster from hearsay, and from Eric's weekly descriptions of him "as a kwaai baas".

"I remember Eric's last visit to us when he looked fearful and said: 'The baas wants to kill me.'"

Miss Maria Sambo, younger sister of the dead man, said: "Just before his death, Eric told us that the baas had promised he would kill him, no matter what — either by shooting him, or by running him down in his car — since he had accidentally run over two of his dogs with a tractor.

"We've not eaten any meat since Eric died, only the fish which we catch, pap and veld plants. As you see, we are very thin and the children have had no new clothes.

"I never saw Eric again, for



Mrs Sarah Sambo and her family, who are starving at their home in Mashau, Venda, after her husband was beaten to death by his farmer employer.

at the funeral they did not allow me to open the coffin. They said Eric was too badly bruised for me to look at him for the last time."

Mrs Sambo did not understand the moves to condemn the judge, but she said she was happy that Eric's death had not been forgotten.

But Maria Sambo said: "I am very grateful for all this protest against the lenient judgment.

"Farm workers in this area are often abused, but to my knowledge my brother was the first one to die. This protest to Parliament will make farmers think twice before they assault their workers."

Mrs Sambo said: "My neighbours are good to me and sometimes give me a piece of soap. Now they might help me

to visit my mother-in-law some distance away. She had a heart attack after Eric was killed."

The Vorster homestead is situated on the Louis Trichardt-Punda Maria road — just past a sign proclaiming: "Last slaughter-house in the RSA ... wors and liver specials."

Jacobus Vorster, who farms pecans and macadamia nuts, arrives at high speed in his expensive BMW luxury car.

"I want to be polite to you. No pictures, please, and I'll discuss anything with you but the case," he says.

"I realise I'm lucky, and that if the case had taken another turn I would now be in jail. Feelings have run high in this community and I have received threats. I have ignored them, however."

He is a young man with tanned hair and moustache, and a pleasant, open face.

Halogen floodlights surround the house — which also carries a CB antenna, and about 10 dogs roam the property.

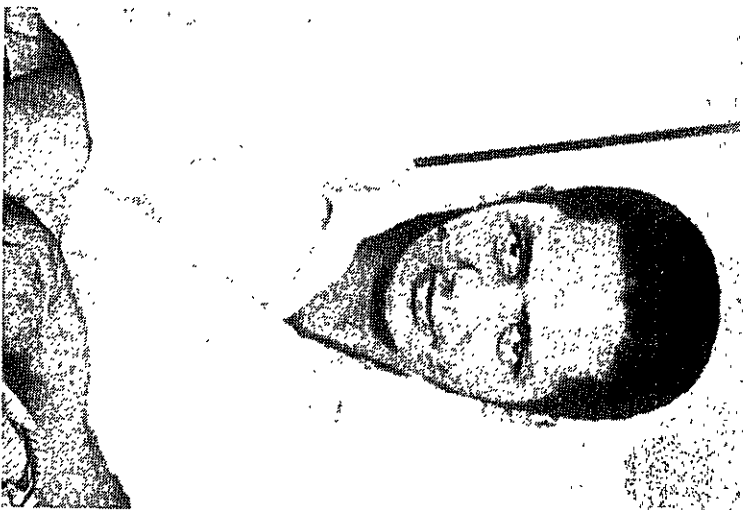
"That's all I want to say," Vorster says. "It's been a difficult year for us and I will have to plant cash crops in the meantime.

"I don't want to appear impolite, but some journalists have been here and written things that aren't true."

• This week the Johannesburg Bar Council said that after studying the Vorster case, it had found Mr Justice Strydom's sentence at the Louis Trichardt Circuit Court in November "so grossly inappropriate as to induce a sense of shock and outrage".

Revenge beating

South
16-22/2/89
(4)



Henry Jacobs speaks of his "nightmare ordeal"

By HENRY LUDSKI

BLEEDING and in agony, a 25-year-old Swellendam garage worker was allegedly suspended by his feet from the rafters of a farm shed and whipped by two farmers.

The men then quaffed beer while their "victim" hanged face-down.

Henry Jacobs' nightmare began last Friday when he was allegedly "kidnapped" by two Southern Cape farmers and driven to a nearby farm.

"It was the worst thing that ever happened to me," said a still shaken Jacobs.

Police this week confirmed they were investigating kidnapping and assault charges against a 65-year-old Buffeljagstrivier farmer and his 28-year-old Riversdale son-in-law.

Flesh were still clearly visible.

"It was really cruel what they (the farmers) did to Henry," said his mother, Mrs Caroline van der Vent.

"If Henry had smacked the farmer, why didn't he lay a charge against him?"

This week the 65-year-old farmer said he did not lay a charge of assault against Jacobs because he wanted to "sort out the matter personally".

He denied assaulting Jacobs and hanging him up by his feet.

"I didn't hit him, I offered him a beer," he said. "I merely wanted to find out why he had hit me on January 21 so that I could sort out the matter."

The farmer said he had "defended" himself when Jacobs had hit him.

Asked why he had taken Jacobs into the shed, the farmer replied: "Do

you expect me to have taken him into my lounge?"

The farmer and his son-in-law were arrested on the night of the alleged attack.

They made a brief appearance in the Swellendam Magistrates Court on Monday.

They were not asked to plead, no evidence was led and the case was postponed to February 16.

Describing his horrific ordeal, Jacobs said: "They took me into a shed and suspended me by my feet."

"Then they hit me with a spanbok and left me hanging there while they stood around drinking beer."

Bleeding and in pain, he was left to walk the 4km home from the farm Bakleplaas ("fighting farm"), where the alleged assault took place.

Jacobs described the attack as a "revenge beating".

On January 21 he was involved in an argument with the elderly farmer at a shop in Buffeljagstrivier. Jacobs admits to smacking the farmer, who accused him of stealing meat from his bakkie.

Last week the farmer and his burly son-in-law allegedly confronted Jacobs in town as he was making his way home from work.

"When I saw them I had a feeling they were looking for trouble and I started running."

"But I slipped and when they caught me, they tied a rope around my neck and pulled me onto their bakkie," said Jacobs.

After the attack he had to be treated by a doctor for his injuries. This week the deep scars on his ankles where the rope cut into his

BUSINESS

By Day 17/11/87

Farmers will not escape unions

PRETORIA — Agriculture could not escape trade union involvement in the industry, Deputy Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk said at the winding up of the Agricultural Outlook conference here this week.

He stressed there were still deficiencies in labour conditions on farms and these should be put right to avoid clashes with

GERALD REILLY

antagonistic labour unions. Speaking at the conference, Volkskas group MD D C Cronje said as one of the

biggest employers the agricultural industry would be increasingly affected by trade unions which wanted to exercise their powers for political gain.

He stressed trade unions had become powerful political instruments.

An SA Agricultural Union spokesman said the SAAU was concerned at the possible intervention of unions in the farming sector.

To pre-empt this, the SAAU was urging farmers to improve the socio-economic conditions of their workers.

The spokesman said big improvements had already taken place.

Farmers face death trial

19/2/89

19/2/89

4

By DAN DHLAMINI

AN assault that led to the death of a farmworker was described in the Klerksdorp Regional Court this week.

Louis Johannes Venter, 35, and Pieter Martinus Fouche, 34, are accused of assaulting Medupe Steven Mononye on March 16, 1988.

A witness described how Mononye had been tied up by the two farmers, who suspected him of having stolen cattle and then jam-bokked and assaulted him until he died.

● Turn to Page 2

Farmworker 'sjambokked until he died,' court hears

Two white farmers face assault charges

By DAN DHLAMINI

SPINE-chilling events leading to the death of a farmworker unfolded this week in the Klerksdorp regional court.

In the dock before magistrate P.J.L. Venter were Louis Johannes Venter, 35, and Pieter Martinus Fouche, 34, white farmers who allegedly brutally assaulted Medupe Steven Mononye on March 16 last year.

State witness J Nyatho told the court how Mononye, whose hands had been tied from behind and a rope tied around his neck, had been assaulted by the accused.

He said Venter and Fouche had suspected Mononye of having stolen cattle and, despite his denials, had repeatedly sjambokked him until he died.

Nyatho described how Fouche had come into a

room carrying Mononye on his shoulder and had thrown him to the floor.

Nyathu said the accused had warned him not to untie Mononye and had left for about 10 minutes.

He said Venter and Fouche had come back with three other farmworkers and instructed them to question Mononye about the cattle.

In response to a question by advocate E Grey,

Nyatho said after David, one of the workers, had told them that Mononye denied any knowledge of the whereabouts of the cattle, Venter had sjambokked the deceased.

He said the three workers had refused to carry the deceased to a bakkie as instructed by the accused.

He said Fouche had picked up Mononye and loaded him on the bakkie.

The two have pleaded not guilty to the charges of culpable homicide, abduction and assault (two counts). The cause of Mononye's death was recorded as brain haemorrhage.

Fouche's defence counsel, HJ De Vos, put it to Nyathu that the deceased's head hit the windscreen, hence the brain haemorrhage.

Magistrate Venter adjourned the matter until April 10 and released the accused on R200 bail.

The case attracted many Klerksdorp people.

Most of them said it reminded them of the much-talked-about Louis Trichardt case where two farmers beat Eric Sambo to death for having run over two dogs. Judge JJ Strydom's suspended sentences and fines raised an outcry in legal circles.

CP-led council offers services to townships

By DAN DHLAMINI

THE Conservative Party-controlled Potchefstroom Town Council raised eyebrows this week when it met its black counterparts and promised to help them if they needed any help whatsoever in future.

The mayor, Dr C Landsberg, offered his council's services during a cocktail party with councillors from Ikageng, Promosa and Mohadin - Potchefstroom's black neighbours.

The move is seen as a major shift in CP policy.

Boksburg made headlines when its CP council re-introduced petty apartheid soon after the municipal election last year.

Carletonville, Stilfontein, Potchef-

stroom, Lichtenburg and Sannieshof followed soon suit on the petty apartheid policy.

The Carletonville Council informed the Khutsong Town Council in a letter that their would no longer be consultations between them.

The council also fenced off the parks in a bid to bar blacks from them.

In Stilfontein, the council has threatened to prosecute blacks found in parks.

The Lichtenburg council has retracted an earlier decision to bar buses transporting black commuters from using some streets near the shopping complex.

This was done after businessmen complained that their concerns would collapse if blacks did not buy in town.

4
Chen
19/2/89

L
D
S
K
S
T
m
t
y
s
p
s
t
r
K
c
o
c
a
g
r

o
r
Z
c
l
s
e
L
a
E
l
i
(
i
t
i
r
2
t
s
a
s
t
t
i
l
c
t

CAPE TOWN 20/2/87

Judge: No comment on newspaper criticism

PRETORIA. — A Pretoria judge, Mr Justice J J Strydom, on Friday declined to comment on a newspaper report claiming he had several criminal judgments against him when he was admitted as an advocate in 1951.

"I do not read newspapers and do not speak to newspapers. Those criminal judgments were before the court when I was admitted in 1951," he said.

The newspaper, Die Vrye Weekblad, claimed Mr Justice Strydom had six criminal judgments against him and had been sentenced to hard labour for the theft of a motor car at the time of his admission to the bar.

The judgments followed his activities in the Ossewa-Brandwag during the 1940s.

Mr Justice Strydom was recently involved in a controversy when he gave a farmer who killed a labourer a suspended sentence. — Sapa

Workers rescued (4)

POLICE at Upington have rescued workers who were stranded on an island after the level of the Orange River had risen to 5,8 m, submerging the bridge to the island, SABC Radio News reports. *Gowden 2/1/76*

sent Keimoes to rescue several people left stranded on small islands by the rising water.

On the Kanon and Perde Islands, farmers are busy reinforcing retaining walls to prevent land under irrigation from being flooded.

SADF members exceeding bounds of duty in townships

13. Mr R R HULLELEY asked the Minister of Defence:

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 192 on 2 March 1988, he will reconsider his decision not to furnish statistics in future on members of the South African Defence Force who exceeded the bounds of duty while serving in Black townships; if not, why not; if so,
- (2) whether, in 1988, any members of the Defence Force were (a) charged with and (b) convicted of exceeding the bounds of duty while serving in any Black townships; if so, (i) how many and (ii) in respect of what offences in each case;
- (3) whether in that year, any civil actions were instituted against (a) him and/or (b) any members of the Defence Force for acts committed by members of the Defence Force while on duty in Black townships; if so, (i) how many, (ii) what were the circumstances surrounding each claim and (iii) what was the nature of the claim in each case;
- (4) whether any of these actions have been finalized; if so, (a) how many as at 31 December 1988 and (b) what was the outcome in each case?

B66E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (1) No. The circumstances are still unchanged.
- (2), (3) and (4) Fall away.

National servicemen requesting not to do duty in townships

14. Mr R R HULLELEY asked the Minister of Defence:

- (1) Whether any national servicemen requested the South African Defence Force in 1988 not to require them to do duty in any townships in the Republic; if so, how many?
- (2) whether any of these requests were acceded to; if not, why not; if so, (a) how many were acceded to and (b) what were the circumstances surrounding each of these cases?

B67E

(ii) Whites
Coloureds
Asians
Blacks

7
880
805
11 018

(b) (i) Whites
Coloureds
Asians
Blacks

(ii) Whites
Coloureds
Asians
Blacks

2 403
630 437
163 317
6 356 212

21
5 566
4 813
152 338

NOTE: These figures are in respect of the notification of the discontinuance of work received in terms of section 65A of the Labour Relations Act, 1956.

Farm/domestic workers: report on working conditions

49. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Manpower:

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 88 on 2 March 1988, consultations concerning the report of the National Manpower Commission on the working conditions of farm and domestic workers have now been completed; if not, (a) why not and (b) what remains to be done to complete this investigation; if so, when;
- (2) whether the report has been released; if so, when; if not, (a) why not and (b) who took the decision in this regard;
- (3) whether any action affecting the working conditions of farm and domestic workers is to be taken as a result of the findings of this commission; if not, why not; if so, (a) what action and (b) when;
- (4) (a) when was this commission established and (b) what was the total cost of the commission as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

B129E

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER:

- (1) No.
- (a) As the consultations progress matters are identified which require further investigation and consultation.
- (b) The consultation still have to be con-

cluded, after which proposals which may arise therefrom will be cleared with interested parties at regional and agricultural sector level.

(2) No.

(a) The Labour Relations Act, 1956, provides for the National Manpower Commission to submit its reports and recommendations to the Minister of Manpower. The report concerned served as advice to the Minister and was not meant for publication.

(b) The Minister of Manpower.

- (3) As indicated in the Minister's previous reply the question whether or not any action is to be taken will be considered once the consultations have been concluded.

(a) Falls away.

(b) Falls away.

(4) (a) 1 October 1979.

(b) The total cost of the Commission up to 31 March 1988 amounted to R6 164 000. Apart from the recommendations of the National Manpower Commission to the Minister of Manpower on labour relations in the agricultural sector, 53 others reports and investigations have also been completed during this period.

Jan Smuts Airport: checks on security fences

52. Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

- (1) Whether regular checks are carried out on the security fences at Jan Smuts Airport; if not, why not; if so, at what intervals;
- (2) whether an unauthorized person gained access to a runway at this airport on or about 14 January 1989; if so, (a) how long before the above date was the last check carried out on the section of the security fence where this incident occurred, (b) what were the circumstances surrounding this incident and (c) what was the (i) nature and (ii) cost of the damage to the aircraft involved?

B142E

Agriculture faces many changes

Carl Times 7/3/89 (4)

By BRUCE WILLAN

WITH the privatisation of the agricultural industry in SA, the industry must realize that there are both opportunities and hazards involved, warns Volkskas group MD D C Cronjé at the recently held Agrocon '89.

Cronjé said that the agricultural industry will have to be more competitive with less input coming from the government.

Farmers will have to bear the responsibility of the risks which are inherent to the industry and production areas.

Government and hence the taxpayer, will no longer have to take the risks which have been passed on by the farmers.

Cronjé said that although it would be impossible to eliminate emergency measures when disasters strike such as drought and floods, subsidies on industries, production inputs and capital will increasingly be scaled down.

Competition will increase between the various fields of agriculture and labour will come under the spotlight.

According to Cronjé political and social changes are beginning to affect labour as a production factor.

More attention will have to be paid to managing the labour force this year which will make agriculture more vulnerable, said Cronjé.

Agriculture will have to prepare itself for joint bargaining power and pro-active action.

Unreasonable interference by trade unions and increasing wage-scale levels will affect agriculture's contribution to job creation which is one of the biggest employers in the country, he said.

CAP 7/13/89 (4)

Farmer in court after boy's death

JOHANNESBURG. — A Free State farmer and two of his workers were arrested at the weekend after a 15-year-old teenager was allegedly tortured and beaten to death on a Heilbron farm.

Cheyana Radebe's body was found with a leather thong tied around his neck. The thong had been clamped in a vice in the store-room of the farmer's homestead, police said.

A police spokesman said Cheyana, of the farm Weltevreden, had been beaten savagely with a sjambok and assaulted with fists before he died.

The farmer, Mr Frans Smith, 47, appeared in Heilbron Magistrate's Court on the same day and was granted bail of R1 000. No charges were put to him.

The two workers, aged 21 and 35, were still in custody. — Sapa

10/3/89
Report on ice

Government is still refusing to commit itself to a policy on the working conditions of farm and domestic workers — more than four years after receiving a report on the issue from the National Manpower Commission (NMC).

Acting Minister of Manpower Eli Louw has told the Progressive Federal Party's Peter Soal in reply to a written question in parliament that "consultations" with "inter-

50

ested parties" have not yet been finalised.

The NMC was asked by government in 1982 to undertake the investigation into the working conditions of farm and domestic workers as a matter of urgency. According to the NMC's annual report for 1986, the report was submitted to government in October 1984. However, in reply to a question in parliament in 1987, Manpower Minister Pietie du Plessis said he had received it "in final form" on July 3 1985.

Du Plessis said at the time that he would respond to the report "once consultations with organised agriculture have been finalised" and a decision would then be made on whether to make the report public. The report, among others, considered the possibility of applying the Labour Relations Act to farm and domestic workers.

Most trade unionists argue that farm workers in particular urgently need the basic employment protection and minimum conditions of service laid down in current labour legislation. But tampering with existing patterns of agricultural labour exploitation have significant political consequences for the National Party and it seems that the Cabinet feels no need at this stage to take the matter further.

In March last year Du Plessis told Soal in parliament that talks with organised agriculture on the report were still incomplete. The delay was blamed on the diversity of interest groups within the sector.

"The nature of the sectors involved and the geographical diversity prevailing in agriculture necessitate drawn-out discussions and further investigation. It is consequently not possible to give a precise indication as to when finality will be reached," he said.

In his reply this month, Louw told Soal that consultations on the report are identifying issues which require further investigation and consultation.

"The consultations still have to be concluded, after which proposals which may arise from these will be cleared with interested parties at regional and agricultural sector level," he said. ■

Suzman will ask Parliament to investigate Judge Strydom

Stow
17/1/67
- By Peter Fabricius,
Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Mrs Helen Suzman MP (PFP Houghton), who failed in an attempt earlier last week to have Transvaal judge Mr Justice J J Strydom impeached by Parliament, on Friday made a further attempt to have him censured.

Mrs Suzman gave notice in Parliament that she would move a motion today to appoint a parliamentary committee to investigate whether Judge Strydom failed in certain instances to observe the oath he took as a judge to "administer justice to all persons alike without fear, favour or prejudice".

In the motion, Mrs Suzman referred to a number of judgments handed down by Judge Strydom, including a case heard in the Circuit Court in Louis Trichardt in November last year against

Jacobus Vorster and Petrus Leonard.

The two men tied a farm labourer, who had allegedly killed a puppy, to a tree and assaulted him over a long period, resulting in his death.

Found guilty of culpable homicide, Vorster received a five-year prison sentence, suspended for five years with one of the conditions being that he pay R130 a month to the deceased's family. There was a further fine of R3 000 to be paid in instalments.

Leonard was found guilty of assault and fined R500 (or three months' imprisonment).

In her notice of motion Mrs Suzman said that as a result of the various judgments, Judge Strydom "has done great damage to race relations within South Africa and South West Africa, has caused widespread condemnation from abroad and has brought our much vaunted higher courts and system of justice into disrepute".

SA platelands's dismal winter of discontent

ARGUS 2/3/89

The Argus Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG. — Win-

ter's tumbleweed rolls through the dorps. There's the searing heat of the sun in summer. There are the faces — black, white and brown — which stare at what passing traffic there may be.

At one time there was a lot of traffic. Farm labourers driving cattle down the main street, farmers coming into town to their *dorpskuis* for a change of scenery, the local bioscope filled to capacity on Fridays and Saturdays.

These are not scenes out of a modern-day spaghetti western. They are real, and have been part of South Africa for more generations than one cares to remember.

Today, it is another kind of winter for these small towns — a slow but certain death caused by a disease called economic hardship largely brought about through drought, as well as by a fear of the unknown which has resulted in the depopulation of huge areas of the land, particularly on the country's frontiers.

The dorps of South Africa have for generations been the place around which the lives of countless farmers and their labour force have revolved. Now the dorps are facing disaster as the farmers leave the land — and an even greater disaster is facing the labour force. The picture is a sorry one.

Platteland towns are staring it in the face. Once the lifeblood of South Africa's rural world, these small towns don't appear to have much of a chance of survival — and particularly those on the borders of the country.

With it comes heartbreak, anxiety and desperation for the work force — tens of thousands of black people who face eviction, starvation and little chance of realising their aspirations as the nation's white farmers turn their backs on the lands next to the Limpopo, Caledon, and Molopo rivers.

The farmers claim they are not so worried about the security situation but rather about the devastation wrought by years of drought. On a national basis, there were 106 000 white farmers in 1960, dropping to about 60 000 last year. And the numbers are dropping further.

Pierre Hugo, Unisa's Professor of Development Administration and Politics, says the picture is "a sorry one" for here has, because of a combination of problems, been a diminution in white farming numbers in all but one Transvaal border district since 1970. A similar situation exists on the Lesotho border.

The South African Agricultural Union has estimated the number of farmers in a critical economic position in, for instance, the North-Western Transvaal, Northern Transvaal and Eastern Transvaal as 31 percent — "there were very few farmers whose businesses were financially sound," reports Professor Hugo.

Professor Hugo, who has spent months studying the situation, estimates there has been a 50 percent drop in border farmers over the last decade alone — and only five percent of the remaining hardy men and women are likely to allow their children to follow them into the farming industry.

There are the social problems, too — the lack of good schooling, poor health services, deteriorating public services, and the deprivation of facilities townies take for granted have all eroded the quality of life.

Greater mobility generally has also played its part in reducing dependence upon the South African dorps. Mobility has permitted farmers to travel longer distances to larger centres to buy in bulk, "reducing the commercial centres of the small villages to a few suppliers of essential food, basic clothing and cheaper goods".

Professor Hugo says that some farmers have sold their lands to weekend farmers, the urban rich who have established game farms which do not need a lot of labour — and the result has been a mini Great Trek by blacks to the bigger urban areas, made possible by the abolition of influx control three years ago.

Against odds, this Bushveld town thrives

The Argus Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG. — Deep in the

Bushveld of the Transvaal lies Thabazimbi, centre of the only South African farming and mining district bordering on neighbouring states to show any improvement in white population figures over the last 20 years.

The depopulating of the other areas abutting Botswana, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Lesotho is causing widespread concern, but at Thabazimbi it is exactly the opposite.

Some farmers have indeed left the lands for the greener economic pastures.

Others have left caretakers, usually black, on their farms. Others still have just given up as the remorseless drought takes control. And then there are large numbers who have sold their lands to the urban rich who have promptly moved in and started game farms.

FARMERS DISTRESSED

Along the Crocodile River, the irrigation scheme which started off with such great hopes is all but dead because of lack of water, above and below ground. The vicious economic circle that it brings is all too evident in this area: no harvest equals no money, no money equals no power, no power equals no harvest, and so on ...

These are the farmers who are most concerned about having to leave. Dr F van der Merwe, mayor of Thabazimbi, said: "Farming aspects of our district are very poor but the town is thriving."

And he is right. The town is thriving against all the odds.

The reason is not hard to find. Thabazimbi has the best of both worlds — farming, mining and a commercial centre.

The major chain stores are moving into town while a spectacular new building has been opened by a major bank.

With a rural population of just over 31 000 (of whom 5 225 are whites) and an urban white population of 4 030, the town survives on Iscor's mining activities, the platinum mines at nearby Northam, and the farming community.

Iscor employs 2 000 people in an underground mine and three open-cast operations — and the mines' production capability ensures continued life for the next 21 years. There are over 100-million tons of iron ore in the hills, and mountains surrounding the town.

And to really ensure survival well into the 21st century, a new platinum mine opens in 1992.

Military encampments are not too far away either, so trade from that quarter is also forthcoming. It all helps to provide a growth rate conservatively placed at about 6 percent.

And huge efforts are being made to bring tourists to the remote area. The annual, world-famous "Wildfees" auction and show takes place at mid-year and attracts wild game enthusiasts who think nothing of paying R8 500 or more for a giraffe, R40 000 for a rhino and R350 each for impala.

Unions to impact on farmers

W/GAGAS 25/3/87
By DICK USHER
Business Staff

of Trade Unions (Nactu) to organise farm workers.

TRADE unions had become a powerful political instrument and the vulnerability of agriculture would increase considerably, says Dr D C Cronje, group MD of Volkskas.

Dr Cronje's warning follows the recent announcement by the Acting Minister of Manpower, Mr Eli Louw, that after nine years' work the inquiry about working conditions of farm labourers and domestic workers by the National Manpower Commission was not yet complete.

It also comes in the wake of serious moves by unions from both major federations, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) and the National Council

At present farm and domestic workers are excluded from the provisions of the Labour Relations Act which covers all other employees in the private sector.

Dr Cronje said that pro-active and collective bargaining power must in future be applied in the agricultural sector which would have to prepare for it.

The industry remained one of the largest employers in South Africa.

"Unreasonable trade union interference and spiralling wage levels in its wake will place greater pressure on agriculture's contribution as an employer," he said.

"From the viewpoint of survival it remains important for all agricultural industries to maintain international competitiveness.

"No industry can survive if it prices itself out of the domestic and international markets in the long term," he said.

Farmers could no longer escape the fact that the prerequisite for a successful farming enterprise was the ability to manage risks efficiently and to adapt dynamically to a changing situation.

It was eventually the competitiveness of the farmer that would determine the extent to which they would be able to overcome the challenges of the national and international markets.

17 farmworkers at a loss

Row over plan to shut down cattle feedlot

By Adele Baleta

The Soetvelde Farms' Uitvlucht cattle feedlot in Vereeniging is to be closed, ending the livelihood of 17 farmworkers at the centre of a wrangle between the owner of the farm, Anglo American Farms Limited (Amfarms), and the Oranje Vaal General Workers' Union (OVGWU). The workers' retrenchment will take effect from the end of this month. Both the company and the union spoke to The Star.

Amfarms says:

It was decided to discontinue the feedlot because in the past financial year operations have proved unprofitable. The increased buying costs of young livestock, which needed to gain weight quickly in order that they be profitable, made the operation unviable.

Added to this were the physical conditions of the feedlot which was over 17 years old.

Despite a booming beef market the company could not run the feedlot at a gain.

The feedlot ground had deteriorated. Its location on flat land meant that with constant feeding over the years and the removal of manure, the ground had begun to slope and the cattle could not reach the fodder in the troughs.

The costs of relocating the feedlot would be far too high.

Despite there being no recognition agreement with the union, officials and workers were informed of the retrenchments prior to their effect.

We are still waiting for them to come back with proposals. We have allowed the workers to stay on the farm for a period of three months.

The retrenchment procedure, which forms part of the conditions of service, has been followed to the letter.

Out of the 40 workers affected by the closure we have managed to re-absorb 23. As a small producer the feedlot was only one link in a long chain and for that reason could not continue to exist.

The union says:

The union has rejected the retrenchments. It has pointed out that Terms and Conditions of Employment introduced by Amfarms in 1984 stated that endeavours "to avoid the need for retrenchment by considering alternative measures" shall be made.

The union believes the measures taken were drastic.

Beside the 18 farms owned by Amfarms in the Transvaal, Free State and Natal there were three other companies which had substantial shares in the AAC.

If the 17 employees could not be given work at the 18 farms they could be absorbed by either Anglo American Industrial Corporation, Vereeniging Estates Ltd/Amcoal or Rand Selection Corporation Ltd.

Arguments by the company that the feedlot workers were agriculturally based and had no skills required by industry have been rejected.

We believe that management is holding on to scrapped influx control legislation which curtailed farmworkers' freedom to move from farm to industry or from rural to urban areas.

Management's claims that it is not responsible for finding jobs for the workers is a breach of Amfarms Terms and Conditions of Employment.

Referring to claims that the feedlot has deteriorated, the union said according to its sources there was no scientific basis upholding the argument that flat low conditions could result in animals' weight loss.

Unions down on the farm

B.D.M. 3113187

ORGANISED agriculture has embarked on a strategy for dealing with the growth of farm-workers' trade unions that is reminiscent of similar attempts by secondary and tertiary sector employers 15 years ago.

And since the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) and its affiliates appear to be government's main, if not only, consultants over agricultural labour legislation to be drafted soon, the strategy could well point to the direction of the law which will eventually emerge.

The SAAU's ideas are contained in a booklet circulated among farmers and drafted by Unisa School of Business Leadership labour relations Professor D de Villiers.

In brief, they propose fairly sophisticated grievance and disciplinary procedures and the establishment of in-house workers' committees (a la the liaison committee system designed as an alternative to unions in the early Seventies).

They also contain guidelines for dealing with strikes. But the bottom line is to avoid, at all costs, collective bargaining with trade unions. This, of course, runs counter to union pres-

It also warns against the granting of access and stop order facilities, as this would give the union *de facto* credibility.

THE SAAU document advises farmers to follow an initial policy of talking to strikers and allowing them to fully express their grievances: "Never be in a hurry — black people in particular need lots of time," it says.

It suggests strikers should be assured that, should the strike be resolved within a "reasonable" period — 24 hours — no action will be taken against them. Thereafter, a reasonable

ultimatum of, say, half a day, should be given for them to return to work or be dismissed. The author takes the view that, because they are not covered by the LRA, a strike by farm-workers is not unlawful. Therefore, police cannot be called to intervene unless, for example, lives or property are threatened.

A SYSTEM of worker committees, the booklet argues, is the farmers' alternative to controlling his workforce through force — the latter an approach which makes great and often impossible supervisory demands on him and usually meets with only limited success.

The other option will allow him to "obtain the goodwill and voluntary involvement of workers, in which case labourers will perform their duties with a fair degree of diligence and responsibility, without direct supervision and the consequent demands on the employer".

These committees, once properly established, would be able deal with group and individual grievances.

Farm worker fired for going to doctor

News 6/4/89

JOHANNESBURG. — Mr Lucas Salmon Sibanyoni is a farm labourer who was employed on the farm Poortjie in the Free State town of Villiers from 1985 until the middle of last year when he was fired for being "absent without reason."

His wages were R8 a month and six bags of mealie meal a year. In addition Mr Sibanyoni was owed money equivalent to 45 bags of maize at the end of the harvesting season, in terms of his annual contract with the farmer.

According to producer prices paid by the farmers' co-operative, the Suidwes-koöperasie, the average price of a 70kg bag of white maize was R15,60 while the equivalent price for yellow maize was about R15,10 for the season May 1 1987 to April 30 1988.

This means that Mr Sibanyoni's annual salary was R96 plus R700 if he was paid in white maize or R680 if paid out for his 45 bags in yellow maize. At the end of the year he was owed between R776 and R796.

While on duty in June last year, Mr Sibanyoni injured his left foot. He consulted a doctor who booked him off work for seven days.

He said in a statement to the Orange Vaal Workers Union (Ovwu) that when he returned to work, and

IN 1982 the government gave the National Manpower Commission the urgent task of investigating the working conditions of farm and domestic employees. It presented its report in 1984. Nothing has emerged. Members of Parliament have been asking why the commission's recommendations have not been released. The government's continued refusal to tie itself down to a policy on farmworkers and domestics employment conditions means these workers remain unprotected by statutory law. The Argus Correspondent ADELE BALETA looks at the ramifications, particularly for farm labourers.

presented the farmer with his medical certificate he was dismissed for being absent without supplying reasons.

He was given 30 days notice to find alternative accommodation and to leave the farm.

Because he is a farmworker and not employed in a factory, shop or office he cannot quibble over or find legal fault with his meagre wage and rations, his working hours, lack of sick leave or his dismissal.

He does not have the protection of labour legislation that covers most workers.

Being a farmworker puts him outside the ambit of four main industrial laws: the Wage Act, the Labour Relations Act, the Basic Conditions of Employment Act and the Unemployment Insurance Act.

These laws are aimed at safeguarding both employers (eg freedom from victimisation for trade union activities) and employees (eg restrictions on strike activities) and at facilitating peaceful industrial relations.

The absence of protection under the umbrella of the Wage Act which provides for the setting down of a minimum wage, has seriously affected the farmworker. Not all bosses and workers fall

within the ambit of the Act such as unorganised employees and employers or those who participate in the negotiating machinery under the Labour Relations Act.

But those that do are afforded the rights of a basic minimum wage making it a criminal offence for an employer to pay less than this stipulated amount.

WIFE, CHILDREN

Because farmers are not bound by this legislation they are at liberty to pay their labourers whatever they want.

Mr Sibonyani when employed at Poortjie was supporting a wife and three children, one of them schooling.

He discovered that the annual mealie meal rations of one bag every two months was not enough to feed his family. So, on leaving the farm Mr Sibanyoni was indebted to the farmer for five bags which he had borrowed.

This amount, which he agreed he owed was to be deducted from his salary. Mr Sibanyoni, however claims he was never paid out for the 45 bags of maize. The farmer has since died, according to an Ovwu organiser.

Farmers have argued that because workers are given accommodation and rations and do not need a high cash wage but there is no law to governing the amount of ration and the type of housing provided.

The Basic Conditions of Employment Act applies to all workers excluding farmworkers, domestics, charitable organisations and State employees.

It covers hours of work (a week, a day and meal intervals), overtime work and payment, Sundays and public holiday work, contract of employment and termination thereof, annual and sick leave and protection from victimisation for employees.

Farmworkers may therefore be required to work seven days a week for any number of hours a day and not be paid overtime. The farmer can instruct his labourers to work on public holidays for no extra money if he so desires.

Industrial workers are usually allowed, in terms of the Act, at least 10 days sick leave a year on full pay and they are entitled to at least 14 days paid annual leave. This does not apply to farmworkers.

The Labour Relations Act gives all unions the right to organise their workers. This applies to farmworkers' unions which include the Ovwu, the National Union of Farm-

workers and the Farmworkers Project under the auspices of the Food and Allied Workers Union.

But where the Act protects industrial workers who want to join a union it does not favour farmworkers who can legally be dismissed for joining a union.

A farmer can dismiss a worker for merely speaking to a union official.

The Act makes provision for an Industrial Court.

If Mr Sibonyane planned to contest his dismissal on the grounds that it was unfair, he would if he were not a farm labourer be able to go to this court.

CANNOT FIGHT

As a farm labourer he does not have rights in terms of the Act and therefore cannot legally fight the farmer's decision.

Without the cover of the Unemployment Insurance Act which recognises a worker's right to employment, Mr Sibanyoni has no social security. He cannot claim money to tide him and his family over while he is unemployed and looking for another job.

At a workers' summit this year, the Ovwu appealed to all workers to remember in their campaign against the recently amended Labour Relations Act farmworkers, domestic workers, municipal and State workers who were not covered.

They were asked to fight for the rights of these workers who were not covered by labour legislation as they had contributed "to the manufacturing activities in raw material, they kept others employed in fertiliser and seed factories and the canning, brewing and processing sectors".



JAMES NTHANE (74) is seen here making a point at the workers' meeting held at Molellane for Zebediela workers last month.

Pic: MATHATHA TSEDU

Zebediela Citrus to face a challenge soon

Farm workers organise

ZEBEDIELA Citrus, the world's largest citrus estate, produces some of the world's sweetest oranges.

The company has been the target of pro-sanctions lobbyists in Europe and the United States as the economic screws are tightened around this country because of political problems here.

Some of the campaigns have included an orange which is shaped like a baby's head which drips blood as it is skinned. Whenever a South African saw this, one somehow felt that the matter was being slightly exaggerated — to use a familiar phrase.

But after attending a workers' meeting near the estate, where working conditions bordering on slavery were graphically described by elderly

By MATHATHA TSEDU

workers, I am not even sure whether I want to eat those oranges any more.

The workers are members of the National Farm Workers Union, an affiliate of the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu). Over 600 workers attended the meeting which heard how:

- workers working for nine hours a day are paid R4,20 per day or R21,00 per week;

- workers injured on duty have to pay for their hospitalisation and transport and are not being paid for the period spent off sick;

- medical aid money was deducted from the wages but no cards are given to the workers. As a result, all black workers have to pay their own medical bills;

- workers are given 12 days unpaid leave per annum. As a result, many of them do not go on leave and have hundreds of days leave outstanding. The company has not told them to clear all the days before May — effectively meaning that many of them should stop working for several months with no pay to clear that backlog;

- workers are summarily dismissed with no enquiries held while some are made to sign blank sheets which later turn out to be final warnings;

- workers are paid in cash and never allowed to see their pay slips;

- The company has stopped providing food for the workers and instead gave the workers R1,47 per day which has since been stopped without any explanation.

Because the Labour Relations Act does not

classify farm workers as workers, these people are not covered by the legislation. This means that the company does not have to deal with the union if it does not want to.



Nactu's regional organiser in Pietersburg dealing with the issue, Mr Moses Mphahlele, has written several letters to the company complaining about the treatment of the workers. The company replies to all letters telephonically. A meeting held in Pretoria on September 5 last year between the union and the company did not achieve much.

Government

The union said in a report that they were informed that Zebediela Citrus was a project of the South African Development Trust Corporation which is run by the Department of Development Aid.

"We were told that the corporation could not enter into a formal agreement with the union because the corporation is a Government project. The other reason was that they are a farming concern and therefore not covered by the Act.

They said they are excluded from dealing

with trade unions by Proclamation R84 of 1970," the union report said.

A 74-year-old Malawian born worker, standing with the aid of a stick, said he had started working for Zebediela Citrus in March 1942. He was still working, he said, earning R5,45 per day.

"I am not given pension. I am old. I may die anytime. If I am not given my pension now who is going to get it. Who must eat my pension", Mr James Nthane said.

Workers pointed out that they were only paid for actual days worked and not for seven weekdays. This means that they get paid for between twenty and twenty-two days a month.

The resolution by the recent Workers Summit to campaign for the inclusion of farm-workers in the legislation was highly appreciated by the workers.

It was noted that the workers had a two pronged battle to fight. On the one hand was the highly exploitative management which, according to official documents, was making millions of rands in profit while underpaying the people who made the profits possible.

On the other hand was a legal problem that called for the Government to amend its laws to facilitate better working industrial relations. Judging from the mood of the workers at the meeting, the Zebediela Citrus Estate is heading for major battles in the near future.

It is a battle that the overseas campaigners are going to find very useful indeed.

An enquiry was sent to the company for their comment but no response has been received at the time of going to press.

Farmworkers bitten by 'dead' puffadder

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

991-7-11 7/14/89
4

A PUFFADDER bit two Robertson farm workers yesterday, after one of the men found the highly poisonous snake floating down an irrigation ditch and draped it around his neck.

According to a Robertson Hospital spokesman, one of the men saw the snake drifting in the ditch, fished it out and draped it around his neck, thinking it dead.

The man's shocked companion, seeing that the snake was very much alive, warned his friend and tried to rescue him from his toxic burden.

In the ensuing flurry between the irate snake and the men, the puffadder bit one man's left forearm and the ball of the other's thumb.

Both were given antivenom and painkillers at hospital before being transferred to Tygerberg Hospital, the spokesman said.

A mass poisoning highlights flaws in farm health codes

WMAAL 7-13/4/89

THE mass poisoning of migrant workers on a potato farm in the Free State this week has been linked to the indiscriminate use of deadly pesticides in South African agriculture.

Some 50 migrants from Transkei, employed on a farm near Bethlehem, fell ill at the weekend after drinking water from a disused drum of insecticide. A three-year-old girl, Mhlabakazi Kondo, died and eight people are critically ill.

The poison involved was monocrotophos, a member of the organophosphate group of insecticides. These are popular in South Africa because they degrade rapidly and reduce the risk of contaminating food crops. But they affect the human nervous system and cause severe headaches, trembling, loss of speech, twitches, blurred vision, respiratory difficulties, coma and death.

The farmer, WT Oosthuizen, this week said his employees were aware of the dangers of insecticides and he had warned the migrants about them. However, two casual labourers had used a drum of poison over the weekend without his knowledge.

But community and trade unionists say the explanation is a typical example of victim blaming, and that it obscures the real reason for such disasters: the fact that government controls over the use of poisons on farms are non-existent.

"The pesticides are widely used in horticulture, fruit and vegetable farming, maize cultivation, sorghum farming and cotton growing. They are cheap, effective and extremely economical. The basic attitude among farmers is the more the better," says Dave Cooper, an agriculturalist for the Environmental Development Agency.

"Regulations exist to govern the registration and marketing of pesticides but once they are on the farm there are absolutely no restrictions on the way they are used."

The Machinery and Occupational Safety Act, which makes provision for government inspections and the election of health and safety officers from among the workers, is one of the few pieces of industrial legislation that protects workers in the farming sector.

"But the law is hardly enforced because the official factory inspectorate lacks the manpower to monitor urban factories effectively let alone visit remote rural farms," says a doctor who works for the Industrial Health Research Group.

Adds Orange Vaal General Workers' Union (OVGWU) representative Phillip Masia: "We have never come

Fifty farm workers were poisoned this week after drinking water from an empty pesticide drum.

Pesticide drums are clearly enough marked ... but few farm workers can read. The tragedy highlights the lack of health safeguards in rural areas, reports EDDIE KOCH

across a single case of health and safety representatives being nominated by farmers as required by the law." OVGWU organises farm workers in the Free State.

The upshot is there is no monitoring machinery to ensure that warnings contained on the labels of drums of pesticides are observed. The dangers are aggravated because the majority of farm labourers are illiterate.

The unbridled use of poisons may be the reason why more workers die on South Africa's farms each year than in any other sector of the economy, excluding mining.

Latest figures from the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner (WCC) show that there were claims for 183 fatal accidents on farms in 1985. The building sector, which has the next highest fatality rate, had 126 claims. The WCC does not handle compensation claims for injuries and deaths in the mining industry.

Apart from insecticides in the organophosphate group, a number of chemicals which are banned or heavily restricted in the industrialised world are used in South African agriculture.

Most notorious are herbicides which contain ingredients of the defoliant Agent Orange, 24-D and 245-T, and are used on sugar plantations and forestry estates to control weed growth. "Homeland" governments spray homes, hospitals and public buildings in rural areas with DDT to control malaria. Toxins contained in DDT take years to break down and pose a serious threat to human health because they enter the food chain.

The forestry industry also uses lindane, a chemical banned in many countries, to protect stockpiles of timber in sawmills from pests. The Paper Print and Allied Workers' Union, which organises foresters, is currently

involved in a dispute with the management of a sawmill in Pietermaritzburg over the plight of some 30 workers whose eyesight has been adversely affected by pesticides, says organiser Ernest Masala.

The number of people poisoned globally by pesticides each year is estimated at 750 000 by the World Health Organisation.

9/16/89 13/4/89 (4)
8 000 deported from SA (4)

NELSPRUIT. — More than 8 000 Mozambican nationals who entered South Africa illegally were deported in the first three months of this year. A police spokesman said most of the foreigners were employed illegally by farmers.

Human

Citizenship certificates issued
226. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

How many citizenship certificates (a) (i) had been issued and (ii) remained to be issued as at 31 December 1988, and (b) were issued in 1988, to citizens of each self-governing territory?

B511E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

| | (a)(i) | (ii) | (b) |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| KwaZulu | 1 608 907 | 1 575 553 | 4 748 |
| Lebowa | 278 321 | 1 164 343 | 111 |
| Owagwa | 167 933 | 869 953 | 3 269 |
| Gazankulu | 98 444 | 416 522 | 0 |
| KaNgwane | 4 574 | 536 663 | 0 |
| KwaNdebele | 38 778 | 332 494 | 2 752 |

The figures furnished under (a)(ii) are projections based on the 1985 Census figures as supplied by the Central Statistical Service.

Automatic citizenship granted

227. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

(1) How many (a) males and (b) females were granted automatic South African citizenship in terms of section 11A of the South African Citizenship Act, No 44 of 1949, (i) during the period since the enactment of this section up to 31 December 1988 and (ii) in 1988;

(2) whether any persons who qualified for South African citizenship in terms of this legislation have made declarations stating that they do not wish to become citizens; if so, how many (a) males and (b) females made these declarations during each of the above-mentioned periods;

(3) whether any action was taken in respect of the permanent residence status of persons who made these declarations during each of the above-mentioned periods; if so, (a) what action, (b) in how many cases and (c) why?

B512E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

(1) (a) and (b) Separate statistics for males and females are not kept.

(i) 76 713 persons

(ii) 4 847

(2) (a) and (b) Separate statistics for males and females are not kept.

(i) 1 437 persons

(ii) 13

(3) Yes.

(a) The persons concerned were advised that they are deemed to be aliens who, for the purpose of the Aliens Act, 1937 (Act 1 of 1937) are not in possession of permits for permanent or temporary residence. They were requested to apply for temporary permits to legalise their residence in the Republic of South Africa.

(b) 1 450.

(c) To enable them to legalise their stay in the Republic of South Africa.

Persons employed

245. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Agriculture:

How many (a) Black, (b) Coloured, (c) White and (d) Indian persons were employed by his Department at each post level of the approved rank structure as at 31 December 1988?

B550E

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

The following particulars are furnished as on 31 December 1988:

| | (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Director-General | 1 | | | |
| Deputy Director-General | 1 | | | |
| Chief Director | 5 | | | |
| Director | 14 | | | |
| Deputy Director | 22 | | | |
| Assistant Director | 64 | | | |
| General Assistant I | 70 | 18 | | |
| General Assistant II | 113 | 59 | 15 | |
| General Assistant III | 73 | 19 | 135 | 7 |

Human

| | (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|
| General Assistants paid by hand | 626 | | | | | | | |
| Artsan | | | 1 | | Plant and Seed Inspector | | 10 | |
| Chief Messenger | 1 | | | | Senior Plant- and Seed Inspector | | 12 | |
| Assistant Soil Protection Officer | 2 | | | | Principle Plant- and Seed Inspector | | 40 | |
| Pupil Soil Protection Inspector | 8 | | | | Chief Plant- and Seed Inspector | | 13 | |
| Soil Protection Inspection | | | 4 | | Control Plant- and Seed Inspector | | 3 | |
| Principal Soil Protection Inspector | | | 5 | | Product Examiner | 1 | 9 | |
| Chief Soil Protection Inspector | | | 8 | | Programmer | | 1 | |
| Control Soil Protection Inspector | | | 1 | | Senior Programmer | | 2 | |
| Data Typist | | | 7 | | Control Programmer | | 1 | |
| Driver | 1 | | 1 | | Registry Clerk | | 15 | |
| Assistant Economist (Agriculture) | | | 31 | | Senior Registry Clerk | | 10 | |
| Economist (Agriculture) | | | 14 | | Chief Registry Clerk | | 3 | |
| Photocopy-Machine Operator | 1 | | 1 | | Legal Officer | | 2 | |
| Helicopter Pilot | | | 1 | | Security Administration Officer | | 1 | |
| Quarantine Officer | | | 1 | | Chief Security Administration Officer | | 2 | |
| Senior Quarantine Officer | | | 1 | | Security Officer | | 11 | |
| Chief Quarantine Officer | | | 1 | | Security Guard | | 1 | |
| Laboratory Assistant | | | 70 | | Senior Security Officer | | 2 | |
| Agricultural Administration Clerk | 4 | | 15 | | State Veterinarian | | 113 | |
| Senior Agricultural Administration Clerk | | | 33 | | Assistant Senior Accountant | | 2 | |
| Chief Agricultural Administration Clerk | | | 6 | | State Accountant | | 3 | |
| Assistant Agricultural Administration Officer | | | 3 | | Senior State Accountant | | 3 | |
| Agricultural Administration Officer | | | 6 | | Telephonist | | 3 | |
| Control Farm Manager | | | 1 | | Typist (Ministerial) | | 2 | |
| Farm Foreman | | | 2 | | Typist | | 12 | |
| Assistant Plant- and Seed Officer | | | 7 | | Chief Typist | 1 | 1 | |
| Plant- and Seed Officer | | | 1 | | Stock Inspector/Senior Stock Inspector | | 13 | |
| Senior Plant- and Seed Officer | | | 6 | | Principal Stock Inspector | | 18 | |
| Pupil Plant- and Seed Inspector | | | 6 | | Accounting Clerk | | 4 | |
| | | | | | Senior Accounting Clerk | | 4 | |
| | | | | | Chief Accounting Clerk | | 2 | |
| | | | | | Pupil Veterinary Technician | | 4 | |
| | | | | | Veterinary Technician | | 7 | |
| | | | | | Senior Veterinary Technician | | 10 | |

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

| | (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | | (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Pupil State Accountant | | | 2 | | Agricultural Product Standards Officer | | | 2 | |
| Principal Security Officer | | | 1 | | Senior Agricultural Product Standards Officer | | | 4 | |
| Assistant Special Services Officer | | | 3 | | Senior Liquor Quality Officer | | | 3 | |
| Secretary-General | | | 1 | | Principal Liquor Quality Technician | | | 3 | |
| Assistant Programmer | | | 1 | | Chief Liquor Quality Technician | | | 2 | |
| Principal Veterinary Technician | | | 6 | | Pupil Agricultural Product Standards Technician | | | 21 | |
| Chief Veterinary Technician | | | 23 | | Agricultural Product Standards Technician | | | 13 | |
| Pupil Meat Inspector | 2 | | 5 | | Senior Agricultural Product Standards Technician | | | 26 | |
| Meat Inspector | 7 | 3 | 24 | | Principal Agricultural Product Standards Technician | | | 101 | |
| Principal Meat Inspector | 5 | 1 | 28 | | Chief Control Agricultural Product Standards Technician | | | 13 | |
| Chief Meat Inspector | | | 44 | 3 | Agricultural Product Analysts Technician | | | 1 | |
| Control Meat Inspector | | | 5 | | Agricultural Legislation Inspector | | | 9 | |
| Pupil Meat Examiner | 5 | | | | Senior Agricultural Legislation Inspector | | | 4 | |
| Meat Examiner | | | 21 | 71 | Principal Agricultural Legislation Inspector | | | 2 | |
| Foreman-General Grade II | | | | | Chief Agricultural Legislation Inspector | | | 1 | |
| Provisioning Administration Officer | | 1 | | 36 | Senior Agricultural Legislation Inspector | | | 2 | |
| Senior Provisioning Administration Clerk | | | | 147 | Chief Agricultural Legislation Inspector | | | 2 | |
| Chief Provisioning Administration Clerk | | | | 6 | Principal Agricultural Legislation Inspector | | | 1 | |
| Assistant Provisioning Administration Officer | | | | 2 | Chief Agricultural Legislation Inspector | | | 1 | |
| Provisioning Administration Clerk | | | | 8 | Senior Agricultural Legislation Inspector | | | 1 | |
| Senior Provisioning Administration Officer | | | | 7 | Principal Agricultural Legislation Inspector | | | 4 | |
| Chief Work Study Officer | | | | 2 | Chief Agricultural Legislation Inspector | | | 2 | |
| Wine Controller | | | | 1 | Senior Agricultural Legislation Inspector | | | 1 | |
| Senior Wine Controller | | | | 1 | Chief Agricultural Legislation Inspector | | | 1 | |
| Principal Wine Controller | | | | 5 | Senior Agricultural Legislation Inspector | | | 1 | |
| Chief Wine Controller | | | | 4 | Principal Agricultural Legislation Inspector | | | 1 | |
| Chief Veterinary Researcher | | | | 1 | Senior Storekeeper | | | 2 | |
| Work Study Officer | | | | 1 | Chief Storekeeper | | | 1 | |
| Senior Work Study Officer | | | | 2 | Media Officer | | | 1 | |
| Senior Agricultural Administration Officer | | | | 15 | Weed Inspector | | | 11 | |
| Assistant Agricultural Product Standards Officer | | | | 6 | Assistant Personnel Officer | | | 3 | |
| | | | | | Personnel Officer | | | 3 | |
| | | | | | Senior Personnel Officer | | | 5 | |

| | (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Personnel Clerk | | | 4 | |
| Senior Personnel Clerk | | | 20 | |
| Chief Personnel Clerk | | | 3 | |
| Personal Secretary | | | 16 | |
| Personal Secretary (DG) | | | 1 | |
| Principal Farm Manager | | | 2 | |
| Pupil Agricultural Product Analysis Technician | | | 1 | |
| Principal Agricultural Product Analysis Technician | | | 2 | |

Veterinarians registered

246. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Agriculture:
How many (a) White, (b) Black, (c) Coloured and (d) Indian veterinarians were registered with the South African Veterinary Council as at 31 December 1988?
B551E

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

Altogether 1 572 persons practising a veterinary profession are registered with the South African Veterinary Council. The Council no longer keeps record of the number of registered persons belonging to the different population groups.

State veterinarians: vacancies

247. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Agriculture:
Whether there were any vacancies for State veterinarians in his Department as at 31 December 1988; if so, how many?
B552E

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

Yes, three.

Members of race groups: **immigrated and emigrated**

257. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

How many (a) Whites, (b) Coloureds, (c) Blacks and (d) Indians (i) immigrated to and

(ii) emigrated from the Republic in 1988?
B562E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

(a) (b) (c) (d)
(i) 9 592 159 112 160
(ii) 6 722 567 444 14

Persons: immigrated and emigrated

258. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

(a) What is the estimated number of (i) males and (ii) females who (aa) immigrated to and (bb) emigrated from the Republic in 1988 and (b) how many such (i) males and (ii) females were 17 years of age or younger?
B563E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

(i) (ii)
(a) (aa) 5 287 5 113
(bb) 3 772 3 995
(b) (aa) 1 206 1 123
(bb) 1 326 1 243

Persons deported and/or repatriated

259. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

(a) How many persons in each population group were deported and/or repatriated from the Republic in 1988 in terms of the Admission of Persons to the Republic Regulation Act, No 59 of 1972, and (b) (i) in terms of which provisions of the said Act and (ii) to which states were they so (aa) deported and (bb) repatriated?
B564E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

(a) **DEPORTATIONS**

Whites 14
Blacks 166

REPATRIATIONS

44 225 — Statistics are not kept according to population groups.

(b) (i) 180 were deported in terms of section 43.

4

Cape Times, Saturday, April 15, 1989 3

MARITZBURG. — A Weenen farmer was ordered by the Supreme Court yesterday to rebuild the homes of two residents which he destroyed last month.

Farmer told to rebuild razed huts

Mr Justice Law ordered Mr Izak Stephanus Pretorius to rebuild the huts and fences belonging to Mr Amon Dlamini and Mrs Danisile Ngubane.

In March, Mr Pretorius and other men went to the kraal where the applicants lived. The men removed Mrs Ngubane's possessions before Mr Pretorius destroyed her two huts with a tractor fitted with a front-end loader.

Mr Dlamini said the men then came to his kraal where Mr Pretorius destroyed four of the seven huts. — Sapa.

FRUIT WORKERS OPPOSE SANCTIONS, POLL SHOWS

MOST SA fruit industry workers oppose sanctions and boycotts, with three out of four regarding sanctions as "bad", a recent poll by Markinor shows.

The poll, commissioned by a German institute, was carried out among 1 000 black and coloured workers in the SA fruit industry.

Only 13% of the workers believed sanctions were laudable, while 17%

would support sanctions only if their own jobs were not endangered. Few of the workers had ever heard of sanctions and the term had to be explained to them.

The poll found the majority of workers were opposed to sanctions even if they led to the resignation of government.

Devolution of power in a future system was important to the majority,

with 77% advocating power-sharing by South Africans of all races.

A black majority government was supported by only 21% of blacks polled.

On the subject of exports, the majority saw a strong correlation between fruit sent overseas and job security.

According to 91% of workers, more SA fruit should be marketed overseas.

— Sapa.

Suzman to query fine in Parliament

By Esmare van der Merwe
Political Reporter

Chese political and legal secretary is being given to the case of two farmers who were each fined R1 200 for brutally assaulting a farm worker — who later died of brain haemorrhage.

Louis Johannes Venter (35) and Pieter Marthinus Fouche (34), were tried in the Klerksdorp Regional Court last week.

Mr. Stephen Mononye had been tied to a tree and brutally assaulted by the two farmers who accused him of having stolen two cows. He later died of brain haemorrhage.

The farmers were each

fining R1 200 or four months' imprisonment, plus a further six months' jail suspended for five years.

Venter and Fouche originally pleaded not guilty to charges of culpable homicide, kidnapping and two counts of assault. However, they later changed their plea to guilty on two counts of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

The Democratic Party's spokesman on law and order, Mrs. Helen Suzman, yesterday said she would definitely raise the matter in Parliament.

"This sort of sentence brings the South African judicial system into disrepute. I hope the

relatives of the dead man will be taking civil action," she said.

Mrs. Suzman failed in an attempt last month to have Transvaal judge Mr Justice J. J. Strydom impeached by Parliament.

One judgment handed down by Judge Strydom involved a case, dubbed the "tree killing", heard in the Circuit Court in Louis Trichardt last year.

Jacobus Vorster and Petrus Leonard tied a farm labourer, who had allegedly killed a puppy, to a tree and assaulted him over a long period. He died as a result.

Found guilty of culpable homicide, Vorster received a

five-year prison sentence suspended for five years. One of the conditions was that he pay R130 a month to the deceased's family, with a further fine of R3 000 payable in instalments. Leonard was found guilty of assault and fined R500 or three months' imprisonment.

The leniency of this sentence, and others imposed by Judge Strydom, caused an outcry in political and legal circles.

The Johannesburg Bar Council, which publicly criticised the sentence of Vorster and Leonard, said yesterday it would study the case of the State v Venter and Fouche before commenting.

No decision yet on unions

CML Times 20/9/89

THE Department of Manpower had not reached any decision on whether farm workers and domestic workers would be allowed to organize themselves into trade unions, the Acting Minister of Manpower, Mr Eli Louw, said yesterday. Introduction of legislation in this regard would be considered once consultations had been concluded, Mr Louw added.

Bitter grapes for vineyard workers

① S. Smith
20-26/1/81

PORT ELIZABETH. — It was no case of sour grapes for a group of unemployed Uitenhage residents, who claim they were ill-treated and badly paid after being recruited to work in Cape Town vineyards.

The residents, who found themselves in "pigsy" conditions on farms in Namaqualand, returned home last week, some after walking for three days.

The group was rounded up in February and asked to pick grapes in Cape Town for R12 a day.

They were collected by a middle-aged farmer, Henrie de Beer, and taken on a 12-hour drive to what they thought was Cape Town.

Instead, they arrived at Koekenaap, a remote desert town on the West Coast of Namaqualand.

According to Mzukisi Camasu, one of the workers, De Beer told them they were to sleep in an old vacant

house with no beds or cooking utensils.

De Beer said they would be paid 15c for every box of grapes they picked. The boxes were 1m x 60cm. The group was required to work from 6am to 7pm, with half an hour for lunch.

Paperman Bolokogoshe, another member of the group, said R7 was deducted for food after he received R15 for four days' work.

Asked to comment, De Beer said: "Are these black people you are talking about? Some of the people didn't want to work and wanted a holiday. I gave them food which cost me R600 and it was wasted because they left."

De Beer said his payment of 15c a box was more than what other farmers in the district were offering.

Bolokogoshe and a friend hitch-hiked for three days, walking and sleeping in the bush, before they reached Uitenhage.

The other 25 workers went to report their situation to the local police.

Later, the workers met a man who worked for another farmer, Flip du Toit. The man arranged for du Toit to employ them.

"We accepted. What could we do? We were poor and far from home," said Camasu.

This group found themselves in a worse situation when they had to sleep in a barn between tractors and tools in "pigsy conditions".

Men and women slept together on cement floors. There were no toilet facilities.

The workers were given 12c a box, instead of the R6 a day promised them.

Asked why the conditions had changed, Du Toit allegedly said it was easy to pick grapes and he could not pay more.

"We wanted to leave but the farmer threatened us," said Camasu.

He said they phoned their families in Uitenhage who contacted a lawyer. Two weeks later, Du Toit's lorry transported them back to Uitenhage.

The lawyer said his firm was investigating possible claims.

'Tree-killing' sentence to be raised in Parliament

1964 20/4/89
The Argus Correspondent
JOHANNESBURG. — A sentence in which two farmers were fined R1 200 each for assaulting a worker who later died of brain haemorrhage is coming under close political and legal scrutiny.

The case of Louis Johannes Venter, 35, and Pieter Marthinus Fouche, 34, heard in Klerksdorp Regional Court last week, is fast earning the title of South Africa's second "tree-killing".

Mr Stephen Mononye was tied to a tree and assaulted by the two farmers who accused him of having stolen two cows. He died later.

The farmers were each fined R1 200 or four months' imprisonment, plus a

④
further six months suspended for five years.

Venter and Fouche originally pleaded not guilty to charges of culpable homicide, kidnapping and two counts of assault. However, they later changed their plea to guilty on two counts of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

The Democratic Party's spokesman on law and order, Mrs Helen Suzman, intends to raise the matter in Parliament.

"This sort of sentence brings the South African judicial system into disrepute. I hope the relatives of the dead man will be taking civil action," she said.

Behind the anger, the message is: We can still smile

In a windowless studio, a group of youngsters practice daily at a play based on the murder of a farm labourer, reports ANDREW CLARK

PEOPLE are forced off their land and out of their traditional way of life, left with no choice but to labour for R31 a month on the farm of Oubaas van Vuuren. A young domestic worker on the farm who unexpectedly falls pregnant is fired. And after many months of being humiliated by the farmer's son, Mukhesi — the rightful leader of the tribe — is tied to a tree and beaten to death for running over a dog.

Based on incidents in the northern Transvaal, *The Voice of Jericho* is an original play being produced this year by the Masakhanie Art School, a community theatre group that trains township youths to get involved in the world of drama and dance.

The school's rigorous schedule includes rehearsals every day in a windowless studio at the Mega Music complex near the Market Theatre, where 35 students, aged from 16 to 24, practise oratory, television announcing, voice projection, body movement, singing and other aspects of the trade.

The play, written by co-directors Joyce Ndamase and Tendani Muliangaphuma, is a South African *Things Fall Apart*, an original drama replete with choreography and musical numbers that link traditional African life to the modern world.

"The play deals with African life infiltrated by white men," says Muliangaphuma, a teacher at Pace College who grew up in Venda. "The whites could take advantage of traditional African structures and choose the right 'captain' to suit their purposes."

Van Vuuren offers Khakhazi a plot of land on his farm if he can deliver the rest of the



Lucky Ngojo and *The Voice of Jericho*: 'I'm proud of the fact that I've proved myself wrong'

community to work as day labourers for R31 a month and a bag of mealies at Christmas. The conflict between Mukhesi and Khakhazi, the "bas boy" who plays to the farmer's every whim, animates the plot and drives it towards its violent conclusion — a crime for which the overseer is given a minimal sentence.

But far from being a play about anger, *The Voice of Jericho* reveals in the resilience of the people in the face of exploitation and expropriation. The dancing ranges from traditional, masculine warrior beats to an upbeat and extremely clever *Where to, Taxi?* about the frustrations of having no transport in the big city and hailing a kombi with stylised hand signals. "In the scenes of modern life, we want to show that we are still capable of smiling and celebrating," adds Muliangaphuma.

The directors plan on opening *The Voice of Jericho* at a career day in Umtata. After what they hope will be a successful run, they want to take the play back to Johannesburg. Although they hope to recoup some of the

costs of the theatre group after it appears, Masakhanie runs on a tight budget and has been unable to break into the world of sponsorship. Ndamase, who ran a successful drama programme at a Soweto school before quitting three years ago to start Masakhanie and work full-time on it, receives no pay for her efforts. She and Muliangaphuma must cover all their costs, including space, costumes, transport for the students and often even lunch money. Students, says Muliangaphuma, come mostly from poor families and pay little, if anything.

Students come from as far away as Ciskei and Venda as well as Soweto and have been housed with local relatives. "We try to encourage people to become theatrical and frequent the Market Theatre, but it's difficult because of many of their home situations. Many of their parents think that theatre is mixed up with craziness and evil."

Several students have done auditions for the SABC and other radio stations. "We had one student selected as a news announcer, but she

was disqualified because she was too young," said Muliangaphuma.

Although several members of the young group have already gone on to bigger and better productions, including Mandla Nkosi — to the forthcoming *Ipi Tombi II* — it is not easy for the students, who often come with no experience, to break into the world of drama. But if nothing else, the students are enjoying it and learning. Lucky Ngojo, a 21-year-old student who decided that she wanted to study drama but knew nothing about it, applied to the group after she heard about it at school. Besides leading several of the songs and dances in the play, she plays the part of Stoksweets, a pretty but less-than-intelligent girl who confuses the journalists who come to the farm to investigate the death of Mukhesi.

"The first time I ever saw the actors and dancers in the school, I thought it was ruled out. I cannot be as good as they are," Ngojo said. "Now, I'm proud of the fact that I've proved myself wrong."

By MUSA ZONDI

ISAAC MONONYE watched helplessly as two farmers kicked and sjambokked his brother Stephen.

"They continued to beat him as he lay on the floor. Venter would pull him up and put him against the wall. He kicked him in the stomach and Fouche carried on with his sjambok."

As Stephen lay fatally injured, the two farmers shouted at him to stand up, Isaac said, shouting "We know you are not dead".

Stephen Mononye, 28, was beaten to death by Louis Venter and Piet Fouche last year at Orkney in the Western Transvaal. They had accused him of stealing two cattle.

When they appeared before the magistrate at Klerksdorp last week, they were found guilty of assault and fined R1 200 each or four months with six months suspended for five years.

Mononye died of brain haemorrhage as a result of the assault.

Lawyers for Human Rights has condemned the sentence passed on the two farmers.

According to Lawyers for Human Rights, "black people in South Africa perceive the judiciary to be racist and biased" and "unless the questions which arise out of the outcome of this case are satisfactorily answered ... the credibility of the judiciary will wane even further".

Isaac Mononye had been fetched by the two farmers to "come and see the *skelm*". He claims he could hardly recognise his brother, whose face was badly swollen. Stephen Mononye's hands were tied behind his back and his feet were also bound.

"His lower lip was cut and there

R1 200 for kicking man to death



Stephen Mononye's widow, Lily

was blood on his chest. I was asked if I could recognise Stephen. I could," Isaac said in Afrikaans.

Venter demanded to know where the missing cattle were. When Stephen replied he did not know, he was then kicked in the face by Venter while Fouche sjambokked him, Isaac said.

Venter and Fouche accused Stephen Mononye of taking the cattle to his home at Vierfontein. They put him in the back of the bakkie.

"When they said I should go with them, I refused. I had seen how they had beaten my brother," Isaac said.

He says he went home to sleep but could not fall asleep. In the middle of the night he heard dogs barking. Outside were Fouche, Venter and Stephen, who was still bound and wearing only his trousers.

Venter said they had found the cattle, though he did not say where.

They left Stephen lying on the floor. "He could not stand up nor talk properly. I helped him up and made him sit on the bed. He asked for water but he could not even open his swollen mouth. I forced him to drink," Isaac said.

The following morning, Isaac boiled water to wipe blood off the face of his brother.

As he was going to the hospital to ask for an ambulance, he met Venter who stopped him and asked where he was going.

"He said he had pain-killing tablets. I put my bicycle back on to the bakkie and we went to the house.

"When we arrived at home, Venter said I should not worry. 'Your brother won't die. He is just wounded a bit,'" Isaac alleged.

Stephen died at 11 in the morning while they were still waiting for a doctor to arrive. Afterwards Isaac went to the police station to report the death. When he came back, Venter told him to say that five of them, Fouche, Venter, Isaac and farmworkers Elias Ndaba and David Olifant, had assaulted Stephen Mononye.

Fouche and Venter were subsequently prosecuted. Initially they pleaded not guilty to the charge of culpable homicide but they later changed their plea to guilty of assault. Thus Isaac Mononye was not called to give evidence at the trial.

Lily Mononye, Stephen's wife, a domestic servant, said her husband had been healthy before the attack.

Lawyers acting for the family told *Weekly Mail* the family are planning to sue for damages.

Farmworkers still out in labour's cold

(4)
Stev 3/4/89

Mr Lucas Salmon Sibanyoni is a farm labourer who was employed on the farm "Poortjie" in the Free State town of Villiers from 1985 until the middle of 1988 when he was fired for being "absent without reason".

His wage packet included an R8 a month salary and six bags of mealie meal a year.

Added to this Mr Sibanyoni was owed money equivalent to 45 bags of maize at the end of the harvesting season, in terms of his annual contract with the farmer.

According to producer prices paid by the farmers' co-operative, the Suidwes-koöperasie, the average price of a 70 kg bag of white maize was R15,60 while the equivalent price for yellow maize was about R15,10 for the season May 1 1987 to April 30 1988.

This means that Mr Sibanyoni's annual salary was R96 plus R700 if he was paid in white maize or R680 if paid out for his 45 bags in yellow maize. At the end of the year he was owed between R776 and R796.

While on duty in June last year, Mr Sibanyoni injured his left foot. He consulted his doctor who booked him off work for seven days.

30 days notice

He said in a statement to the Orange Vaal Workers Union (OVWU) that when he returned to work and presented the farmer with his medical certificate he was dismissed for being absent without supplying reasons.

He was given 30 days' notice to find alternative accommodation and to leave the farm.

Because he is a farmworker he cannot quibble over or find legal fault with his meagre wage and rations, his working hours, lack of sick leave or his dismissal.

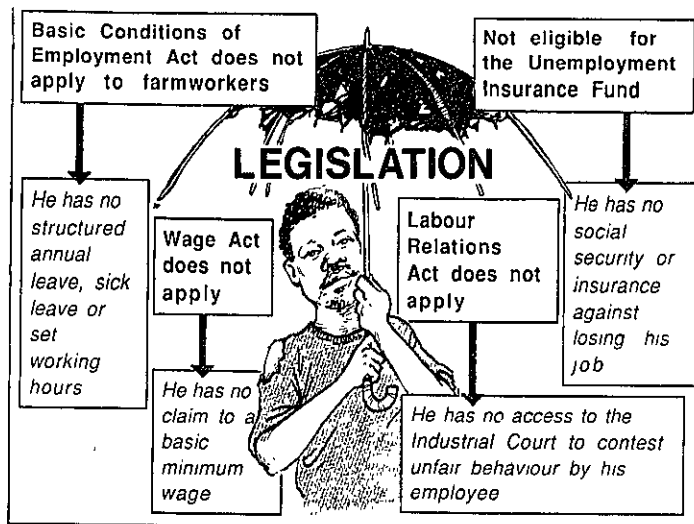
He, in short, does not have the protection of labour legislation enjoyed by most workers.

Being in the farmworker category of employment puts him outside the ambit of the four main industrial laws: the Wage Act, the Labour Relations Act, the Basic Conditions of Employment Act and the Unemployment Insurance Act.

These laws are aimed at safeguarding both employees (eg. freedom from victimisation for trade union activities)

In 1982 the Government gave the National Manpower Commission the urgent task of investigating working conditions of farm and domestic employees. It presented its report in 1984. More than four years later nothing has emerged. Members of Parliament have been asking why the Commission's recommendations have not been released. The Government's continued refusal to tie itself down to a policy on farmworkers' and domestics' employment conditions means these workers remain unprotected by law. **ADELE BALETA** reports.

Mr Sibanyoni: unprotected by (labour) law



and employers (eg. restrictions on strike activities), and at facilitating peaceful industrial relations.

The absence of protection under the umbrella of the Wage Act — which provides for the setting down of a minimum wage — has seriously affected the farmworker.

Not all bosses and workers fall within the ambit of the Act such as unorganised employees and employers or those who participate in the negotiating machinery under the Labour Relations Act.

But those that do are afforded the rights of a basic minimum wage making it a criminal offence for an employer to pay less than this stipulated amount.

Farmers are not bound by this legislation and are at liberty to pay their labourers whatever they want.

Mr Sibanyoni, when employed at "Poortjie", was supporting a wife and three children — one of them school-going — whose health and welfare is his responsibility as a father.

He discovered that the annual mealie meal rations of one bag every two months was not enough to feed his family. So, on leaving the farm, Mr Sibanyoni was indebted to the farmer for five bags which he had borrowed.

This amount was to be deducted from his salary. Mr Sibanyoni, however, claims he was never paid out his money for 45 bags of maize. Farmers have argued that because workers are given accommodation and rations they do not need a high cash wage. But there is no law governing the amount of rations and the type of housing provided.

The Basic Conditions of Employment Act applies to all workers excluding farmworkers, domestics, charitable organisations and state employees.

It covers hours of work (a week, a day, and meal intervals), overtime work and payment, Sundays and public holiday work, contract of employment and termination thereof, annual and sick leave and protection from victimisation for

employees.

Farmworkers may therefore be required to work seven days a week for any number of hours a day and not be paid overtime. The farmer can instruct his labourers to work on public holidays for no extra money if he so desires.

Industrial workers are usually allowed, in terms of the Act, at least 10 days sick leave a year on full pay and they are entitled to at least 14 days paid annual leave. This does not apply to farmworkers.

The Labour Relations Act gives all unions the right to organise their workers. This applies to farmworkers' unions in existence which include the OVWU, the National Union of Farmworkers and the Farmworkers Project under the auspices of the Food and Allied Workers Union.

But where the Act protects industrial workers who want to join a union it does not favour farmworkers who can legally be dismissed for joining a union.

A farmer can dismiss a worker for merely speaking to a union official.

No rights

The Act makes provision for an Industrial Court.

If Mr Sibonyane planned to contest his dismissal on the grounds that it was unfair, he would, if he were not a farm labourer, be able to go to this court.

The court would decide whether his employer had acted fairly. If the judgment was in Mr Sibonyane's favour he might be reinstated or compensated for the unfair loss of his job.

As a farm labourer he does not have rights in terms of the Act and therefore cannot fight the farmer's decision.

Without the cover of the Unemployment Insurance Act, which recognises a worker's right to employment, Mr Sibanyoni has no social security. He cannot claim money to tide him and his family over while he is unemployed and looking for another job.

Although farmworkers are still waiting for the results of the Manpower Commission report, the message at a recent workers summit was to continue organising rural workers and not to rely on the report.

Farmworkers treated like slaves, says MP



Mr Luwellyn Landers

Political Staff

SOUTH AFRICA'S farmworkers were no better off than slaves and were open to exploitation with the tacit approval of the government, deputy minister of Population Development Mr Luwellyn Landers said yesterday.

Speaking during the debate on the Manpower Vote, Mr Landers said that farmworkers had no access to industrial courts and as a result had no means of seeking redress for unfair labour practices.

South Africa's farmworkers, he said were excluded from:

- The benefits of the Unemployment Act, Wage Act and Labour Relations Act, and

- The Basic Conditions of Employment Act, which meant that "no minimum conditions of employment needed to be laid down".

Mr Landers said it also meant

that farmworkers, in terms of law, were not entitled to annual leave or sick leave, nor was the farmworker entitled to the normal benefits in terms of working hours and overtime and usual holidays enjoyed by other workers.

In a nutshell, he said, the farmworker found himself in the position of a serf, "at the mercy of the Minister of Manpower and South Africa's white farmer".

Mr Landers said that in 1981 a White Paper on the Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Labour Legislation was tabled in Parliament.

The Commission had recommended that farmworkers be included within the compass of certain labour legislation.

The National Manpower Commission was asked to look into the situation of farmworkers in March 1982 and submitted a draft preliminary report at the end of 1984.

In May, 1985 a translated report

was submitted.

In February 1986 a private members' motion was debated in the House of Representatives calling on the Minister of Manpower to include farmworkers in the ambit of labour legislation.

The then minister stated that there were matters that needed more investigation.

Mr Landers said it was unbelievable that an issue as important as this, which affected the daily lives of people, could take the time that it had.

Speaking during the same debate, the MP for Springfield, Mr Mahmoud Rajab, asked whether the government was not under pressure from the conservative agricultural sector to delay publication of a report of farmworkers.

Mr Rajab said Cosatu had undertaken to mobilise farmworkers.

He warned that prohibiting trade unions would not halt the workers' urge to form them.

4 108

CA 16 1/19 IS 27/4/89

68/19/172 vts (4)

Call to include farm workers in labour laws

The Deputy Minister of Health and Population Development, Mr Luwellyn Landers, yesterday called for labour legislation to be amended to include farm labourers and domestic workers.

Speaking during the debate on the Manpower budget vote, he said it was lamentable that after investigations into the position of the farm worker, nothing had been done to alleviate his position.

The dictionary described the term "serf" as someone whose services were bound to the soil and transferred with it.

South Africa's farm and domestic workers found themselves in a condition of serfdom without access to industrial courts to settle disputes, he said.

Flogging and exploitation of their cheap labour were the order of the day. Flogging was described in court by one perpetrator as a "tradition".

Was this one of the traditions the National Party wanted to protect, he asked. — Sapa.

Saldanha drama: Distraught family waits for missing trawler crewman

Seaman lost: Sailors tell of rescue drama

By MARIUS BOSCH

TWO West Coast fishermen said they clung frantically to their sinking trawler and the floats of fishing nets in rough seas off the Saldanha coast early yesterday morning.

Yesterday, rescue vessels were still searching for the missing first engine of the trawler Rooijantjiesfontein, 54-year-old Mr Koble Vraagom. Eight other crew members were rescued by two nearby vessels and taken to St Helena Bay.

The 150-ton Rooijantjiesfontein had just taken on board about 100 tons of anchovies with the crew busy pulling in the second catch when the vessel suddenly started taking in water at the stern, said crew member Mr Joey Konee, 33.

"We didn't even have time to inflate the life-rats and had to jump overboard."

Mr Konee said he swam away from the sinking boat fearing he would be dragged under if the boat went down. "I hung on to the floats and prayed a shark would not grab me."

He said the crew heard Mr Vraagom shout "help me men, help me" when the boat went down, probably flung Mr Vraagom was probably flung

against the wheelhouse by the swell and knocked unconscious, Mr Konee said.

Another crew member, Mr Andries Bekuur, 31, said he was very scared when the boat went down about 4am.

"The first thing I knew was when the water came over the stern. Then I had to swim," Mr Bekuur said.

He was rescued by another trawler after he had been holding on to the bow of the vessel — the only part not submerged — for close to an hour, he said.

A distraught Mrs Elnine Vraagom said at her Vredenburg home that her husband had been a fisherman since the age of 11.

"He is a good father to our five daughters and a first-class engineer."

Her husband had worked for the same skipper for the past 17 years.

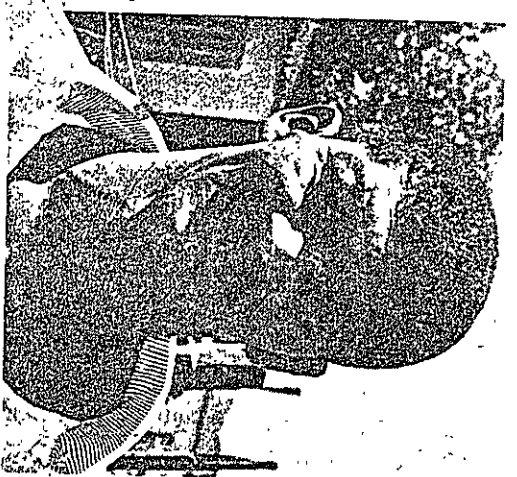
'Worried'

A friend informed her of the sinking of the Rooijantjiesfontein yesterday at 7am, she said.

"I've been so worried ever since." Mr Eric Gemshuis, the manager of Suid Oranje Fisheries — the owners of the boat, said the sea was very rough when the boat sunk and the fact that there were other boats in the area saved the eight crew members.



GRIEVING FAMILY ... The family of Vredenburg fisherman Mr Koble Vraagom, who is missing at sea after the trawler he was on sank off the Saldanha coast yesterday. In the middle is his wife Mrs Elnine Vraagom and behind her their daughters (from left) Karin, Tania and Jaqueline. Picture: MARIUS BOSCH



SURVIVOR ... St Helena Bay fisherman Mr Andries Bekuur, rescued from the sea. Picture: MARIUS BOSCH



RESCUED ... St Helena Bay fisherman Mr Joey Konee after being rescued. Picture: MARIUS BOSCH

AT YOUR SERVICE

Rebates

boost the economy

By Matshube Mfolee

More than R57 million has been pumped back into the economy in the form of special rebates for employers to cover the cycle between 1983 and 1985, by the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner.

This was said by the managing director of the National Occupational Safety Association (Nosa), Mr Bunny Matthysen, at a media function at the World Trade Centre near Johannesburg, this week.

Mr Matthysen said the massive boost to the country's economy could be attributed to the effective safety programmes devised by Nosa, which were implemented by firms countrywide. He said the rebates were more easily facilitated through the adoption of correct procedures in reporting work injuries.

Mr Matthysen said his association has compiled a Nosa-data sheet designed to spell out a "step-by-step procedure" to cope with thousands of enquiries handled by the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner, (WCC).

The conference centre accommodates more than 2 500 delegates.

M
91
AS
PA
K



Mrs Anna Thembo and Mrs Trudi Geldenhuys of Modderfontein farm with one of the decorative hats the farm workers make.

Flowers change lives down on the farm

By Winnie Graham (4)

Veld flowers have changed the lives of a western Transvaal woman and her farm workers.

When Mrs Trudi Geldenhuys's husband died a few years ago, she thought she would have to give up her farm near Fochville.

It seemed impossible that, with two children to support, she could manage a farm on her own. Yet, when the crunch came, Mrs Geldenhuys knew she could not leave. With about 100 farm workers on the property, there had to be something the people could do to earn a living.

"I racked my brains trying to think of some way we could make money when I thought of veld flowers," she said. "My father had bought me a florist shop years before and I knew dried flowers were very popular. It was worth a try."

So the youthful Mrs Geldenhuys and her farm workers got started. They picked veld flowers by the armful, dyed some and arranged them in baskets and vases, on hats and wall hangings. These were offered for sale to florist shops and anyone else who cared to buy.

The venture was an immediate success.



Some of the products made with wild flowers and grasses picked in the veld.

In no time Transvaal dried flowers were selling like hot cakes.

When Mrs Geldenhuys leaves for work in Potchefstroom each morning, the workers get on with the home-made flower industry. They work without supervision, producing an array of dried flower products.

The men are as involved as the women,

making grass hats, dying dried flowers and grasses and trimming hats with lace and flowers. Some work at drying roses in the microwave oven, some make pot pourri while others arrange dried flowers.

Schoolchildren on neighbouring farms have learned that Mrs Geldenhuys buys flowers so they wait for her when she drives home.

"There are always children at the side of the road waiting to sell me large bunches of wild flowers," she said "The money they make helps pay for their schoolbooks."

During the holidays the children join the adults making things to sell.

Flowers, of course, are a seasonal thing and when there are none to be had in the veld, Mrs Geldenhuys buys from the Cape.

"Oddly enough, there is not much difference in the flowers of the Cape and Transvaal," she added.

If the flowers of the veld have given Mrs Geldenhuys' workers employment, they have also given them a quiet satisfaction.

"People come from far and wide to buy the flowers," Mrs Geldenhuys said. "It is nice to know that something we started as a desperate measure to give people employment is giving so many people joy."



'I saw my brother beaten to pulp'

JOHANNESBURG. — Two Western Transvaal farmers, who mercilessly beat a man to death after claiming he had stolen two cows, were last week fined R1 200 each on charges of assault.

Stephen Mononye, 28, died after being tied up and repeatedly kicked in the stomach and sjambokked.

In a tragic twist of fate, the missing cows were discovered barely three hours after he died.

The sentences have sparked an outcry in legal circles, with Lawyers For Human Rights demanding that Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee open an official investigation.

And veteran MP Mrs Helen Suzman is to raise the issue in Parliament.

Louis Venter and Pieter Martinus Fouche initially pleaded not guilty to a charge of culpable homicide in the Klerksdorp regional court, but last week changed their plea to guilty of assault.

Small fine

Magistrate P.J.L. Venter fined them R1 200 each (or four months imprisonment) with an additional six months' jail term suspended for five years.

This week Mononye's brother, 38-year-old farmhand Isaac Mononye, spoke of the horror of seeing his brother "beaten to a pulp".

"It's always the same story," said



Isaac Mononye

Mononye bitterly. "A farmer beats someone for some small reason, and the worker dies. His family suffers — the farmer gets a small fine."

Mononye, who could not give evidence in court because Venter and Fouche pleaded guilty, alleged that the two farmers tied his brother's hands behind his back and a rope around his neck.

"They dumped him on the floor and continued to beat him as he lay on the floor.

"Venter would then pull him up and put him against the wall. He kicked him in the stomach and Fouche carried on with his sjambok."

Mononye said the two men continued to beat his brother, saying: "We know you are not dead."

Mononye said the farmers later threw his brother in the back of a bakkie, stating that they were taking him to Vierfontein, his home in the Orange Free State, where they thought he was keeping the two cows.

He then went home to sleep. Later, Mononye was woken up by the barking of a dog.

Venter and Fouche were outside with his brother, who was still bound and wearing only his trousers. Mononye said they left his brother lying on the floor.

At 3am Venter returned and asked Mononye to milk the cows.

"When I got back I found my brother asleep. I washed the bruises on his face and wiped the blood from his head."

Mononye said he did not have money to hire a taxi to take his brother to hospital, so he walked to get an ambulance. Venter stopped him and asked him where he was going.

"He said I should not worry as my brother would be okay. He gave me some painkillers for my brother. Venter promised to arrange for a doctor to 'fix him up'."

Mononye said his brother died at about 11am the following day, while he was still waiting for a doctor.

Suzman queries farmers' sentences

Political Staff

THE sentences handed down by a Klerksdorp Regional Court magistrate to two white farmers found guilty of assault with intent to commit grievous bodily harm was "grossly inappropriate", Mrs Helen Suzman said yesterday.

The black man whom they assaulted, Mr Medupe Steven Mononye, died.

The farmers, Louis Johannes Venter and Pieter Marthinus Fouché, were each sentenced to a fine of R600 or four months, plus a further six months suspended for five years by Mr P J L Venter.

Speaking in the Justice Vote, Mrs Suzman (DP Houghton) said the farmers had on March 16 suspected Mr Mononye of stealing cattle. They had abducted him,

tied him up hand and foot and brutally assaulted him with a sjambok.

Mr Mononye subsequently died from a brain haemorrhage, allegedly as a result of hitting his head against the windscreen of the vehicle in which they were transporting him during a struggle.

Fouché and Venter, said Mrs Suzman, had pleaded guilty to a charge of assault with intent to commit grievous bodily harm after a charge of culpabale homicide was dropped.

Mrs Suzman said several questions had to be answered:

- Why did the prosecutor allow the charge to be changed?
- What ~~circumstances~~ could possibly

have led the magistrate to impose such a grossly inappropriate sentence for such a brutal assault?

● What effect this "gross perversion of justice" would have on the concept of the black community on the impartiality of justice?

● What encouragement would it give to other "white bully boys" to take the law into their own hands?

● What further damage to the reputation abroad of the South African judicial system would this judgment cause?

Mrs Suzman said the question which the minister had to answer was whether he was going to allow the deterioration of the judicial system to go on unchecked.

Case 7/11/89 28/4/89

Law Journal

slates judge

DURBAN. A Transvaal judge's lenient sentencing last November of a young white farmer and his accomplice who attacked and killed a labourer who had ridden over his dogs, has again come under harsh criticism, this time in the latest edition of the South African law magazine, De Rebus.

Last November Mr Justice Strydom convicted Jacobus Vorster, 22, of culpable homicide, fining him R3 000 (or 12 months) and sentencing him to a wholly suspended five-year prison term.

The De Rebus editorial said: "We have considerable difficulty in understanding why the court permitted (Vorster) to walk away from the trial to all intents and purposes a free man."

20/4/89

White farmer on murder charge

4
Chw

By DAN DHLAMINI

A FREE State farmer and two of his workers this week appeared briefly in the Heilbron Magistrate's Court charged with murder.

Frans Jacobus Smith 47, Johannes Shwebiya 35, and Patrick Ngwevu, 21 - all of Mispan Farm near Heilbron - pleaded not guilty to the murder of 15-year-old Fanie Jacob Radebe on March 4 this year.

The State alleges that Smith and the two workers beat up Radebe with their fists, kicked him and sjambokked him while a leather thong was tied around his neck and clamped to a vice grip. His body was found with sjambok weals and bruises in a farm store room.

Smith was released on R1 000 bail on March 6 and his co-accused the following day, also on bail of R1 000 each.

The conditions of their bail are that they should not interfere with State witnesses.

Magistrate RJ Steyn adjourned the case to May 9.

The case follows soon after a storm in legal and political circles concerning the lenient dealing by courts with white farmers who assaulted and killed blacks. The most recent case is that of the two Klerksdorp farmers - Louis Venter and Peter Fouche - who killed Steven Mononye. They were each fined R1 200 and a six-month suspended jail term.

Another case that brought the South African judicial system under the spotlight was that of Jacobus Vorster and Pieter Lecunaard, who brutally killed Eric Sambo in the Louis Trichardt district and were fined and given suspended sentences.

Better life linked to fewer children

Down on the farm
a 'revolution' stirs

Star 2/5/89 (4)

By Winnie Graham

A baby is born every 26 seconds in South Africa ... eight out of 10 farm workers cannot read or write ... by 2000 there will be 13 million black children at school.

An estimated eight million people could be unemployed by the turn of the century ... the cost of providing housing for our people could be as much as R50 000 million over the next 12 years.

These are some of the frightening statistics which prompted the Government to found the Directorate for Population Development in 1984.

The target they set themselves was reducing the birthrate to 2.1 children per woman by the year 2010. But how can it be achieved?

With estimates showing that 60 percent of all blacks live on white-owned farms, the country seemed a good place to start.

Research has shown that population growth can be controlled only if the standard of living can be increased. The higher the standard, the lower the growth rate.

Tour for journalists

Dr Donne Schweigart, director of Population Development, spelled this out when she talked to the press at the start of a tour of the northern Free State and western Transvaal last week.

The enhancement of the quality of life, she said, was as important a factor in reducing numbers as any family planning programme. A gigantic effort had to be made to provide education, primary health, housing and training skills for the people. Self-help schemes and jobs had to be created.

Dr Schweigart told the journalists: "It is the small projects that will start the change."

During the next two days the press corps was to visit seven farms and see some of the "small" projects farmers had initiated. In four or five years several of the farmers had made enormous strides providing decent housing for their staff (some with electricity and running water).

Schools for farm children were being upgraded, primary health services made available and recreation and sports opportunities created.

Through the formation of community development associations and with the co-operation of the Rural Foundation, just one "community development association" (20 such associations being formed annually), is having an impact.

The 15 farmers in the Bothaville North Community Development Association have set the pattern for change in their area. Their wives are doing their share and have initiated innumerable small self-help schemes among workers' wives.

Women who once had nothing to do are now spinning and weaving wool, making clothes by hand or machine, learning to bake and to can fruit. Most have started vegetable gardens.

The farmers have had the support of training centres such as Boskop, near Potchefstroom, where courses are being offered to farm workers.

When the Boskop Centre opened in 1977 it trained just 417 people. Last year, says the chief executive manager, Mr Schalk van der Merwe, more than 23 500 people were trained. Here workers — many illiterate — are being given the opportunity of upgrading their skills.

They come from many parts of South Africa to take courses in a number of subjects. The widely acclaimed 6M-management course is one of the most popular. Farming courses include sheep and lamb care, wool classification and artificial insemination, dairy and cattle farming, pig care, vegetable farming and vehicle maintenance.

Farm hands who may never have learned to read or write are now being instructed in leadership training, industrial relations, personnel management and conflict management.

Mr van der Merwe says the training not only helps step up productivity on farms, but does an enormous amount to improve the self image of the workers who, when they return with their certificates, are usually given wage increases.

Whatever the motives may be for improving the quality of life of farm workers, one thing is certain: both farmers and workers have gained for the experience. But are families getting smaller? Some farmers claim fewer babies are being born on the farms now but only time will tell if "operation upgrade" has had the desired effect.

cont. from p 4/5/89 (4)

Victim dragged behind truck — witness

JOHANNESBURG. — A white businessman tied a black farm labourer to the back of his truck and dragged him for more than a kilometre on dirt and tar roads until he died, a witness testified in a murder trial.

Mr Michael C van Rensburg told the Supreme Court in Witbank on Tuesday that his employer, Mr John A Perreira, 53, had tied Mr Molefe Tholi Nzima by the neck to the tow bar of his truck, driven through water, down a dirt road, and zig-

zagged along a tar road until he swung on to his own property where the victim's head slammed into a cement block.

Mr Van Rensburg said that on November 18, 1987, he and Mr Perreira had been looking for a chicken thief at Mr Perreira's farm in Ogies, 100km east of here, when suspicion fell on Mr Nzima.

Mr Perreira pleaded not guilty and the trial is continuing. — Sapa-AP

It was very strongly a question of duty. I did not think I had a choice." — Reuter and Political Staff.

More workers from Zebediela injured

ZEBEDIELA. — Nine more workers from the Zebediela Citrus Estates were admitted to the Groothoek Hospital yesterday morning for treatment and later discharged, hospital sources said.

This put the number of workers admitted and treated at the hospital since yesterday to fifteen.

A worker who requested anonymity said scores of workers who lived in the company compounds, slept in the bush on Monday night for fear of what he alleged to be "possible attacks from the police".

The SAP unrest report noted that a large group gathered outside the estate offices, and were dispersed by police using quirts and patrol dogs. The report said 12 people were injured and 15 arrested.

● At Molweni (Pinetown) two people were slightly injured when they were stoned by a group.

● Police are investigating an explosion which occurred at 6.15am on May 8 at the municipal mechanical workshop in Deepmeadow, Soweto. There were no casualties and damage was slight. — Sapa

4

4

and says the delay means farm workers are being discriminated against "with the tacit approval" of government.

"We (the LP) believe that SA's farm workers and domestic servants represent an example of the exploitation of cheap labour," he charges.

He says they exist "in a state of serfdom" with no access to the Industrial Court and no means of seeking redress for unfair labour practices. They are also excluded from the benefits of the Unemployment Insurance Act, the Wage Act and the Labour Relations Act. They depend on the "charity and benevolence" of farmers. No law protects their rights to annual leave or sick leave, or to fair working hours. Farmers have an "unfair advantage and unfair protection" in dealing with their workers.

"It needs to be said that the farm worker in SA finds himself in the position of a serf, at the mercy of the minister of manpower and SA's white farmers."

Landers says reports of the treatment of some farm workers indicate a tradition of physical abuse. "Is this one of those traditions the NP wants to protect? Is the holding down of SA's farm workers in a state of serfdom part of the NP's protection of the rights of the white minority?"

"Cases of farm workers being exploited and assaulted fill our newspapers and our law reports. Their exclusion from the ambit of SA's labour legislation means that they are subjected to forces beyond their control."

Speaking in the same debate the DP's Mahmoud Rajab said he believes that it has been speculated that the NMC report recommends that farm workers be given the right to form trade unions.

"The question that begs to be answered is this: is government under pressure from the conservative agricultural sector to delay publication of the report?" he said.

In response, acting Minister Louw continued government's fudge of the issue. He argued that the issue of trade unions for farm workers has to be handled carefully so as not to disrupt the agricultural industry's ability to provide the thousands of jobs it now does.

He says the NMC report may in fact not be published because it is primarily a guide

for government. He says a "working group" comprising representatives of "organised labour," MPs and Department of Manpower officials is continuing to look at the issue.

He says it is difficult to be "prescriptive" to the industry because of its complexity and diversity.

FARM LABOUR (4) FARMER

Forever serfs 5/5/89

The National Party's political vulnerability in the platteland is almost certainly forcing government to continue denying basic labour rights to farm workers.

Population Development Deputy Minister Luwellyn Landers (the only "coloured" member of the "general affairs" administration) touched a few raw nerves in parliament last week when he accused government of tacitly approving the exploitation and abuse of farm workers — but the Nats didn't flinch. With an election due this year the rights of black farm workers are not a priority.

Speaking in the debate on the manpower budget vote, Landers raised what has clearly become an acute embarrassment for government. It has now been sitting on a National Manpower Commission (NMC) report on the working conditions for farm and domestic workers for five years and there is still no indication that it is prepared to formulate a policy to protect them (*Current Affairs* March 10).

In reply to a number of questions in parliament since government received the report, former Manpower Minister Piet du Plessis, and current acting Minister Eli Louw, have told MPs that "consultations with organised agriculture" have not been finalised and nothing can be done until then.

But Landers doesn't accept that excuse. He says it is "inconceivable" that an issue as important as basic employment rights for farm workers can take so long to be resolved



Landers . . . exploitation of cheap labour

17665 5/5/89 (4)

Man would have died of strangulation, says doctor

The Argus Correspondent

WITBANK. — If the Ogies man who died after being tied with rope and dragged behind a bakkie had not died from head injuries, he would have died from strangulation, a doctor told the Supreme Court here.

Dr Johannes van Tonder, Ogies's district surgeon, was giving evidence in the case against Benoni businessman Mr John Augustine Perreira, 53, who is charged with the murder of Mr Molefe "Tholi" Nzima on November 18, 1987.

Mr Perreira has pleaded not guilty.

Earlier the court heard from witness Mr Michael Charles van Rensburg that Mr Nzima had been suspected of stealing chickens from Mr Perreira's Ogies smallholding.

Mr Perreira had tied up Mr Nzima with a rope, attached the rope to a bakkie's towbar, then drove off, dragging him over dirt and tar roads.

Mr Nzima died soon after the bakkie stopped, after travelling more than one kilometre.

In his evidence Dr van Tonder said Mr Nzima had died of brain injuries.

The back of his skull had been broken resulting in bleeding of the brain.

Mr Nzima also had multiple strangulation marks on the neck.

Dr van Tonder said Mr Nzima would have died of strangulation from the rope around his neck even if he had not sustained the head injury.

Dr van Tonder also said Mr Nzima had abrasions on the upper part of his body. He believed the body must have been dragged about 50 m to receive such injuries.

The hearing continues on June 8.



Conditions and attitudes improve on some farms

"Ten years ago," the farm worker's wife said, "if we wanted to talk to the farmer, we knocked on the kitchen window. Today we knock at the door, are invited in and sometimes offered a cup of tea."

The dramatic change in attitudes on certain South African farms is reflected in this conversation. It was echoed by Mr Ockie Bosman, general manager of the Rural Foundation, at the close of a media tour of the Free State and western Transvaal.

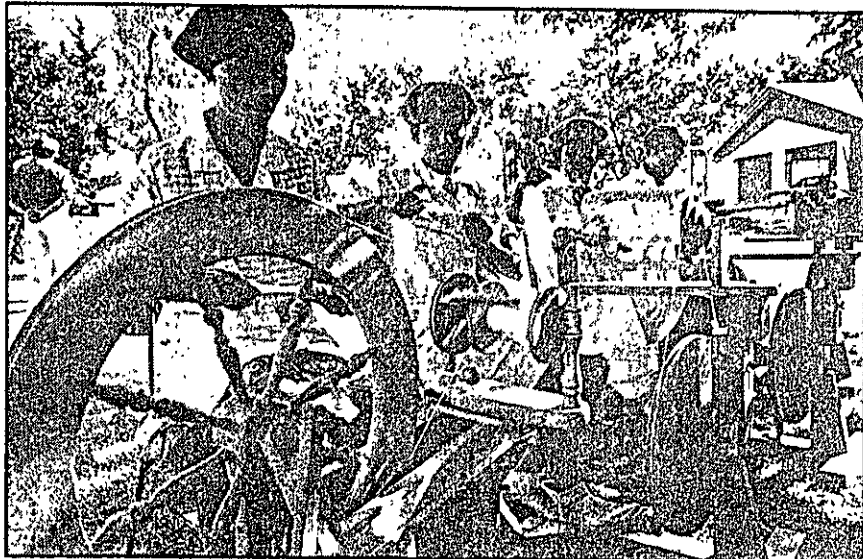
Mr Bosman was outlining the progress of the population development programme among the farming community.

The Department of Health's Population Development Programme and the Rural Foundation, working in co-operation with newly formed rural community development associations, are involved in projects to upgrade and improve the quality of life for farmworkers.

He said it was impossible to measure accurately the value of the work being done, for the development programmes had given people hope and hope was not a measurable quality.

His speech followed a talk by the chairman of the Bothaville North Community Development Association, Mr Vrede Viljoen, who said farmers in the area were doing "their very best" to provide a safe and happy environment for their workers.

He added: "In the four years since we started the programme in co-operation with our personnel, there has been a change in the attitudes of both black and white. We have proved that in spite of our differences we can work and live



SPINNING WOOL . . . women from a farm in the Schweizer Reineke district, western Transvaal, work on a self-help project started by two farmers' wives.

Report: Winnie Graham Pictures: Karen Fletcher

in harmony."

Asked if the farmers had decided to upgrade conditions for workers because they were "afraid of trade unions", Mr Viljoen said if the unions came to improve the quality of the workers' lives they would be welcomed, but not if they came to disrupt the farms.

He spoke with sincerity. In the four years since the Bothaville North association got going, it is obvious there has been a remarkable change.

But, though the housing, schools and other physical structures provided by the farmers are impressive, it is the shift in attitudes of both black and white that was most noticeable when pressmen toured the area last week.

White farmers and black farmhands have abandoned their old "master/servant" relationship. They are working as a team — and productivity is increasing.

A farmer summed up the change when he said: "We no longer talk of having so many kaffirs on our farms. We talk of our personnel. Farmers no longer simply tell their workers what to do. We meet each morning to discuss the day's work."

The change started when farmers committed themselves to improving their workers' quality of life by providing better housing, training facilities, upgraded schools, creches and health services. Most of the schemes started

when the community development associations were formed.

Farmers saw the need to improve physical structures but, four years ago, no one believed a major shift in attitudes was possible. Today, however, the spin-off of their efforts is apparent to all.

The efforts of the Bothaville farmers has affected the lives of about 2 000 workers on 15 farms. About 86 percent of the workers now live in brick homes rather than mud huts. Some farmers provide electricity, running water, street lights and even refuse removal services at their staff housing estates.

A Free State sheep farmer, Mr Jan van Blijon, said he saw

the need to provide after he started four years ago.

"It hurt me to see the walls of their huts collapse," he said. "In 1978 I was farming some land and I knew I suffered lack of housing not be expected to properly."

Today, his workers are provided with core housing to enable each to finish the work. He insists everyone grows vegetables and usual crops on their plots.

No farm in the area than 3 km from a school is possible for every area to receive a basic education. At present only school education is available but the farmers are planning for a junior secondary school.

Pension and burial have also been started.

Hundreds of farmworkers, many of whom are from the Bothaville and Boskop Training Centres, have been offered an opportunity of learning work and knitting.

Farmers' wives have started a number of sewing schemes and the women are now baking, weaving, sewing and knitting for gain.

Recreation, once a luxury on South African farms, is now becoming an important part of their lives. Centres have been built, leagues arranged, and events planned, choirs and outings organised.



Harmony is won on farm

WALKING TOGETHER ... Mr Rhys Rolfe of Viljoenskroon (centre), the maize farmer who built the first licensed club in South Africa for his workers, with his wife, Norma, and members of his workers' committee, Mr David Thekiso, Mr Daniel Motaung, Mr Eals Maitbe and Mr David Mathibe.

Attitudes on farms



district, western Transvaal, for farm workers' wives.

Fletcher.

the community development associations were formed. Farmers saw the need to improve physical structures four years ago, no one believed a major shift in attitudes was possible. Today, however, the spin-off of their efforts is apparent to all. The efforts of the Bothaville Association has affected the lives of about 2 000 workers on 15 farms. About 86 percent of the workers now live in brick houses rather than mud huts. Farmers provide electricity, running water, street lighting and even refuse removal services at their staff housing centres.

the need to provide housing after he started farming 17 years ago.

"It hurt me to see how they suffered when, in heavy rains, the walls of their houses collapsed," he said. "In those days I was farming someone else's land and I knew people who suffered lack of housing could not be expected to work properly."

Today, his workers are provided with core houses, enabling each to finish the interiors. He insists everyone grows vegetables and usually "inspects" their crops on December 22.

No farm in the area is more than 3 km from a school so it is possible for every child in the area to receive a basic education. At present only primary school education is available, but the farmers are negotiating for a junior secondary school.

Pension and burial schemes have also been started by some.

Hundreds of farmworkers, many of whom are illiterate, have been sent to the Vetsak and Boskop Training Centres to acquire new skills, and their wives have been offered the opportunity of learning needlework and knitting.

Farmers' wives have initiated a number of self-help schemes and the workers' wives are now baking, spinning, weaving, sewing and knitting for gain.

Recreation, once unheard-of on South African farms, has now become an important aspect of their lives. Community centres have been built, soccer leagues arranged, athletic events planned, choirs formed and outings organised.



WORKING TOGETHER ... a Free State farmer's wife, Mrs Ansie Stols, and a farmworker's wife, Mrs Lydia Bentiye, discuss progress on a needlework project on the farm Braklaagte.

X

(4) (B) Star 2/5/89

Six farm workers hurt during strike

ZEBEDIELA — At least six workers from the Zebediela Citrus Estates in the northern Transvaal were admitted to the Groothoek Hospital yesterday after an alleged confrontation with police.

Sources at the hospital identified three workers admitted as Mrs Mokgaetji Maswi (60), Mr Piet Nkwana (65) and Mr James Malaudzi (69). Mrs Maswi said she had been bitten on both legs by police dogs.

More than 1 000 members of the National Union of Farmworkers downed tools on Friday. They are demanding higher wages and recognition of their union.

A worker said the entire labour force gathered at the company offices yesterday. "While standing there we were given five minutes in which to disperse because the police were coming."

Mr C van Rooyen, public relations manager for Zebediela Citrus, yesterday refused to comment. Far Northern Transvaal police public relations officer Lieutenant Cas Jones referred inquiries to the Police Directorate of Public Relations in Pretoria. Comment from the directorate is expected today. — Sapa.

Suzman move to censure judge

Parliamentary Staff

4

A SUPREME Court judge will today face charges in Parliament of grossly perverting the law by imposing too light a punishment on a white farmer who caused the death of a black worker.

Mr Justice J J Strydom's accuser will be Mrs Helen Suzman, Democratic Party spokesman on law and order, who has sought the impeachment of the judge.

Last November he conditionally suspended a penalty of five years' jail and fine of R3 000 (or 12 months) imposed on Jacobus Vorster, 23, for culpable homicide.

One of the provisos was that Vorster pay labourer Mr Eric Sambo's widow and children R130 a month for five years.

The Louis Trichardt Circuit Court heard that Vorster, originally charged with murder, beat Mr Sambo and tied him to a tree after he had killed one of the farmer's dogs and maimed another.

Mrs Suzman told the House of Assembly yesterday she would move today for the judge's censure.

She noted that while punishment was the judge's discretion, it should be seen in the light of the unlawful purpose of Vorster and an accomplice, Petrus Leonard, "coupled with the duration and brutality of their assaults".

The sentences imposed last November were so "outrageously insufficient as to amount to a gross perversion of the law," Mrs Suzman concluded.

Leonard was fined R500 (or three months).

The Johannesburg Bar Council found the sentence "so grossly inappropriate as to induce not simply a sense of shock but one of outrage and concern".

If the community began to believe such a crime could merit "so trivial a punishment, the maintenance of law and order would be gravely endangered and no law-abiding citizen would be safe from violent and callous killers".

It said further that the trial judge took into account mitigation for which there was no or insufficient evidence.

Fruit exports seen at R1,5bn this year

CAP TINES 11/5/89

By AUDREY D'ANGELO
Financial Editor

THE fruit industry — which provides a living for more than 1m people in the Western Cape alone — is expected to earn more than R1,5bn in foreign exchange this year, Rembrandt chairman Anton Rupert said last night.

He was speaking at the formal opening of a new centre for the industry in the restored 17th century Fleurbaix manor house near Stellenbosch.

Describing fruit growing as "an anchor industry in the Western Cape", Rupert said it was the largest employer of black people in the area.

"It is disturbing to note that the sanctions policy which some overseas countries have seen fit to apply to SA has already led to a decline in the number of seasonal workers."

Sanctions, he continued, would also hit business in the countries applying them.

"The SA fruit exporting industry generates some R2bn for European institutions.

"In the export of Cape grapes, for example, the Europeans get about 65% of the retail price. This

includes the retail and wholesale shares as well as import duty and distribution costs.

"The SA share, which includes transport and all packing materials, is 35% and the farmer's share amounting to only 10% of the retail price in Europe.

"The wine farmer is in the same situation. His share of the retail price of a bottle of wine in the higher price range on the overseas market varies between 10% and 12%.

"On the other hand the import duty alone on SA fruit delivered to the European Economic Community markets amounts to some R75m.

"This is more than the R60m which these countries channelled, for example, in 1987/88 through organizations such as the SA Council of Churches, the Catholic Bishops' Conference, Cosatu and the Kagiso Trust for the upliftment of the underprivileged."

Rupert said that in the difficult trading situation SA was currently experiencing "the Cape fruit industry has to be particularly resourceful to retain current markets and to open new ones.

"Ultimately the consumer's demand for quality products is the only truly effective counter to political scheming."

In the long run, the service and quality which were the foundations of the SA fruit industry would ensure it a place in the world market.

Fleurbaix, with more than 60 ha of land, is now the headquarters of the SA Plant Improvement Organization, a project managed in partnership with the deciduous, dried and canned fruit industries.

It will also be used by the industry for conferences and training.

Rupert, who has played a leading part in the conservation of old buildings, said it was an ideal site where the best use could be made of the infrastructure serving the industry such as the research institutes, plant quarantine stations and the University of Stellenbosch.

"Research is the lifeblood of an industry and ensures that it will remain at the forefront of technological development.

"In a strategically important industry like the fruit industry this is indispensable."

Sanctions hit fruit workers' jobs

By JOHN YELD
Staff Reporter

1965 11/15/87
SANCTIONS against South Africa have caused a decline in the number of seasonal workers in the fruit industry, according to Stellenbosch magnate Dr Anton Rupert.

Dr Rupert was speaking in Stellenbosch yesterday at the opening of the Fleurbaix complex, a historical Cape-Dutch homestead on the banks of the Eerste River dating from 1768 which has been restored as headquarters of the SA Plant

Improvement Organisation.

Dr Rupert said the fruit industry was the anchor industry of the Western Cape and earned valuable foreign exchange — estimated at more than R1 500-million this year.

It was also the largest employer of black labour, providing work for nearly 250 000 workers with more than a million dependents.

"It is disturbing to note that sanctions have already led to a decline in the number of seasonal workers," he said.

The South African fruit exporting industry generated

about R2 000-million for European institutions, and import duty on South African fruit alone was about R75-million — more than the R60-million which these countries channelled through organisations like the SA Council of Churches and the Kagiso Trust in 1987-88, Dr Rupert said.

"This shows just how self-defeating the actions of some of our European trading partners are."

Citrus strikers hurt as police move in

CP Correspondent

At least 15 workers employed at Zebediela Citrus Estate in the Far Northern Transvaal were treated at Groothoek Hospital for injuries sustained on Monday, hospital sources said.

The 15 were injured when police used quirts and dogs to disperse a group of over 100 workers who were gathered on the company premises to discuss with the management their demands for pay increases and union recognition.

Police said in Pretoria on Tuesday that 15 workers had been arrested at the estate.

Two of the injured workers are Mokgaeti Moshomi, 60, and James Makudzi, 69.

The workers, who are members of the Nactu-affiliated National Union of Farm Workers, are demanding a 45 percent across-the-board increase and the recognition of their union.

Long-serving workers with 30 years' experience earn from R60 a month to R165 a month.

Zebediela Citrus PRO management officer C van Rooyen refused to comment on the strike at the company.

The 15 workers appeared at Zebediela Magistrate's Court on Thursday charged with disobeying a lawful police order to disperse.

They are Selina Maduba, Josephine Sebopa, Annah Mofumadi, Melita Ndlovu, Jack Kekana, Sarah Ledwaba, James Mosima, Andries Lebese, Lekindle Mokgatha, Dorcas Tembisa, Flora Segabutla, Elizabeth Sebonda, Mirriam Makhafola, Anna Selepe, and France Mampa.

The case was postponed to June 7 and all were released on warning.

E 3

three

and
after
rival
peace

f 12

TWO white farmers tied Stephen Mononye to a tree then whipped, punched and kicked him to death because two cows escaped from a farm near Klerksdorp.

For the crime, farmers Louis Venter and Peter Fouche were last month fined R1 200 or four months' jail after the court accepted reduced pleas of assault.

After seeing her husband's killers walk from the court as free men Mononye's widow Lilly said: "This shows how cheap black lives are in this country."

In September 1987 a black farmworker, Eric Sambö, accidentally ran over and killed two dogs belonging to his white employer, Jacobus Vorster, in the Louis Trichardt area.

Vorster and his neighbour Petrus Leonard beat and kicked Sambo unconscious. They left him tied to a tree overnight and resumed the brutal assault in the morning, forcing other blacks to take part. Sambo bled to death.

Last November Leonard was fined R500 for his part in the killing. Vorster received a five-year suspended sentence and was ordered to pay the dead man's widow R120 a month for five years.

The judge said he took into account the embarrassment Vorster would suffer and said another reason for not jailing him was that 44 black workers on his farm might lose their jobs.

The government says it is proud of its judicial system's impartiality and independence. It vehemently denies charges that some judges are biased.

Veteran opposition MP Helen Suzman says: "The Mononye case is another instance of gross perversion of justice and can only bring the South African judicial system into disrepute, both at home and abroad."

She failed in her efforts to have the Sambo case judge impeached, but she found an ally in the influential Johannesburg Bar Association, who said the sentence imposed on the farmers was "so grossly inappropriate as to induce not simply a sense of shock, but one of outrage and concern".

University of Natal academic and legal expert Prof George Devenish said: "It is surprising that the Attorney-General did not prosecute the farmers in the Supreme Court for murder."

"Sentences like this contribute towards making our system of legal justice suspect."

Civil rights leaders cite a long list of cases as evidence of court leniency towards whites convicted of killing blacks.

In 1987 Johan Breytenbach received an effective sentence of 30 months for driving his car into a park in

CP 14/5/89 (4)

Govt is proud of impartial, independent law system

Pretoria and killing a sleeping black woman, Maria Rametsi, by repeatedly running over her.

In the same year, a 17-year-old white youth was sentenced to six strokes with a cane and a suspended jail term for beating a black man to death with a baseball bat. The youth said he was angry after an argument with his girlfriend.

However, two blacks who left a white woman for dead and stole her car were sentenced to death last year.

A black gardener who strangled his employer was sentenced to death, while a domestic worker who helped in the murder was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment.

The Human Rights Commission said: "It would seem our courts regard the racial element in a white-against-black crime as an extenuating circumstance and in a black-against-white crime as an aggravating circumstance."

THE NOOSE

Amnesty International noted last month that the vast majority of the more than 1 250 people sentenced to hang in South Africa during the past decade were black.

It said: "In South Africa, death sentences are imposed disproportionately on black defendants by an almost all-white judiciary. Execution is most likely if the victim is white and the defendant black."

The Sharpeville Six were sentenced to hang for a murder they did not directly commit.

The judge used the doctrine of common purpose to determine that the accused were part of a mob which stoned and burned to death a black councillor in 1984.

President P W Botha commuted the sentences to long-term imprisonment after a local and international outcry. - Sapa.

Man fined R1 000 for killing burglar

CP Correspondent

THE Grahamstown Supreme Court this week fined a 56-year-old white man R1 000 or two years' imprisonment for killing a black man who tried to burgle his home.

Colin Mellvin Wesson, an occupational therapist at Fort England Hospital, was initially charged with murder, but the State accepted his plea of guilty to culpable homicide.

Pepsi Ndemka, a suspected burglar, died from a gunshot wound caused by Wesson after Ndemka had been apprehended by at least 20 residents in the area.

Judge Zietsman said the basis of Wesson's conviction was his negligence in using the firearm.

He had failed to warn the deceased not to run away and had shot into the ground rather than into the air.

If the bullet had not struck the

deceased, it could have ricocheted off a wall and struck a member of the public.

This amounted to a high degree of negligence, the judge said.

He found that Wesson acted on the spur of the moment and there had not been any intention to kill or injure the deceased.

Wesson was also sentenced to three years' imprisonment suspended for three years. - Ana

A
ques
tion
of
jur

4
CSP
EJ
Workers to seek police restraint order

ZEBEDIELA. — The strike by more than 1 200 Zebediela Citrus Estates workers is to have a sequel in court today when an order to restrict the company and the police from evicting the strikers is to be sought in the Supreme Court.

Confirming this, the litigation officer of the Black Lawyers' Association, Mrs D Mokgahle, said the application followed the refusal by both the company and the police to undertake not to evict and assault the workers.

This followed an incident last Monday at the company premises when police confronted the striking workers with quirts and police dogs. At least eight workers were admitted to Groothoek Hospital while 15 workers were arrested. — Sapa

1989

statute

Farm labourers new laws on way

The Government has already set in motion machinery to formulate legislation to protect the basic employment rights of farm workers, according to the Director General of the Department of Manpower, Mr Joel Fourie.

Mr Fourie said in an interview in Pretoria that the South African Agricultural Union was already setting up labour codes for the industry. Farm workers themselves were also at liberty to form representative bodies.

A working group comprising representatives of the industry was investigating the various possibilities put forward in the National Manpower Commission's report on the working conditions of farm and domestic workers, he said.

Farm workers 'free to form unions'

PRETORIA — Manpower director-general Joel Fourie said government was moving to formulate legislation to protect farm workers' basic rights.

In a radio interview he said SA Agricultural Union was setting up labour codes for the industry. Farm workers were free to form unions and other bodies to bargain on their behalf.

Present labour law provisions, tai-

lored for factory workers, did not afford relevant protection for farm workers.

Industry representatives were investigating possibilities put forward in the Manpower Commission's report on this sector's working conditions.

The department was also implementing educational and training programmes aimed at uplifting the quality of life of the farm worker. — Sapa.

R60 a month wage claim denied

ZEBEDIELA Citrus Estates has said the organisation "rejects with contempt" allegations in *Sowetan* that workers on the estate earn between R60 and R165 a month.

In a statement yesterday Zebediela said, "the minimum salary for an unskilled untrained worker at Zebediela is R120 per month cash plus benefits."

Benefits include family housing, clinic services, sport and recreation facilities, specialist training and transport for children.

On April 1 this year the workers received a 15 percent increase, the statement said.

In its editorial on Tuesday, *Sowetan* said 12 workers landed in hospital after workers at the estate went on strike to protest against low wages.

"We are aware that certain workers suffered financial loss in the resulting disciplinary actions. Management will however support loyal workers," the estate said.

"Zebediela Citrus is a leader in the application of fair labour relations," the statement said.

It said healthy labour relations exist as elected worker councils represent the workers and decide with management on disciplinary codes, and the interpretation of policy.

"If any workers opt to leave company employment, management will be fair in dealing with their housing position... we do not plan any evictions."

Sowetan 18/5/89



determine the death.

month.

Zone 5 at 10am.

Talks on N Tvl strike

THE strike by over 1 200 Zebediela citrus workers enters its 15th day today with management having agreed to negotiate with legal representatives of the workers, the union announced yesterday.

Nactu's Pietersburg organiser, Mr Moss Mphahlele, said the two, with worker representatives and possibly the union, were to meet at a hotel in Potgietersrus last night.

The meeting followed

By **MATHATHA TSEDU**

a Supreme Court application on Monday in which the workers restrained management from evicting them from the compounds.

Lawyers

A team of top black advocates, including Mr Dikgang Moseneke, Mr M C Motimele, and Mrs Francis Davis, assisted by the litigation officer of

the Black Lawyers Association (BLA), arrived in the Northern Transvaal yesterday afternoon for the meeting.

The workers stopped working on May 3 demanding the recognition of their union, the National Union of Farm Workers, and wage increments. The workers say they earn R60 per month with those having over 30 years experience earning R165 per month.

*18/5/69
Sowetan*

DO YOU HAVE MONEY AVAILABLE?

COURT BATTLE FOR ORANGE PICKERS

AN application for the reinstatement of over 1 200 Zebediela Citrus Estates striking workers is to be filed in the Pretoria Supreme Court this afternoon.

The application by the Black Lawyers Association (BLA) on behalf of the workers will also ask the court to order the company not to go ahead

By MATHATHA TSEDU

with its threat to evict the workers from the compounds or to again call the police "into what is purely a labour dispute."

BLA litigation officer, Mrs D Mokgatle, said the application followed a visit to the area by a team of black advocates led by

Mr Dikgang Moseneke.

She said the company had on Friday refused to open negotiations with the union or the legal representatives over the workers grievances. The company had also refused to give an undertaking that the strikers would not be evicted.

The workers were informed during the week that they had been dismissed following the strike that started on May 3.

The stoppage, over wage demands and the recognition of the National Union of Farmworkers, has brought the world's largest orange estate to a halt. Oranges began rotting as they fell to the ground in their thousands.

Dog bites

Strikers say they earn from R60 per month to R165 for those with over 30 years service. Police were called to the estate on Monday to disperse the strikers after the workers had turned down a management request to resume work. At least six workers, suffering from police dog bites, are still being treated at the Grootshoek hospital where they were admitted on Monday.

At a meeting on Friday, the workers vowed to continue with the strike until their demands for a 45 percent increase is met.

Zebediela Citrus public relations manager, Mr C van Rooyen, has said the company was not prepared to comment on the strike.



Zebediela citrus worker Mrs Tryphinah Mazwi, holding a bloodied shoe after she was bitten by police dogs last Monday. She is still in hospital. Pic: MATHATHA TSEDU

(4) 19-25/5/89

Dogs set on farm workers as 1 200 strike

Farm workers on the Zebediela state-owned citrus estate continue their two-week strike over demands for higher wages and recognition of their union.
By EDDIE KOCH

PRODUCTION at Africa's biggest citrus estate, near Zebediela in the Northern Transvaal, has been halted by a 16-day-old strike by about 1 200 orange pickers.

A supreme court application by the National Union of Farmworkers (NUF) for an order restraining farm management from evicting strikers and calling on police to intervene in the dispute was postponed on Monday, said a union official.

In the interim, the state-owned Zebediela Citrus Estates agreed to try and settle the strike in talks with the workers' legal representatives. It also undertook not to evict the workers or call in the police until the court hearing resumed.

Tshaka Moletsane, NUF general secretary, told the *Weekly Mail* the workers had downed tools on Wednesday two weeks ago in protest at refusals by the state-owned Zebediela Citrus Estates to recognise the union.

Last week 12 of the strikers were treated at the Groothoek Hospital after management called in police to disperse a crowd of workers.

"The youths managed to run away but many of the workers were older people who could not escape," said Moletsane. "The were bitten by dogs and beaten with batons."

A routine unrest report issued by police headquarters in Pretoria on Tuesday said: "A large group of blacks refused to disperse when requested to do so by both management and police. Police used quirts and patrol dogs to disperse them. Twelve people were slightly injured."

Moletsane said workers, who receive wages of between R65 and R165 a month, were also demanding a 45 percent wage hike. "The farm owners have refused to talk to us. They say they don't want a third party involved and will be able to handle their own domestic problems."

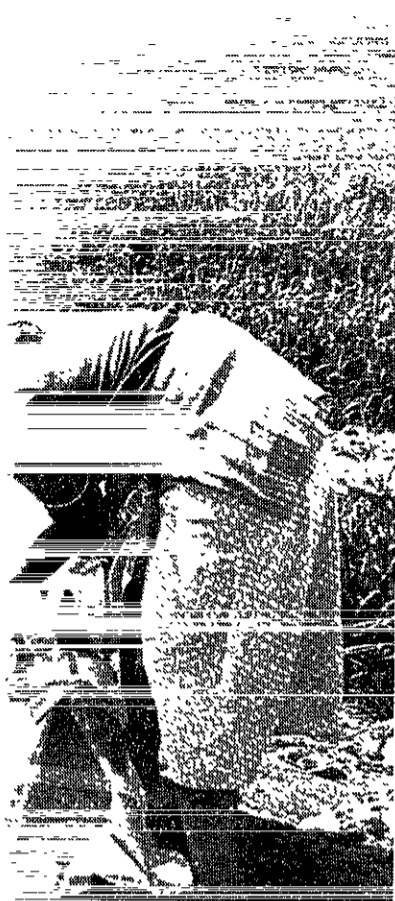
Cornell van Rooyen, public relations officer for Zebediela Citrus Estate, had not replied to *Weekly Mail* queries at the time of going to press.

The estate is owned by the SA Development Trust Corporation, which encourages investment in "homeland" areas. Union sources said the corporation plans to hand the farm over to the Lebowa government.

"The farm has come to a complete halt," said a NUF organiser in the union's Pietersburg office. "Oranges are just dropping off the trees. Every black person who works on the farm — pickers, labourers, security guards and drivers — are out on strike."

NUF, an affiliate of the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), is the largest of South Africa's unions for black farmworkers.

● Manpower director-general Joel Fourie this week announced the government was planning to introduce legislation to govern conditions of employment on South Africa's farms. He also pointed out that farm labourers were free to join unions of their choice.



an 11-hour day

of

in labourer community. has been said about child abuse, holism and other items in the area. ANA ROSSOUW visited area. YUNUS AMED took the res.

ds

Relatives of accident victims have little time to mourn



Three survivors of the crash who lost their families, from left, Hendrina Klaaste, Anna Tromp and Marta Hanekom, back in the fields

are leaving. All they take along is a mug, a blanket and a pot. Young children, supposed to be at school, are also recruited in this way. By Lombard, 10, of Calvinia, Mariana Hanekom, 15 and Jan Smit, 14, who died in the accident, were drafted from Calvinia. The girls are housed in hostels with large men and the boys fall victim to the "dop" system, where the work-

ers are "rewarded" with a mugful of cheap wine at the end of a hard day's work. "The dop system still exists here and the farmers say the workers want it that way," said Willemse, who buried most of the dead in the past two weeks. He also helped to trace victims' relatives. "The conditions in which we found the families were terrible. Living

standards in the area have deteriorated to a point where they are just existing. "The disaster affected them terribly, but at the same time, they were too helpless to do anything themselves. They could not lift themselves out of their depression to bury their own dead." The disaster committee had to buy clothes for relatives who had been reluctant to attend the funerals because they had nothing to wear.

"All those children needn't have died. They were on the truck because they went with their mothers to the fields every day. The Rossouw's did not provide pre-school care for the children." Children killed in the disaster were Christiaan Smit, six months; Els Swanepoel, six months; Roselda Isaacs, eight months; Lettie Olivier, four; Mariana Hanekom, five; Fransisco Isaacs, six; Jennifer Kok, two,

CHILDREN who work on "Gielie" Rossouw's farm near Klawer earn a measly R5 a day, SOUTH discovered during a visit to the farm.

A group of 20 workers were planting sweet melon near the onion fields, digging into the clay soil and carefully placing the seedlings into holes dug by children.

The farmer's wife stood watching them, ticking their names off a list pinned to a clipboard.

"I have to watch them all the time. If I don't stand here all day they'll just sit in the sun," she said.

"They are so irresponsible, these plants cost two cents each but they don't care."

When she was asked whether the workers were available to be interviewed during their lunch break, she replied that they did not need to take a break during their 11-hour day.

Workers who slack off get docked a day's pay.

Mrs Hendrina Klaaste lost both her children in the accident, Granwill, 8 and Tessa, 5.

Loud bang

Both children had been brought to the field every day. Granwill had never had a day's schooling. Sometimes they helped their mother, but spent most of the day playing while she worked.

Klaaste cannot remember the accident. All she recalls was a loud bang and found herself underwater, struggling to swim to the air.

She returned to the fields the day after her children's funeral. There was no time off for grief.

Working next to her was Mrs Anna Tromp, whose two-year-old daughter Jennifer, died as well.

Tromp's weather-beaten face is lined and she looks much older than her 46 years.

She has been a labourer for almost all her life, for as long as she can remember. She tried to get a job "in service" recently, but discovered that she was too old for any of the farm wives to want her.

"Jennifer used to play next to me all day while I worked," she said.

"I earn R5 a day, we all do, and I couldn't miss any work because of the accident," Tromp said.

"It's not enough, but there is no other work around. The Rossouws pay less than all the other farmers.

"If I didn't work for them I wouldn't be able to live."

They work 11 hours a day — for only R5



Johannes van Wyk, 14, irrigates the field. He was recruited in Calvinia

Among the group of 20 workers were three 14-year-old boys, one 15-year-old and two 17-year-old girls who had not completed their schooling.

Rachel Arendse, 17, was in Std 7 in Calvinia. When the Rossouw's needed more help on the farm, her uncle, one of their labourers, came to fetch her.

"I've been here for two weeks now, but at least I'm not living in Donkerhoek with the other workers from Calvinia, I'm living with my uncle," Rachel said.

She was not sure how long she would be working on the farm or whether she would go back to school.

Johannes van Wyk, a cocky, self-assured 14-year-old who was taking a smoke break in the field, cried when he was asked whether his family knew

he was in Klawer.

When the Rossouw's truck came to Calvinia on a Sunday morning three weeks ago he jumped on, believing that he was old enough to make his own decisions.

But now he does not know when he'll be going home again or how he'll get there.

Johannes is living in the Rossouw's hostel in Donkerhoek. He says the older workers take care of him.

"We look after the children, especially the girls and make sure the older men don't use them," Tromp said.

"They are like our children. We take them in with us."

Tromp said the older workers kept

the young ones away from the "dop" the farmers poured out every evening.

"We get a mugful every evening, but everyone doesn't take, only those who are interested in it."

Tromp says she always lines up for the "dop". At every farm she's worked at, she always had the "dop".

Donkerhoek is an ideal name for the Rossouw's hostels. Three rows of grimy, dark cottages hugging the dry cliffs are home to the seasonal workers while their services are needed.

The hostels were deserted in the afternoon. The only workers there were Mrs Alida Swanepoel and Mrs Magrieta Witbooi, who were only returning to work after they buried their children, Els Swanepoel, six months and Marius Witbooi, two.

Marius' body has not yet been found. Els was found last Wednesday. His face was so badly decomposed that his mother could only recognise him by his clothing.

Witbooi does not know if the search is continuing for Marius.

"Mr Rossouw said we could stay here until the funerals are over," she said.

Empty drums

"Here" was a two-roomed cottage, with bare concrete floors, no toilet, no tap and no ceilings.

Witbooi has made storage space for her few groceries with empty paint drums and a piece of cardboard.

A skimpy mattress covered by two worn blankets on the concrete floor serves as a bed for Witbooi and her husband. Her brother, who lives with them, sleeps on an old car seat recovered from a wreck.

She came to Klawer from Calvinia two years ago because work was very scarce there.

At the other cottages, doors were hanging off hinges and there was no furniture inside except for mounds of blankets which served as beds for the workers who shared the cramped space.

"It's hell here, but at least we are working," Swanepoel said.

Approached for comment, farmer Gielie Rossouw said not all the workers killed in the accident worked for him. They had worked on his land but some were employed by other farmers as well.

He refused to comment on allegations on working conditions.



Reverend David Willemse serves on the Disaster Committee and buried most of the dead.

and five-year-old Tessa Klaaste.

The children and babies waited with their mothers every morning at 6.30am to be taken to the fields in the farm truck, spent all day tied to their mother's backs or playing in the fields, and went home again at 6pm.

"Even in winter, when it rains, those children stay tied to their mother's backs. There is no shelter in the fields," said Willemse.

"The women have to work. The pay is far too little to sit at home and survive on their husbands' wages."

The farm labourers working for the Rossouw family earn R25 a week. They are given free accommodation in the hostels, but have to buy food and clothing with their wages.

Willemse would like to see the money donated to the Klawer disaster fund used to improve the lot of farm labourers in the area.

Prison Services respond

RESPONDING to questions, a liaison officer for the SA Prisons Service said:

"A person's bail is established at the court of law and it can be paid either at the court or at the prison.

"The Prisons Service assists such persons through contacting their families, friends or employers to arrange for their bail to be paid. When a person has paid his bail as far as the Prisons Service is concerned, he is a free man and we have no jurisdiction over him.

"As far as fines are concerned, the Prisons Service also assists all prisoners in arranging for their fines to be paid. This is done only on request of the prisoner.

"When an employer is prepared to pay the fine and the prisoner agrees to it, it can be done. A farmer cannot simply visit the prison, pay a prisoner's fine and take him to work on the farm without the prisoner's consent."

Talks end citrus strike

THE strike by over 1200 Zebediela citrus workers is expected to end this week following negotiations between lawyers representing workers and management, highly informed sources said yesterday.

The sources said agreement was reached late on Saturday night in Pretoria where the talks ended after starting in Potgietersrus on Wednesday. The agreement, to be made an order of court tomorrow, provides for an across the board increase of R30 for all workers, the source said.

All the workers, who were dismissed on May 5 following the work stoppage that started two days earlier, are to be re-employed.

Strikers score a first on Africa's biggest farm

By EDDIE KOCH

STRIKERS at the Zebediela Citrus Estate in the northern Transvaal have scored a first for South African farmworkers by winning demands for wage increases and union recognition.

Some 1 200 workers at the estate — the biggest of its kind in Africa — began trickling back to work on Monday after staging a three-week strike to back demands for a wage hike and recognition of the National Union of Farmworkers (NUF).

The strike was settled on Friday last week after union lawyers had threatened to bring an urgent application in the Pretoria Supreme Court for an order restraining the farm's management from evicting the strikers from the compound on the estate.

In an out-of-court agreement, management of the state-owned farm agreed to raise the labourers' wages by R30 a month and instruct their lawyers to discuss a draft recognition agreement with the NUF's legal team.

The Zebediela estate is owned by the SA Development Trust Corporation, a state body designed to promote investment in "homelands".

Union organiser Moses Mphahlele said the lowest paid workers, who before the strike were paid R65 a month, would receive an increase of about 50 percent.

"As far as we are aware, this is the first time that farmworkers on strike in South Africa have won a wage increase," said Mphahlele. "This represents a major victory, not only for the NUF, but for all farmworkers in South Africa."

A representative for Zebediela Citrus confirmed the strikers had been reinstated without any loss of benefits and that a wage increase of R30 had been granted. "The average wages were between R120 for unskilled workers and R2 500 for skilled workers," he said. About ten retired pensioners received R65 plus accommodation.

Early on in the strike, management called in police to break up worker meetings, and just days before the supreme court hearing was due to take place told the strikers they had been sacked.

Management's abrupt about-turn could be linked to the fact that the strike may have embarrassed the government at a time when it was planning to reform the system of labour relations on the farms.

Soon after the strike broke out, director-general of manpower Joel Fourie announced his department intended introducing laws to protect farmworkers in the near future. He also noted that farm labourers were free to join trade unions of their choice.

Farms in this country are not covered by legislation governing labour relations and minimum conditions of employment. The Labour Relations Act makes no provision for the recognition of farmworkers' unions.

The NUF, an affiliate of the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), is the biggest of a number of trade unions that have made minor inroads into the farming sector in the past two years.

34/5-1/6/89
wmail

and friends to celebrate. ... standing third from right, joined the detainees' families

By DAN DHLAMINI

A MAKWASSIE farm worker and his family were terrified by the sound of gunfire outside their house last Friday.

Farm labourer Andries Maine of Bosskuit Plot told *City Press* this week of his family's experience.

He said they had just watched the news where it was related how mass murderer Barend Strydom had shot dead eight black people and injured 16 others when they heard the sound of gunfire outside their home.

Maine said: "My wife and children were hysterical and I thought another Strydom had come to Makwassie to attack us."

"Three shots were fired.

"I peeped through the window and saw a white man who lives next to our farm."

Maine said the man, whom he mentioned by name, had been with his son.

"At this stage I was scared and hid behind a van. We drove 25km to

Makwassie farm worker foiled in bid to lay charge

28/5/89

news

the police station with the intention of laying a charge. But we were told to return the following day."

He said he had taken one of the empty cartridges as an exhibit to the police when they took his statement.

The reluctance of the police to take his statement the previous night prompted him to seek legal advice as he feared for the lives of his family.

He said he was also scared the farmer would come for him after learning he had laid a charge

against him.

Makwassie station commander W/O J van Rensburg confirmed Maine had made a statement, but said no charge was being investigated because the farmer was not shooting at Maine or his family.

He said Maine had handed in a used cartridge but claimed he might have picked it up in the veld.

Last week concerned lawyers and civic leaders formed an interim committee in Johannesburg to counter the often cruel



Andries Maine tells of farmer's gunfire.

abuse of farm workers. Farm workers' problems were highlighted.

The convenors resolved that the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the National Council of Trade Unions and other progressive organisations should be invited to a meeting in July where they would be asked to support farm workers.

One speaker at the meeting, Joe Seremane of the South African Council of Churches, said farm workers lacked security and were often exposed to inhuman assaults!

Zebediela will never be the same

WHEN Afrika cries, she sings, or so the old saying goes. But when Afrika is happy, she dances and gyrates with a fervour and joy that is a marvel to watch.

And so it was last Tuesday when hundreds of workers from the Zebediela Citrus Estate, who had been on a historic farm workers strike that lasted 20 days accepted an agreement to settle the dispute.

Shouts of "Viva Nactu" and "Amandla" filled the Molelane Hall as the workers ululated, sang, danced and chanted slogans of the worker struggle. Having been covering the strike since it started on May 3, one was convinced that the workers indeed had reason to celebrate.

For, have they not taken on the might of the world's largest orange estate and come out on top? With their stoppage declared illegal and mass dismissals having followed swiftly thereafter, the workers were all going back to their jobs, with a minimum increase of R30 and an undertaking by management to negotiate new working conditions within three months.

Workers said never in the history of the estate had they seen management cowering as they did. There had been shortlived work stoppages in the past which fizzled out at the threat of dismissal, eviction, the arrival of police or a combination of all.

All the above factors were thrown in by management but this time round things were different.

The workers are now members of the Nactu affiliated National Union of Farm Workers (NUF) and were having at the disposal the sophistica-

By MATHATHA TSEDU

tion, assistance and experience of the federation's staff and its allies.

It was a consideration that management obviously overlooked when the first 300 pickers downed baskets and bags on Wednesday May 3 and demanded a wage increase.

When on the Friday, the entire black labour force stopped working, management's reaction was that those who did not immediately return to work were dismissed and should collect their dues the following Monday.

When Monday came and the over 1200 workers gathered at the company's administrative offices singing praises to the labour movement leaders, management called in the police who allegedly let loose dogs that bit many people, with some of them hospitalised.

Fifteen workers were arrested and charged with failing to disperse when ordered to do so. The others were told to vacate their company houses in six days, including children who attend school on the estate.

Many of the workers were scared of returning to the houses after the confrontation with the



We must remove fear from our vocabulary... this was the message 74-year-old James Nthane personalised to striking Zebediela farm workers.



police and many slept under trees, union organiser Mr Moss Mphahlele said.

The plight of these workers was relayed to the Black Lawyers Association (BLA) which immediately swung into action, dispatching a top team of advocates on a "fire brigade" mission to restore the people to their compounds.

Dispersed

Workers waiting for the legal team at the Molelane chief's kraal, were dispersed by Lebowa police. The police later returned, but with the legal team comprising of Mr Dikgang Mosencke, Ms Francis Davis, Mr MC Motimele — all advocates — and BLA litigation officer Mrs Dolly Mokgatlle, in attendance.

The police withdrew after speaking to the team.

It was from this consultation that a decision to interdict the company from evicting the workers and the police from repeating their "unlawful assaults" was taken, according to Mokgatlle.

Telexes were dispatched to the two, giving them up to noon that Friday to respond or face a Supreme Court application. Both declined to give the undertaking sought and this set

the stage for the historic Supreme Court application on May 15.

In their papers, workers argued that the company had unilaterally changed conditions of service by introducing bigger bags for pickers without a corresponding wage increase.

This action was illegal and they had been entitled to stop working, the workers added. The workers then requested the court to rule that their dismissals were illegal and order their reinstatement.

The application was postponed to three days later but the company undertook not to evict the workers or call in the police.

But even more significant, the company requested a meeting with the legal representatives of the workers to negotiate about the problem. Clearly it must have dawned on the company at this stage that things had changed at the farm.

With the strike having been timed to start on the first day of the orange season, oranges were falling to the ground in their thousands and beginning to rot.

The damage was beginning to tell and it was clear that the workers were united in their resolve and were highly organised.

Negotiations between the two teams of lawyers began at a hotel in Potgietersrus on Wednesday night, May 17, and continued until the early

hours of Thursday. A working document was agreed upon as a basis for negotiations.

The negotiations broke down the following day when management's lawyers insisted that the returning workers would have to sign a new employment contract, among other things, Mphahlele said.

The Supreme Court hearing of the initial application was postponed to eight days later as both groups agreed to meet over the weekend to break the deadlock.

Agreement was reached late on Saturday night in Pretoria where a worker delegation appended its signature. It had been hard and trying but the workers had gained a R30 across the board increase.

Negotiate

A minimal sum by all means but for some of them who had a net monthly pay of R60, this was a fifty percent increase.

Farmworkers are not covered by the Labour Relations Act and their unions have no legal standing. The company has undertaken to negotiate with the legal representatives and not the union, according to both Mokgatlle and Mphahlele.

During the strike, Manpower director general, Mr J Fourie, announced that the Government was drafting legislation to cater for the unionisation of farm labourers. He also said farmworkers were free to form unions of their choice.

Most people felt that the timing of the announcement was not a coincidence.

Worth

But be that as it may, for the 1200 Zebediela workers, the union is already a reality and had proved its worth in more ways than one.

As they lined up at the Koring Punt shop, each carrying a 12,5kg bag of mealie meal, it was evident that they truly appreciated the role that their union played in the stoppage.

It was also quite clear that the victory has whetted their appetite for more improvements in their almost slave-like working conditions.

And in this regard, the winter of discontent that rocked the estate and threatened the supply of oranges both nationally and internationally, might prove to be the prelude to one long summer season for the company.

Whether the widely publicised strike and its seeming victorious end will spark a wave of similar actions in other farms, is anybody's guess.

What is a certainty is that down at the Zebediela farm, things will never be the same again.



R30 000 boost for farm pupils by SA fruit industry

By CLIVE SAWYER
Tygerberg Bureau

PRE-SCHOOL education for children of farm labourers has been given a R30 000 boost thanks to a continuing fundraising drive by Friends of Fruit, an association of fruit industry companies.

The sum was part of a total of R50 000 raised for the Rural Foundation.

The remaining R20 000 will be spent on sports facilities and five tertiary education bursaries for school-leavers from deciduous fruit farms.

The money was raised during the fruit industry's 1988 sports day.

Friends of Fruit has raised R100 000 since 1986 to support pre-school education and child care, said Mr Fred Meintjies of Unifruco, one of 13 companies involved in Friends of Fruit.

499 farm creches

The Rural Foundation had established 499 farm creches with the help of funds from Friends of Fruit, Mr Herman Bailey, a foundation spokesman, said.

The chairman of the foundation, Mr Frans Malan, said the number of children joining the programme had increased by 17 percent to 8 105 over last year — and 765 supervisors were now in service.

A training official for pre-school care was appointed last year to train creche supervisors and advise on the making of educational toys.

Mr Malan said the programme was a visible way for the companies involved in Friends of Fruit to show their awareness of their social responsibility.

"The concept established by the deciduous fruit industry is to develop the industry's own people, something which can be built on in co-operation with the agricultural sector," Mr Malan said.

280 now ^{CA 7-1-83} 7/6/83
evicted in
Weenen

JOHANNESBURG.

The families of 18 farm tenants in the Weenen district near Ladysmith are being forced to sleep in the open veld in sub-zero temperatures after being thrown out of their homes by farmers.

Farmers are using civil ejection orders to drive labour tenant families out of a cluster of 20 "Thornveld" farms south of Weenen, according to the Association for Rural Advancement.

A total of 110 families have so far been served with court orders, resulting in the eviction of about 280 people.

The recent spate of evictions follows years of conflict between the tenants and farmers. — Sapa

④ Fmail 2/6/89

Bitter and sweet

Against the backdrop of an increasingly violent strike at SA's largest citrus plantation, SA's Citrus Exchange became the country's third agricultural co-operative to throw its weight behind the Rural Foundation (RF).

Like the wine and deciduous fruit industries before it, the Citrus Exchange may be hoping its R250 000 gift to the foundation will stall an expansion campaign by the National Union of Farmworkers (NUF) while bolstering its PR battle against European boycotters of SA fruit.

At a quiet ceremony marking the donation last week, exchange officials and RF organisers explained that the foundation's training programmes — which aim to forge an effective rural work force — would help local agriculture fight high inflation.

Ironically, while good weather has given wheat, maize and grape growers their first bumper crops since 1982, the farming sector has been thrust into battle against its more efficient European and North American

FINANCIAL MAIL JUNE 2 1989

④ ~~RF~~ Fmail 2/6/89

counterparts. Agricultural economist Koos du Toit points to a drop in farm equipment and fertiliser sales as symptoms of a growing crisis which may ultimately overpower the preference now given to SA produce on foreign markets because of the falling rand.

Bad labour relations are clearly an inconvenience farmers are now finding unaffordable.

Six years after its foundation, the RF is busy training more than 16 000 farmers and farmworkers annually in the latest techniques of export-quality production. But most interesting for SA's agricultural associations is the RF's success in setting up labour negotiating channels on more than 2 500 farms across SA — most not unionised.

"The great asset of the foundation is that it involves farm people from grassroots up, not from the top down," says Louis Kriel, GM of the deciduous fruit co-op Unifruco, which in 1984 began urging its farms to use RF programmes.

The organisation oversees the election of a workers' committee which then meets the farm owner to discuss employees' working and living conditions. RF officers teach both sides of the table how to conduct effective negotiations. So far few farms involved in the programme have had serious labour difficulties.

Du Toit adds that RF-style negotiations often result in longer-lasting agreements than, say, the wine-for-wages *dop* system.

Such programmes have mainly focused on individual farms — the RF is proud of its success on farms in heavily conservative areas — rather than entire industries. But industrial associations like the Citrus Exchange are now taking notice of the foundation's record and its campaigning to involve all of SA's 23 marketing boards in its growing network.

Du Toit explains that farmers are now operating on the assumption that unions will attempt to organise their workers. Though some RF farms are already organised, better working conditions and closer relations between rural employers and employees on as-yet non-unionised farms may "solve the problem of unionisation," he says. "There will be attempts by organised labour to enter agriculture on a larger scale within the next few years and we don't want to be caught with our pants on our knees."

Kriel adds RF programmes could take the bite out of a crippling European boycott of SA produce. "Foreign visitors to our deciduous fruit farms have been impressed with what we're doing. Sincere Europeans will also react positively," he says.

But a three-week old strike by 1 200 orange pickers at the State-owned Zebediela Citrus estate, in the northern Transvaal, typifies the kind of tension which could ultimately stand in the way of the RF. Strikers at Zebediela are demanding a 45% pay hike and recognition for their branch of the NUF. Twelve were treated in hospital after allegedly being attacked by police dogs.

The RF stresses that it is not anti-union.

④ ~~RF~~

But SA's farmers are bound to discover that the foundation offers no sure cure for their workers' discontent.

Farm-workers get a break

④
SITWIS 4/6/89
THE Government appears to be addressing the plight of farm-workers — five years after the National Manpower Commission reported.

In 1982, the Government gave the commission the urgent task of investigating working conditions of farm and domestic employees. It completed its report in 1984.

After years of evasion by the Government, Manpower Director-General Joel Fourie announced that the

Government had started to formulate legislation to protect farm-workers' basic rights.

The South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) is setting up labour codes for the workers, who are excluded from the Labour Relations Amendment Act.

In March it circulated a booklet entitled Labour Relations in Primary Agriculture. The booklet proposes grievance and disciplinary procedures.

It also suggests that worker com-

mittees be established, with similar functions to the 1970 liaison committees, and discourages farmers from concluded recognition agreements.

The May edition of the Institute of Industrial Relations Information Sheet says that because the SAAU appears to be the Government's major consultant on labour legislation in farming, the booklet's approach might be an indication of the type of law which could emerge.

"Government is obviously reluctant to antagonise a powerful sector

of the white electorate. However, at the same time it is aware that conditions of farm-workers need to be improved.

"In this delicate situation it is attempting to maintain an even balance, and is treading cautiously.

"But whilst liaison committee type structures are likely to be acceptable to the majority of farm-owners, one cannot be certain that they will bring about a situation where the aspirations of the majority of farm-workers will be fulfilled."

Farm brutality 'rising under Emergency'

W. 2-18/10/89

A WHITE farmer near Witbank in the Eastern Transvaal apprehends an unemployed labourer suspected of stealing chickens, ties a rope round his neck and drags him behind a bakkie to the nearest police station. The worker dies after his head, according to witnesses, goes "Klop-klop" on the tar before hitting a paving stone next to the road.

The grisly death of Molefe Nzima was highlighted when the trial of John Ferreira resumed in the Welkom Magistrate's Court yesterday. Ferreira is charged with murder and is defended by Johan Engelbrecht — the same advocate who defended mass killer Barend Strydom.

The murder trial of a farmer who allegedly roped a worker to his bakkie and dragged him to the nearest police station has highlighted a rash of white-on-black violence in rural areas. EDDIE KOCH reports

Researchers at the University of the Witwatersrand, who have recently begun monitoring assaults on white farms, suggest that brutality of the type that killed Nzima has, during the period of the Emergency, become a regular feature of everyday life in rural South Africa. Some of the more startling cases

compiled by the researchers include:

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

● Two weeks ago, a 15-year-old farmer's son was charged with culpable homicide after shooting a 16-year-old black boy, Thabiso Mokwaledi, in the eye with his father's 9mm pistol on a smallholding near Potchefstroom.

● This week, a farmer near Odendaalsrus in the Orange Free State,

who stood for the Conservative Party in Welkom during last year's municipal elections, appeared in court on charges of killing a herdboy on one of his 32 farms.

● Late last year a worker on a poultry farm near Potchefstroom says he was assaulted by the farmer and tortured with an electric shock machine — known in the local idiom as a "vokolawhe".

● Early this year Northern Transvaal farmer Jacobus Vorster was fined R3 000 after being found guilty of beating labourer Eric Sambo to death in an orgy of violence.

● Last month two farmers, Louis Venter and Pieter Fouche, were each sentenced to fines of R600 for killing labourer Stephen Mononye. The bout of beating and kicking that killed Mononye was part of a five-day interrogation in which the farmers were trying to obtain information on two stolen cows.

● In a recent case, charges of culpable homicide relating to the death of a local labourer were dropped against Carolina farmer Johannes Kemp and three others. Asked why this had happened, the local prosecutor replied: "How should I know?"

Researcher Andrew Ball ascribes the brutality to inadequate legal protections for black farmworkers and a resurgence of right-wing extremism among white farmers.

"From all the evidence, it appears unlikely that these cases would have come to court if the victims had not died," says Ball. "State officials like the local police and the prosecutors have not any great willingness to follow up this type of case."

"Apparently arbitrary violence by farmers appears to be an accepted part of the rural social fabric. Judges almost condone it by their light sentences and police certainly don't appear to act vigorously against it."

Ball believes another reason for the escalation of rural violence is the increasing insecurity of white farmers, who no longer enjoy state protection and subsidies during a period of recession in the countryside.

He was a fit man – murder accused

'Chicken thief'⁽⁴⁾ was towed for 4 km by bakkie

Stw 9/6/84

By Therese Anders,
Highveld Bureau

A Benoni man told the Supreme Court in Witbank yesterday how he held a pistol in one hand while he tied up a suspected chicken thief with a tow rope.

Mr John Augustine Perreira (59) said he then drove off in his bakkie, towing the man behind for about 4 km over dirt and tar roads.

The man in tow died of head injuries after the bakkie stopped.

Mr Perreira has been charged with the murder of farm labourer Mr Molefe "Tholi" Nzima in Ogies in 1987. He has pleaded not guilty.

Rope on tow bar

Giving evidence yesterday, Mr Perreira described how he tied up Mr Nzima, who he believed had been stealing his chickens.

He bound the rope twice around the man's chest area, once around his neck, between his legs, and twice around his body.

He said he told Mr Nzima to get into the back of the bakkie, but he refused, saying: "Baas, please, I will take you to the thief and to some of the chickens."

Mr Perreira said he then tied the

rope loosely around the bakkie's tow bar, and gave an end to Mr Michael van Rensburg, who was sitting in the back of the bakkie.

Mr Perraira was unable to push Mr Nzima into the back of the bakkie because he had tennis elbow.

Speed claim

He said Mr Nzima fell about seven times during the 4 km ride. He had seen this through his rear-view mirror, or Mr van Rensburg had shouted to him to stop.

Each time Mr Perreira stopped and got Mr Nzima up. He said he drove at no more than 10 km/h.

Asked by Mr Justice Smit if he thought a man could walk as fast as 10 km/h, he said he believed so.

The judge asked if he did not think while being towed Mr Nzima would be injured by falling so often. Mr Perreira said he did not think so, then added that he thought Mr Nzima's overalls would protect him.

Each time he stopped to get Mr Nzima back on his feet his condition "appeared good".

But at the last stop when he entered a farm gate he then noticed Mr Nzima's overall was damaged.

Asked in cross-examination how he thought a man could run so far, Mr Perreira said:

"He was a tall, fit man who was a soccer player".

Asked if it were true, as had been said in evidence, that Mr Perreira "listened to the news on the radio" while towing Mr Nzima, he said he always had his bakkie radio on.

The hearing was postponed for 90 minutes after Mr Perreira's counsel, Mr Johan Engelbrecht, said his client had taken two tablets to calm himself and needed time to recover.

The hearing continues.

8 arrests in connection with city gang rapes

By Craig Kotze, Crime Reporter

Eight suspects have been arrested in connection with a series of recent gang rapes in Johannesburg's flatlands, police said.

The Brixton Murder and Robbery Squad made the arrests in Soweto yesterday. The suspects, aged between 19 and 29, are expected to appear in court soon.

They are being held in connection with the rape of seven women, allegedly by a gang called "The Gaterways", between April 26 and Tuesday.

The gang is also being held in connection with the assault of a Yeoville man and his wife in their Webb Street home. Detectives also recovered stolen goods in their swoop.

Witwatersrand police spokesman, Lieutenant-Colonel Frans Malherbe, said excellent detective work by the Brixton squad and the co-operation of the public had led to the arrests.

Deng, 84, had been rumoured
dead or swept aside until he

moment, to be still on top. —
Sapa-Reuter.

■ See Page 17.

Spinach farmer jailed 15 years for murder

W/C Argus

10/6/89

4

By THERESE ANDERS
Weekend Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — A spinach farmer who towed a labourer behind his bakkie for four kilometres has been convicted of murder and sentenced to 15 years' jail.

John Augustine Pereira, 59, of Boksburg, was found guilty by Mr Justice Smit in the Supreme Court in Witbank yesterday of murdering Mr Molefe "Tholi" Nzima in Ogies in November 1987.

Mr Nzima died of head injuries soon after the bakkie stopped.

The judge said he found in extenuation that Pereira had no direct intent to kill.

He was sorry to have to imprison a man of that age for such a long time, but because of the seriousness of the crime, he had to be taken out of the community.

Mr Justice Smit said Pereira should have foreseen that his actions could have killed the man. He also found much of Mr Pereira's evidence to be false.

Earlier the public prosecutor, Mr Deon van Wyk, asked for the death sentence to be passed, even although an extenuating circumstance had been found "because of the sadistic and gruesome nature of the crime".

Defence counsel Mr Johan Engelbrecht said Pereira had no other convictions. The semi-retired farmer earned a pension of R2 000 a month.

Mr Justice Smit gave permission for Pereira to appeal against the murder conviction. Mr Engelbrecht said Pereira would not appeal against the sentence.

Pereira was taken into custody after sentence.

Court told 'thief' towed behind bakkie, dies

CAT Times
10/6/89

JOHANNESBURG. — A Benoni man told the Supreme Court in Witbank yesterday how he held a pistol in one hand while he tied up a suspected chicken thief with a tow rope.

Mr John Augustine Perreira, 59, said he then drove off in his bakkie, towing the man behind for about four kilometres over dirt and tar roads. The man died of head injuries after the bakkie stopped.

Mr Perreira has been charged with the murder of farm labourer Mr Molefe "Tholi" Nzima in Ogies in 1987. He has pleaded not guilty.

Giving evidence yesterday, Mr Perreira described how he tied up Mr Nzima, who he believed had been

stealing his chickens.

He bound the rope twice around the man's chest, once around his neck, between his legs and twice around his body.

He said that he told Mr Nzima to get into the back of the bakkie but Mr Nzima refused, saying: "Baas, please, I will take you to the thief and to some of the chickens." Mr Perreira said he then tied the rope around the bakkie's tow bar and gave an end to Mr Michael van Rensburg, who was sitting in the back of the bakkie.

He said Mr Nzima fell about seven times during the ride. Each time Mr Perreira stopped and got Mr Nzima up. He said he drove at about 10km/h. The hearing continues. — Sapa

SHAME ON

Sowetan 19/6/89

4

THE FARM

Vaal child labour costs as little as R2

By THEMBA MOLEFE

MOST people working on farms in the Vaal Triangle survive on a combined family income of R60 a month. Children — some as young as eight — earn R2 a week, a Sowetan investigation has revealed.



CHIEFS' Doctor Khumalo blasts a header goatwards, outjumping Cellie's Frank Rapulane in their JPS clash at Orkney yesterday.

The people live and work on the farms in and around Vanderbijlpark and Vereeniging — less than 60 km from South Africa's richest city, Johannesburg.

Most farms are privately owned. Those owned by companies, including parastatal organisations such as the Rand Water Board and corporations such as Anglo American, pay workers between R120 and R300 a month.

Paltry

The investigation revealed that:

- Men employed as farm hands and labourers on the fields work up to 12 hours a day, starting at 5am, for a paltry R40 or R50 a month;
 - Women working as domestics in the farmers' houses earn about R20 a month; Others also work with their husbands in the megalie fields for the same amount;
 - Children start working with their parents in the fields from the age of eight.
- On a farm at Vanderbijlpark, Malefane-Makgokolo, now eight, started herding sheep at the age of five, earning

• To Page 2

Sowetan 19/6/89

Farms (4) shame

• From Page 1

R2 a week.

He left the farm in 1987 after the farmer's dog mauled his face. Malefane now lives with his unemployed mother, three brothers and two sisters in a shack at Koppies in the Free State.

At one farm near the Vaal Dam, children are paid about R1 a day or R5 a week for picking and packing potatoes.

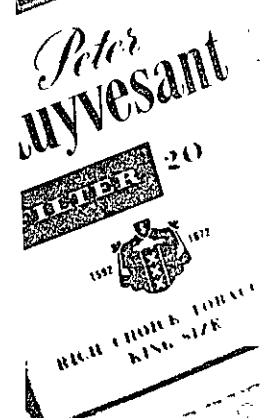
Many children skip school to work on the farms and earn up to R15 a week.

To supplement the workers' income some farmers give them bags of mealie meal, milk or eggs.

Mr Koos Bruwer of Parys said he gave each of his three workers 80 kg of maize plus the R40 he pays them a month. He said he paid them an annual bonus of R600 each.

On some farms workers get their full pay after 12 months, which is normally at harvesting time. In agricultural terms this system is called the six-term contract during which the workers receive R10 every month plus a ration of maize, milk or other foodstuffs.

Those workers interviewed said they struggled to make ends meet and that they were literally owned by the farmers. Others declined to be identified for fear of reprisals.



Mrs Ntabula, a domestic worker at Rusoord, a plot near Vaal Dam, said she sometimes earned about R9 a month after her madam deducted some money from her R20 pay.

This happens after Mrs Ntabula has "borrowed" foodstuffs such as bread, sugar or salt during the month. The madam sometimes pays her with a bottle of wine after the deduction, she said.

Most workers belong to the Orange Vaal General Workers' Union, which organises more than 4 000 members on Vaal farms.

Union official Mr Steve Kollisang, said many workers lived in constant fear of being assaulted by farmers for "offences" such as being late for work even by five minutes.

Working the land is not child's play

4

Star 24/6/89

SEVEN-year-old Lucas Makgokolo is being exploited by his "boss" as a casual farm labourer on a farm in the Vaal Triangle, but he is not old enough to join a union or claim compensation for injuries he recently received while at work.

A sheep herder, Lucas and his brother, Ismael (12), each bring home a wage of R2 a week.

When Lucas turned six, according to his parents, Elizabeth and Isaac Makgokolo, the farmer asked them to allow Lucas to work for him fulltime.

"We refused and said he had to go to school," said Mrs Makgokolo. Since then Lucas and his brother attend school but have to work from 7 am to 5 pm during school holidays.

That is a 10-hour day and, for a six-day week, his labour therefore would be worth fractionally more than 33c a day — or 3c an hour.

On November 31 last year, Lucas was bitten by his employer's dog and as a result is believed to be suffering from brain damage.

Frontline

His parents approached the Orange Vaal and General Workers' Union (OVGWU) for help and are currently involved in a legal battle to claim compensation for Lucas's injury.

"Lucas is just one of thousands of farm children in rural and semi-rural areas who are in the frontline of the farm labourers workforce," said OVGWU union official, Mr Steve Kholisang, who is based in Vereeniging.

The Employment Act basically prohibits the employment of children under the age of 15 and states that people doing so should apply to the

Some farmers pay as little as 3c an hour

CHILDREN, some as young as seven, are in the forefront of the farmworkers' labour force in the Vaal Triangle. Many, earning as little as R2 a week, are forced to forego schooling and work long hours, reaping crops or herding cattle and sheep, to contribute to their family's meagre income. PAT DEVEREAUX this week investigated the situation on farms in the area.

authorities for a special permit (newspaper distributors who employ youngsters have to get such permission).

In 1980, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) released a report saying there were about 60 500 economically active under-15s in South Africa.

A researcher, currently conducting new research into child labour in this country (she asked not to be named as her research could be hampered), said yesterday: "On virtually every single farm where children live they work for the farmer. Sometimes they are paid sometimes they are not. Children usually begin work as soon as they are able to carry or pick crops."

No schooling

Government figures state there were 5 627 farm schools for 481 325 black children in March 1988. Seventy-seven farm schools were closed

down, 143 new schools were opened and 1 102 were extended. The schools employed 12 310 teachers.

"A guess is that half the African children on white-owned farms get no schooling," said a union official.

In the Vaal triangle, the ILO researcher said she found some of the



CHILD LABOUR: Many farmers ignore the Employment Act, which basically prohibits the employment of children under the age of 15. ● Photograph: Peter Magubane.

worst conditions. "One particular farmer who had a farmschool on his property forced the teacher to act as a foreman and threatened to close the school when the teacher resisted.

"Many parents who are

farm labourers are forced to consent to their children working because they fear being fired," she said.

Others, like farm labourer Mr Abraham Moekoena, interviewed by the Saturday Star on a farm in the Vischgat, Vereeniging area, consent to their children working because the family could not survive on his meagre wage of R40 a month and a bag of mealie meal.

"The farmer employs 36 adults. The 30 children on his farm aged between eight and 18 are all expected to rise at sunrise and work till sunset during the school holidays and on Saturdays," said Mr Moekoena.

Starve

"The farmer rounds up all the children and they work under an adult foreman reaping mealies. I

myself began working on a farm at the age of eight and I am now 42."

He added: "I don't believe children should work — they should have time and food in their stomachs for their schoolwork. But without the wages they bring in we would all starve."

Like most rural children, those working on the Vischgat farm end up attending the farmschool up to Std 2 and then go on to become fully employed farm labourers. Many are illiterate and never have the leisure to study.

In 1986 the Department of Education and Training (DET) claimed it was unaware that some white farmers were closing schools during harvest time and forcing the pupils to work without pay.

A year later the DET said under no circum-

stances did it condone the use of pupils at farm schools being compelled to do farm work.

In January 1988 the Government announced its intention to ban the use of black children at farm schools from any form of labour during school hours.

'No convictions'

In terms of the education (Education and Training Amendment Bill) laws, anyone who removes a child from a farm school during school hours can be fined up to R150 or jailed for a month.

But so far there have been no convictions of offenders. And as the ILO researcher pointed out, there is at present no monitoring of the child labour situation in this country.



EXPLOITED: Lucas Makgokolo (7) is too young to join a union for help.

Striking workers out on the street

Labour Reporter

MEMBERS of the National Union of Farmworkers (NUF) continue to challenge employers, despite a lack of protection under the Labour Relations Act.

The 120 NUF members at Braaks Indoor Plants in Pretoria, who have been on strike for two weeks following a deadlock in wage negotiations, have been thrown out of the company's hostels and dumped on the streets.

The NUF had demanded a R100 across-the-board increase back-dated to January. Workers now earn between R120 and R550 a month.

The general secretary of the NUF, Tshaka Moletsane, said the union had lowered its demand to R50 but the company had offered R30.

The union then suggested a package deal, accepting the company's offer of R30 until June and proposing a further increase of R20 from July.

Mrs Miriam Sofo is dedicated to her pupils

MANY teachers her age bask in the comfort of teaching inside warm classrooms in the townships but Mrs Miriam Sofo (32) gets fulfilled by dedicating her life to the children of farm workers.

A disused barn on a farm at Rusoord, near the Maal Dam, is school for Sofo and her children. All the pupils from Sub A to Standard Five — share the dilapidated barn.

Sofo and a colleague teach the classes in turns. If she lectures to, say, the Standard One group, the rest of the school do written work or wait for their turn outside the barn.

Deprived

Sometimes the occasional sound of a bull's bellow drowns Sofo's voice as she teaches. But now she is used to it, she says.

After obtaining a Senior Primary Teacher's Certificate 10 years ago Sofo went directly to the farms.

"I did it out of choice. If I do not teach these deprived children who else will?" she says.

She smiles as she recalls asking one of her "urban" colleagues if she ever considered teaching on a farm.

"The woman regarded

By THEMBA MOLEFE

me with contempt and said that was the last thing she would do. When I probed further she bluntly told me she was not mentally retarded. I could only sympathise with her," Sofo says.

She says this kind of attitude does not help to improve the conditions at farm schools because very few qualified teachers volunteer to take up posts there.

Another saddening

Miriam Sofo is Sowetan's Woman of the Week

factor, Sofo says, is that many of the children start school very late in their lives because the farmers employ them and decide when they should go to school.

"Many of the children start school at the age of eight and in my school there are 18 and 19-year-olds in a Standard Five class," Sofo says.



Mrs Miriam Sofo has dedicated her life to teaching farm children.

Her day begins at 4.30am when Sofo leaves her comfortable home in Sebokeng to travel for three hours by bus to Rusoord.

At that time many of her colleagues are still in bed in the townships.

It is the same bus which collects her pupils in the farming areas of

Sofo recalls the day she took 50 of her pupils on a train ride.

"I have never seen people as excited as those children on that day. Many of them were seeing a train for the first time in their lives and even refused to use the seats and insisted on sitting on the floor. They enjoyed the ride despite their trepidation."

A mother of two, Sofo says she was not born on a farm but in Kagiso on the West Rand and spent her life in the townships.

Sofo said she would not stop teaching farm children.

"I belong here, not in the double-storey schools where teaching is synonymous with eating a sandwich. I mean, the struggle is also on the farms."

She says the children do not have too many learning problems and are not retarded as many people seem to think.

"Their major problem is deprivation and isolation. I would be happy to see many people, even urban schools, visiting the farm schools. I think it would stimulate their minds and make them feel wanted."

By MATHATHA
TSEDU

Sowetan 27/6/87
TENSION is mounting
at the Zebediela Citrus
— the scene of a recent
strike over dismissals of
10 workers.

The 10 workers were
dismissed in two
groups, one on June 5
and the other one on
June 22.

One of the workers
was allegedly ordered
to collect rotten
oranges from 420 trees
in one day. When she
could not complete the
job, she was fired, it was
alleged.

Others said they were
simply told that there
was no more work.
They alleged that
management was hiring

Workers fired at citrus estate

new workers to replace
them.

The Zebediela Citrus
Estate spokesman, Mr
C van Rooyen, said in
response to an inquiry
that the dismissals had
"no connection with
union membership
and/or participation in
the recent strike
actions".

Van Rooyen said
dismissals were dealt
with "in accordance
with disciplinary
procedures and codes".

Sowetan 28/16/89

Torture on farm alleged

4
● From Page 1

A motor car fan-belt tied to a rope was used as a noose, he said.

During the ordeal which began at 9am and ended at 5pm De Klerk said he was sworn at and the farmer threatened to bury him alive if he did not confess to the alleged theft.

De Klerk said he was let go after one of the two policemen who arrived said it was obvious he knew nothing.

He said the police at Leandra refused to take statements from him after numerous attempts to lay charges.

Coffin

The liaison officer for the Eastern Transvaal police, Lieutenant Wickus Brits, yesterday said De Klerk's allegations against the police were false.

"The case was reported and fully investigated. A docket has been handed over to the public prosecutor for a decision," Brits said.

De Klerk said the farmer carried two firearms all the time and had allegedly fired a shot which narrowly missed his left arm.

False

He worked for the farmer for three months as a tractor driver and earned R120 a month plus a bag of mealie meal. He claimed the farmer owed him R1 000 for five goats he took from him when he employed him.

Another worker, Mr Enoch Ndlela (49), said he laid charges with the police after he and four colleagues were tortured by the farmer's subcontractor at his butchery for allegedly stealing tools on June 12.

He said he was tied and hanged on the roof, beaten and when he regained consciousness during the assault, he found himself inside a coffin brought into the garage by the subcontractor.

His ordeal lasted two hours, he said.

Employee of homicide case farmer tells of attack

MAULED BY VORSTER'S DOGS

Sowetan 7/7/89



Farmer Jacobus Vorster points to the tree to which a labourer was tied and beaten to death. He was found guilty of culpable homicide.

By MATHATHA TSEDU

DOGS belonging to Jacobus Vorster, the Levubu farmer who made headlines when he killed a labourer, mauled a labourer who was cutting grass on the lawn, it was confirmed yesterday.

Doctors at Tshildzani Hospital gave the man, Mr Tshengedzeni Wilson Muhanelwa, eight days' sick leave and told him to go to a nearby clinic for further treatment.

But at month end, Muhanelwa was paid R51,30 instead of R80 a month wage.

The difference was deducted from the time he was sick.

Muhanelwa, a father of four, said he was with four other labourers when four dogs attacked him on June 10.

He called the dogs off but this did not help as the dogs were trained not to obey blacks. He did not hit the dogs because "if you hit the dog, the baas beats you".

Muhanelwa said he was saved by Vorster who jumped through a window when he heard his screams. He took him to hospital and gave him R10 for medication and transport back.

Sowetan 7/7/89

Mauled by dogs

From Page 1

Vorster confirmed that his dogs had bitten Muhanelwa but denied that he had deducted money for time he was off sick. He refused to say how much Muhanelwa had earned in June adding: "Since when does that concern you."

Asked how much Muhanelwa earned a month, Vorster said: "There is no one at this stage who can tell me what to do or what to pay. I am warning you. I can already see where this is leading to. Don't bother me again. You are wasting my time", then hung up.

Muhanelwa said Vorster had told him that he would give him money for the injuries. "When I asked him about it one pay day he told me I was mad. He then gave me R51,30 as my wages. I just stood there amazed. I mean I was bitten by his dogs while working and now I don't even get paid for the days I could not even walk," Muhanelwa said.

Muhanelwa has worked for Vorster since the latter took over the farm. He previously worked for another farmer known as Jika. He had at that time been earning R100 a month. When Vorster took over, the pay was slashed.

Muhanelwa and Vorster were co-accused in the trial resulting from the killing of the farm hand, Eric Sambo, over the death of a puppy.

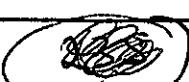
Vorster was found guilty of culpable homicide following Sambo's death. He was sentenced to a suspended five years imprisonment.

Mr Justice J J Strydom said Vorster could not be sent to jail because he was responsible for the well being of 44 labourers, who include Muhanelwa.



To Page 2

4



By Norman Chandler

Farmers and their wives have been urged to help the country's Population Development Programme (PDP) by getting involved with the needs and development of farm workers and their families.

In this way, says the Department of National Health and Population Development, they will influence the quality of life enjoyed by these people.

The department is telling the country's 60 000 farmers that the rapid population growth — it is expected to reach 80 million within 30 years — is causing major problems.

"Taking socio-economic factors and the avail-

Farmers urged to promote population development scheme

ability of natural resources into consideration, the RSA cannot accommodate, educate and provide for more than 80 million people.

"Therefore, the current generation is the last that can still avert a population catastrophe," farmers were told in a pamphlet.

The black rural population (60,4 percent) is far higher than that in urban areas, and the population growth rate is six children per black woman

compared to 2,8 children per black woman in the urban areas.

"There is," says the department, "a direct association between population growth, development and the overall quality of life of people. It is apparent that the improvement of the socio-economic circumstances of the underdeveloped rural population should receive priority attention."

Farmers — described in the pamphlet as often being employer, banker,

doctor, undertaker and marriage counsellor to their workers — are being urged to promote the PDP programme in various ways.

These include projects such as health counselling, family planning, initiation and management of play groups and creches for children, home industries, budget planning and management, leadership courses, sport and recreation, establishment of vegetable gardens and training in elementary craftsmanship.

Advantages to farmers are seen as improved communication, savings on maintenance costs, and increased productivity.

(4)

FARM BRUTALITY SHOCK

Horrific report claims terrified farm workers badly beaten, starved

By MARK STANSFIELD
Weekend Argus Reporter

A COMPREHENSIVE dossier, containing horrific allegations of "severe brutality and maltreatment" of farm workers in some parts of the Cape, is being studied by the Minister of Law and Order Mr Adrian Vlok.

The dossier — including details of how workers were beaten and locked in farm cellars for up to five days without food or water in one area — has been compiled by Claremont MP Mr Jan van Eck, following a series of complaints.

He has asked the minister to investigate the allegations "as a matter of urgency."

A spokesman for Mr Vlok's office acknowledged receipt of the dossier.

A police spokesman, Captain Gys Boonzaaier, confirmed that police were investigating several charges of assault.

Skin grafts

Vredendal's House of Representatives MP, Mr Piet Merling — who is a member of the Labour Party's Committee for Farmworkers — has also called for an independent investigation into treatment of workers on specific farms.

His call for an investigation follows an interview with a

worker at a Cape hospital who needed skin grafts, and who alleged he had been severely assaulted by a farmer's foreman.

Calls to investigate the treatment of farm workers in the Boland and other areas came to a head recently when several farm workers were found after escaping the clutches of a farmer in the Boland district.

They claim the farmer would have "killed" them if he had found out they planned to leave his property.

"They say the farmer lured unemployed workers to the farm with promises of high wages but then kept them virtual prisoners and often assaulted them."

"Concentration camp"

They alleged the farmer ran his farm like a concentration camp where many were beaten and subjected to gross humiliation for the smallest infraction of "farm rules."

The workers who fled said they made a dramatic escape while the farmer and his foremen were asleep. They spent two days lost in the district without food or water, terrified the farmer would find them. They were picked up by a church worker two days later.

The workers claimed the late-night escape was because the farmer, with the help of

"henchmen", kept them virtual prisoners on his property and refused to allow them to leave.

The group, who were recruited in a Karoo area about a month ago, claimed they were not the first workers to have fled bad working conditions and brutal treatment.

Similar stories

Weekend Argus traced several other groups of workers who had left farms in recent months. Their stories were similar to those told by the most recent group.

Recent runaways claimed:

- They were lured to the farm from the Free State, Qwa-Qwa and the far Northern Cape with false promises of high wages, good meals and employment in factories in the Peninsula. Instead they were forced to work long hours on a remote farm, were given only meagre meal and potatoes to eat, and earned about R30 a week.
- Workers were beaten for the smallest infraction of farm "rules", and several workers had been taken into a storeroom after equipment in their care had broken down. They were severely beaten and were then locked in a prison-like cellar without food or water for the night. The next day they



were forced to work without food or water. Often the cost of repairing equipment was subtracted from their wages.

- Other workers were forced to clean up the blood from the assaults which splashed the walls and floor of the storeroom.
- To supplement their diet the workers bought meat and vegetables from a "shop" on the farm stocked by the farmer.

The prices were higher than normal shop prices, they claimed. They were refused permission to leave the farm for any reason and could not go into town or visit nearby farms to buy additional supplies.

Most of their wages were spent on extra food.

- Workers were given liquor every evening, whether they wanted it or not, and money was subtracted from their wages for this "privilege."
- Workers were forbidden to leave the farm boundaries and were beaten if found attempting to do so.

A spokesperson for the Legal Resources Centre in Cape Town said that in February this year a group of about 40 Transkeians, recruited by a farmer, had left the farm en masse and walked all the way into Cape Town. The group alleged they were treated badly.

She said: "I'm handling one case brought against the farmer by one of the group. The rest were referred to Transkei's Department of Manpower for compensation."

"The department replied with a letter saying they have repeatedly been informed of ill-treatment of workers by this farmer and they would handle the matter."

Haskins 'has nothing to do' with sex manual

By SUE LEEMAN
Weekend Argus Foreign Service

LONDON — An outraged Mrs Alide Haskins said this week her husband, award-winning photographer Sam, has "absolutely nothing to do" with a sex manual recently banned in South Africa.

"Someone is impersonating him or using his name," she said. The couple have asked the Publications Control Board in Cape Town for photocopies of the "Photo Manual of Group Sex", but by Thursday Mrs Haskins had not seen them.

Mrs Haskins, who is also her husband's manager, has vowed to "get to the bottom of this. None of Sam's work has ever been banned in South Africa. One cannot underestimate the amount of harm this could do to his reputation. I am absolutely furious. We do not want to be linked with this book in any way."

South African-born Haskins made his name in the 1960s with a series of tasteful nude studies which won him great acclaim. He and his wife have operated from London since 1969.

The book by Probe Publications names "Sam Haskins" as the co-author with Dr Christine Pickard, a London sex therapist. But although some of Dr Pickard's writing has appeared in soft porn magazines, she also says she has nothing to do with the publication.

She thinks Probe must have lifted articles published elsewhere, said Mrs Haskins.

Mr Haskins, who is in Pakistan on an assignment, told a newspaper before his departure that once he and his wife had seen the publication they would consider legal action.

For South Africa's farmworkers, life is cheap without any rights

FARMWORKERS are victims of both the law which discriminates against them and their employers who exploit and subject them to violence - in most cases with impunity.

This emerged at a meeting on farm violence held at the Central Methodist Church in Johannesburg on Saturday.

A representative of Lawyers for Human Rights, Ms Lucretia Seafield, said farmworkers were denied the most fundamental right - the right to live.

She said their plight was highlighted by recent court cases in which farmers got away with light sentences after they

By THEMBA MOLEFE

had killed farmworkers.

"State prosecutors often accepted pleas for lesser charges where murder is involved. The plight of the farmworkers, therefore, gets known only after they had been killed," she said.

"The workers, who depend on the farmers for housing, schooling and food, are always reluctant to lay charges against

their employers for fear of eviction and dismissal and they are not eager to testify against them," Seafield said.

She said in many instances farmworkers ended up being accused of trespassing in spite of having been assaulted by the farmers. This was so because the farmers countered their claims by saying the workers resisted eviction after being dismissed.

A spokesman for the Western Transvaal and Northern Cape Council of Churches, Mr Sam Present, said the farmworkers were landless

labourers who had no right to own land and were victims of poverty and physical violence.

He said although the workers were covered by the Workmen's Compensation Act they faced problems getting money when they were injured on duty.

This was because they were compensated for temporary disabilities but nothing for pain and suffering. "They receive low compensation because they earn low wages."

Another problem was that farmers often delayed reporting accidents to

workman's compensation and denied they occurred on their properties. Workmen's commissioners often listened to farmers and accepted their versions without question.

"Because farmers were neglectful of the conditions stipulated in the WCA, it is common that compensation cheques never reached the farmworkers as disabled workers get dismissed with no forwarding addresses being taken by the employers. The cheques

are sent to the workers care of farmers," said Present.

Staff Reporter

NOT a cent has been budgeted this year for housing for farm labourers, Mr PJ Joubert, of the Berg River Farmers' Union, told the 10th annual Western Cape Agricultural Union congress yesterday.

He said 23,6% of the total South African population lived in rural areas, yet only 1% of last year's R1 000 million housing budget — R10m — had been allocated to farm employees' housing.

"Is this not a tragedy?" Mr Joubert asked. "What can we do with R10m? It's only 1% of the housing budget to keep people on the

No budget for housing farmers

platteland and ensure that our whole population does not end up in decline around our cities."

It was "a crying shame" that police had been told to search farmers' bakkies and confiscate a certain variety of lucerne seed, Mr John Robertson, a farmer, told

the congress.

He spoke during a debate about the activities of the Lucerne Seed Board, which tried to stabilise production of the seed thus avoiding vast price fluctuations and to introduce new pest-resistant strains.

"I feel that the danger of over-production is exaggerated," Mr Robertson said.

"It is a crying shame that the free market mechanism is interfered with in this way and ordinary people are made into criminals. The fault lies with the system."

NTSHENGEDZENI Wilson Muhanelwa does not know how old he is. Neither does he know when he started working. A father of four, none of his children attend school. Not that he does not want them to be educated, far from it. He just cannot afford it.

Muhanelwa is a farm labourer at Levubu. His employer is Jacobus Vorster who hit the headlines two years ago when he was charged with the murder of a labourer.

Muhanelwa earns R80 a month. His wife does not work. They stay together with their children in a rondavel on the farm. It is Muhanelwa's only home.

He was born on the farm and his father is still working there.

He never went to school and started working when "I was still very small," he said. He could be in his thirties, by my own estimation.

Promotion *Sowetan 20/7/89*

His job, until June 9 this year, was to man the machine that pumps water to the farm. On that day he was told he was to work in the master's garden the following day.

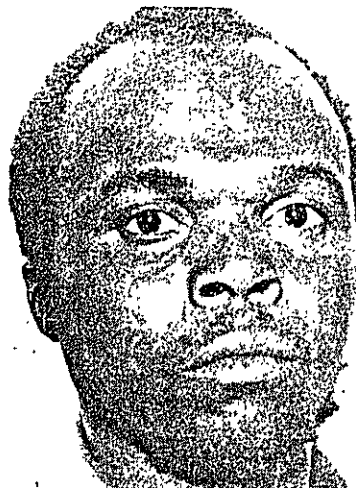
What came as a promotion was to end in tragedy when Vorster's dogs attacked him on the morning of June 10. He suffered serious injuries to his right leg which had to be stitched at Tshildzini Hospital.

The doctor who treated him gave him eight days off as he could not walk. He went back to work on June 20. Pay day came and he was paid only R51,30 instead of his usual R80 a month.

"I just could not understand it. There was no other reason for the pay deductions. I even asked him if I owed him something and he said no. It was clear that the money deducted was for the days I had not worked due to the injuries," Muhanelwa told the *Sowetan*.

He said Vorster had promised to compensate him for the injuries from the dog bites. But later

④ **The hut is his only home**



Ntshengedzeni Wilson Muhanelwa . . . bitten by dogs.

cause the dogs had not been chained.

He said it was doubtful that Vorster could have opted to cover the workers in terms of the Workmen's Compensation Act. Makhado said his office would assist Muhanelwa if he needed advice.

But Muhanelwa is a scared man. He fears eviction from the farm, which is his only home. Eviction means being thrown out in the streets. It is a prospect that he does not look forward to.

But he is also a very bitter man who feels let down by a man who once dragged him into serious trouble over Sambo . . .

Vorster has denied that he deducted money for the sick leave. He however refused to say how much Muhanelwa had earned in June. He dropped the phone and said he does not want to be bothered again.

The *Sowetan* visited Muhanelwa at his "home". It was late at night and his family was already asleep. However we went in. There is not a single piece of furniture in the hut - no bed and no chair.

Wife

The wife and kids were sleeping in one section. On the other end was a heap of tattered clothing for the entire family. Pots and other cooking utensils were in the other corner.

A log bisecting the rondavel was serving as a hanging post for Muhanelwa's overcoat. That summed up his worldly possessions.

Muhanelwa has been in the thick of problems together with Vorster. He was one of four labourers who were initially charged with the murder of Eric Sambo. He remembers Sambo and how he died and does not want to be reminded of the episode.

"Each time I think of Eric and how he died I cry," he said.

Muhanelwa's predicament is typical of farm workers who eventually end up as enslaved workers.

Efforts

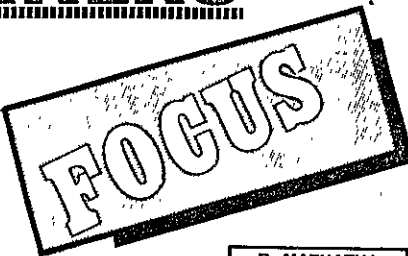
While there are efforts by the two major labour federations, Cosatu and Nactu, to get farm workers included in the Labour Relations Act, this is still far from over and does not address Muhanelwa's immediate problem.

Indeed, when he was found guilty of culpable homicide for the death of Sambo, the judge, in what has now become an internationally criticised sentence, said Vorster could not be sent to jail because 44 black labourers were dependent on him.

It was therefore in the interest of people like Muhanelwa that Vorster is a free man today and is not behind bars.

Maybe Muhanelwa would also agree with the judge about that. But do not bet on it.

FARM HANDS WHO END UP AS ENSLAVED WORKERS



By **MATHATHA TSEDU**

the Act, he can only be covered if the employer has chosen to join, according to a spokesman for the Northern Transvaal Advice Office (Ntao) in Pietersburg.

Ntao director Mr Kltangale Makhado, said Muhanelwa could even bring a civil claim against Vorster for negligence be-

The Media Council

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

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

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

The address is: The Councillor/Registrar, SA Media Council, PO Box 5222, Cape Town 8000. Telephone: (021) 461-7117. Inquiries are welcomed.

Political comment in this issue by Aggrey Klaaste and Joe Thlooe. Sub-editing, headlines and posters by Sydney Matlaku. All of 61 Commando Road, Industria West, Johannesburg.

The reproduction or broadcast without permission of articles published in this newspaper on any current economic, political or religious topic, is forbidden and expressly reserved to The Argus Printing and Publishing Company Ltd under Section 12(7) of the Copyright Act 1978.

• Write to the Editor at PO Box 6663, Johannesburg 2000. Non-de-plumes can be used, but full names and addresses should be supplied or the letter will not be published.



WE'D BE HAPPIER ABOUT THIS RESTRICTION IF SOUTH AFRICA HAD GENERAL PRESS FREEDOM

Life is hard in tents

3
4

~~scribble~~

Sowetan
27/7/89

THE 30 evicted Weenen (near Estcourt) farmworker families who were removed on Monday from the roadside site they have occupied since their civil ejection at the beginning of June, say they do not want to be at their new settlement camp.

They say that it is a lie that it will be just a temporary measure.

The evicted workers were moved to the new site adjacent to the Weenen emergency camp on Monday afternoon.

A large number of policemen, Natal Provincial Administration workers and other unidentified officials arrived at the roadside site

SOWETAN Correspondent

and allegedly told them that they had to leave.

The farmworkers said they had refused to pack their belongings and workers in orange NPA overalls had then begun collecting all their possessions for them.

After the NPA workers had packed everything into boxes, the displaced workers were then told to get into two buses which had been brought for the purpose of transporting them.

When they refused, some were allegedly pushed into the buses. Two ambulances were also allegedly at the scene.

The farmworkers are

now being accommodated in about 50 tents provided by the NPA. There are 10 portable toilets on site, as well as a large water tank.

The families complained about the tents, which they say leaked water and were colder than the Red Cross tents they had received last week.

Black 'humour' from CP man

Nov 28 1964
Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — A Northern Cape farmer who supports the Conservative Party this week sent three of his black farm workers to a National Party meeting in Hopetown — "as a joke".

Mr Altus Viljoen of Orania, between Hopetown and Petrusville, said yesterday he had done this in order to prove that the National Party was applying double standards.

The three black men sat in the front row and listened to Mr Myburgh Streicher, deputy Minister of Transport Affairs. No-one in the audience remarked on their presence.

Mr Streicher said yesterday it had been found that they could hardly understand Afrikaans or English.

Nationalists present had realised that it was a CP gimmick. The blacks had been embarrassed and the CP was made to look foolish.

Mr Viljoen said yesterday he viewed the incident as a joke.

The farm workers had not been forced to go to the meeting.

He had also won a R200 bet with a Nationalist that the National Party would allow people of colour to come to its meetings and that they would not be asked to leave the hall.

(Report by T Wentzel, 122 St George's Street, Cape Town.)



Pictures: DANA le ROUX, Weekend Argus

A proud Mrs Gertie Boshoff of Oak Valley Farm, Elgin district, with the Best Garden trophy she and her husband Jan won this year. Their rent-free three-bedroomed farm home is but one of the hundreds erected by farmers without the help of government subsidies.

Upgrading their workers' lives

Weekend Argus Reporter

THE woman stood in the supermarket queue, her basket brimming with supplies bought at a guaranteed cost-plus-ten-percent and, turning to a friend, said that she would be taking her children to the clinic later on for a medical check-up.

Outside the supermarket and about 200m up the road, another housewife sat in the sun on the porch of her three-bedroomed home, listening to the shouts and laughter of children at the creche directly opposite.

The woman glanced at the lawn and the roses in her neat front garden ...

Typical suburbia?

Actually these scenes took place on a farm at least 25km from the nearest town.

The supermarket, creche and clinic are part of the Paardekloof farmyard which belongs to Du Toit Boerdery, a closed farming corporation in the Ceres district which runs six farms and employs 3 056 people.

The Du Toit upliftment programme for workers is just one of the hundreds taking place on Western Cape farms. Farmers have taken the initiative in upgrading the quality of their workers' lives.

Surprised

Weekend Argus visited several farms in the Elgin and Ceres areas to gain an impression of the living and working conditions and came away surprised at the efforts farmers have put into making life in the rural environment attractive.

On all the farms thousands of rands have been spent to supply workers with rent-free comfortable three-bedroomed homes, all with electricity and hot water. Some are supplied with electric stoves and free-standing fireplaces.

There are beautiful sports club buildings and fields, free (but in some cases subsidised) protective clothing, subsidised medical and creche facilities and a contract stipulating hours, wages and general working conditions.

On all the farms visited workers had their own committees, which liaise with management about working and living conditions. All had grievance procedures built into their

contracts.

On some farms contract workers — used during harvest periods — are supplied with three cooked meals a day and sleeping and recreational facilities equal to anywhere in the world.

Wages vary from an average minimum of R15 a day (overtime at normal time-and-a-half, double time for Sundays) for unskilled workers. But this does not include incentive and piece-work bonuses.

Most unskilled labour can earn between R100 and R200 a week. Many of the wives work during peak seasons and double or even treble the household income.

Houses built for their workers cost the farmers an average R40 000 each. The Du Toit Boerdery farms employ 3 000 workers — each supplied with a lovely modern home. Farmers reported that building costs were astronomical.

School buildings — including hostel facilities — have been paid for by the farmers in the community. Before the modern school was built at Op-Die-Berg in the Ceres-district, children had to attend school about 30km away or even further.

On Eikenhof Farm, situated in the Elgin district, farmer Alastair Moodey — who attended Harvard's business school — said: "This year the government has not allocated any funds for building homes for our people so we have dug deep into our own pockets."

"Our paint maintenance bill alone runs at R100 000 a year."

Not surprising when you consider that Eikenhof farm has supplied 120 three-bedroomed family housing units for its workers, apart from the recreational halls and other buildings on the two farms which constantly need maintenance.

On Mr Leo Fine's farm also in the Elgin district we inspected a neat row of semi-detached pensioners' houses he has built for retiring staff. The modern facebrick structures are all supplied with brand-new electric stoves, fitted kitchen units and built-in cupboard space.

"I have been all over the world where fruit is grown and have never come across the kind of accommodation and services we supply to our workers."

The farmers who care

By MARK STANSFIELD
Weekend Argus Reporter

THE CALL for a government investigation into allegations of maltreatment of farm workers on specific farms in the Cape is growing.

In the past two weeks — since Weekend Argus reported several incidents of brutality and maltreatment of farm workers — the influential Rural Foundation, Cape farmers and an exporting farmers' co-operative have pledged to add their voices to the growing number of people, including politicians, who will ask the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, to investigate such complaints.

To show their good faith many farmers have voluntarily adopted their own "Sullivan-type" code of conduct to ensure their workers are protected from exploitation and bad working conditions — even if this type of protection carries no government sanction.

One such code of conduct — initiated by Unifruco, an international marketing group for the multi-million rand South African deciduous fruit industry — will soon be accepted by its estimated 5 400 members.

Allegations made by workers in the recent Weekend Argus report reflected on one specific farmer in the Western Cape.

The Rural Foundation represents 3 338 farmers who have voluntarily committed themselves to the organisation's aims of improving the quality of life of people on farms.

Farmers in the Elgin and Ceres districts visited this week soundly condemned farmers who treated their workers badly and called on the government to "root out the few bad eggs which are giving the industry a bad name".

An example of the anger the allegations have created among farmers in the Western Cape can be judged by the comments Weekend Argus obtained from progressive farmers who invited Weekend Argus onto their farms to report on the working and living conditions of their workers.

Decent manner

Mr Alastair Moodey, owner of Eikenhof farm, Elgin, who farms under the auspices of the Melsetter Trust, a member of the South African Foundation, said he condemned any person who

wasn't striving toward bettering the lot of farm workers.

"There is no excuse for not handling people in a decent manner. They are not thinking of the future of this country and if they continue to refuse to accept that their workers deserve better treatment they should get out of farming and let someone more progressive take over."

Mr Leo Fine, a deciduous farmer in the Elgin district, echoed Mr Moodey's feelings.

Several farms in the Elgin district carry a prominently-displayed sign:

"This organisation upholds the objectives of the Cape Fruit Growers Code, namely to:

● Award the job to the person best qualified for the task, regardless of colour, sex, language or creed;

● Pay a basic wage higher than the minimum subsistence level for the circumstances and the area;

● Provide personal development for all, through access to education and training;

● Recognise the variety of human abilities and try to allocate duties to those best capable of performing them;

● Recognise that the application of fair discipline requires the facility to give a fair hearing to legitimate grievances;

● Provide incentives for improved performance where possible;

● Provide decent housing, access to leisure-time facilities and exposure to religious and cultural opportunities for employees; and

● Respect the dignity of farm workers and employees and avoid unfair labour practices."

Farmers in the Ceres district have adopted a similar code.

The upgrading of farm workers' working and living conditions on Western Cape farms has been achieved at enormous cost to farmers because the government refuses to subsidise such efforts.

Mr Herman Bailey, public relations manager for the Rural Foundation, said farmers had spent an estimated R23 million of their own money on upgrading and building houses for their workers during the 1988/89 financial year.

Mr Fred Meintjies, a spokesman for Unifruco, said hundreds of concerned farmers were going ahead with housing projects and work-related contracts in spite of the lack of aid.



These children are given three meals a day and taught by qualified pre-school staff. Most farms visited had creche facilities.

Weekend Argus, July 29 1989 13



A typical farm supermarket. Prices are well below those in the city because farmers buy wholesale and add only 10 percent for administrative costs.

CAT 7MB 7/8/89

Union to sue over pamphlet?

A TRADE UNION has threatened to sue an industrial relations consultancy unless it publicly apologises for a pamphlet claiming the ANC used unions to unite farm workers as "part of its revolutionary struggle".

The Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) said it had suffered defamation and organisational damage as result of the pamphlet, circulated in the June edition of the Deciduous Fruit Grower, official mouthpiece of the industry.

The pamphlet was produced by the Johannesburg-based Liaison Bureau for Industrial Relations Services.

Row over IR report on farmers, and unions

W. L. ARCEUS 12/8/89

UNION pressure in the agricultural industry grows, as does the interest of the industrial relations consultants.

In one instance, a promotional pamphlet sent out by a Johannesburg industrial relations consultancy about farmers and trade unions has elicited an angry response from the leading union in the field.

The Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu), a Cosatu affiliate, claiming that the brochure has severely diminished the climate of good industrial relations in rural labour relations, has asked for an apology from the consultancy and a retraction of claims it made, failing which it reserved its right to take legal action for defamation and organisational damage.

A spokesman for the Liaison Bureau for Labour Relations Services said the brochure would "certainly not" be withdrawn nor would any apology be furnished.

"Liaison furthermore reserves the right to publish such further brochures as we may deem fit," said Kóos van Niekerk, director of marketing services.

Mr Van Niekerk said the staff of Liaison, a close corporation registered this year, had "considerable experience" in labour relations.

He was unwilling to discuss the merits of the pamphlet headlined "The radical attack on the South African agricultural sector" which was distributed with the June issue of the *Deciduous Fruit Grower*.

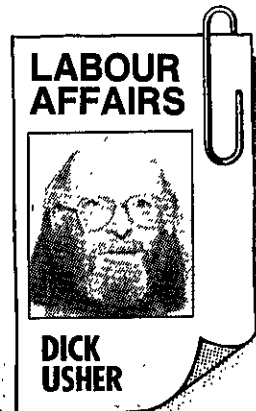
Legal action

"In view of possible legal action it wouldn't be appropriate for me to comment," said Mr Van Niekerk. "But the brochure was compiled only after thorough research was done within the relevant sectors and every statement can be substantiated."

What's baffling however, is how the company thinks it will be able to deal with worker organisations in good faith once they've touted for business among employers by attacking the *bona fides* of such organisations.

Meanwhile, in the Boland the National Union of Wine, Spirits and Allied Workers (Nuwsaw), an affiliate of the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu), is moving into the industry in similar fashion to Fawu. It has been organising at wine co-operatives and has signed about 11 agreements in the past two months covering about 250 workers.

Nactu has another affiliate in the sector, the National Union of Farmworkers, and it must reasonably be expected that Nactu will also start backing into organising farmworkers, again through the connection between farm and factory.



(4)

'We'd rather be horses'

By DOCTORSON TSHABALALA
TEENAGE labourers at the Milnerton racecourse earn as little as R15 a week and many yearn to live in the same comfort as the horses they groom.

Grooms aged between 14 and 17 said they had been brought to Cape Town from the Transkei to work in appalling conditions in an industry that makes millions of rands a year.

"I was starving in the Transkei before I got this job," one teenager said, "but now things seem worse. A neighbour who brought me to Cape Town didn't tell me it would be this bad."

The Milnerton Turf Club blamed individual horse owners and trainers for the grooms' plight. Mrs M Luff, secretary of the Western Province Owners and Trainers Association, said she would take up the grievances with members and asked SOUTH to send her the list of allegations.

We interviewed and photographed grooms after smuggling equipment past suspicious security guards. Workers say they work up to 12 hours a day for between R15 and R60 a week. A father of four from

Tsolo, Transkei, still earns only R60 a week after nine years at the racecourse.

A 16-year-old, who says he earns R18 a week, said: "I can't afford to send money home, because I have to buy food. My mother expects me to help her, but I cannot. I don't earn enough. I've been looking for another job for a long time, but no-one wants to take on a 16-year-old."

Out of sight

The grooms live in old, filthy, and ill-equipped hostels out of sight of the punters.

They sleep on broken beds in dormitory-type rooms, have no recreational facilities, and use empty tin drums as chairs. A cement table in the centre serves as both dining table and cooking space.

Some eat out of plastic buckets because they have no crockery.

One worker said the turf club gave each groom a 20kg ration of mealie meal regularly, but they had to buy other foodstuffs themselves.

"They take some money off our wages every week, but the amount varies from week to week. They say it's for board and lodging. The money comes in a sealed envelope with nothing written on it, so we don't know where our money goes.

"But this place is not worth paying for. I'd rather be a horse than a

groom. In jail things are better."

Grooms complained that while a veterinary hospital at the course looked after the animals, there were no medical services for workers who became ill or were injured at work, even though they were full-time staff.

Workers have no access to a pension fund or medical-aid scheme and are barred from joining unions. Several workers were apparently fired a few months ago after attempting to sign up with an affiliate of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu).

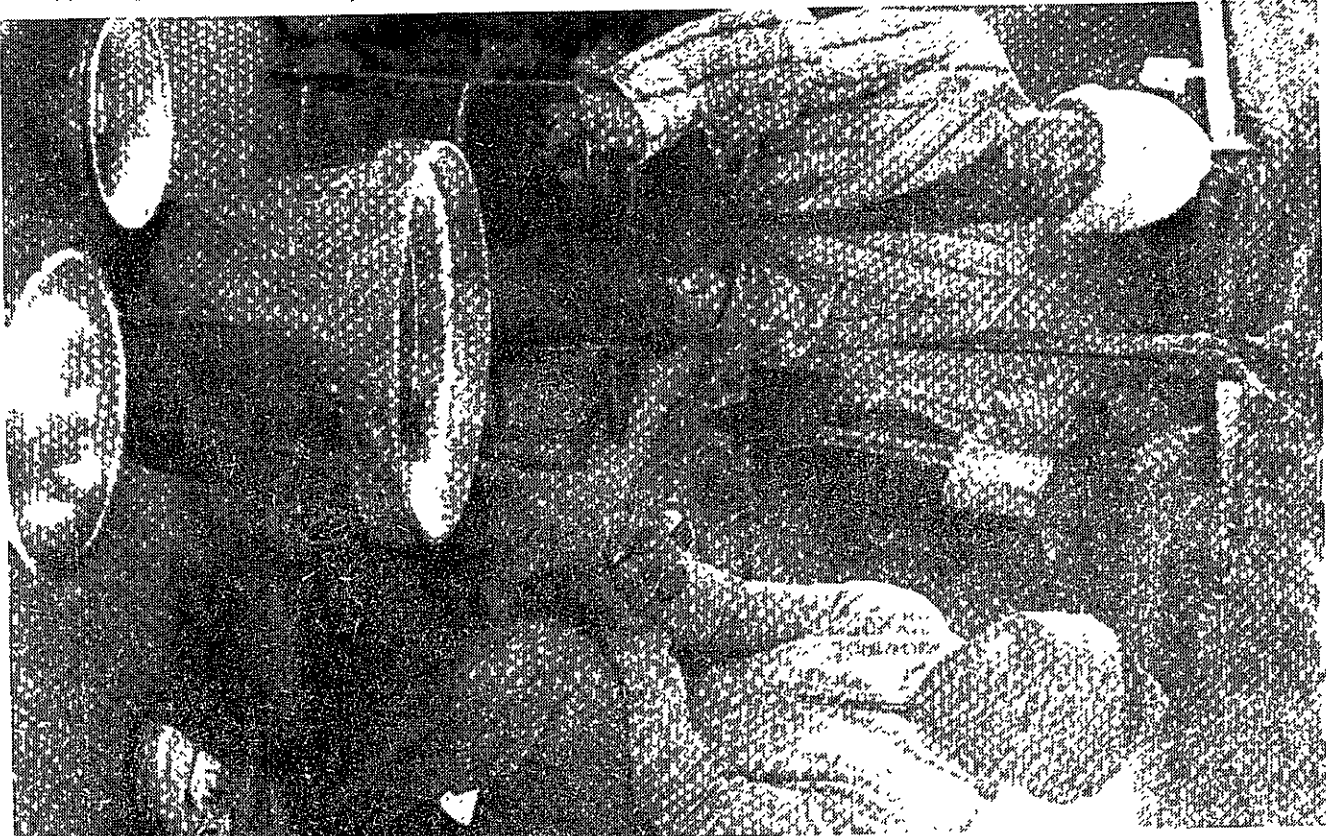
The men say they are also isolated from their families. One worker said many labourers brought their families with them from Transkei, but they could not share the hostels. Instead, women and children squatted in the bush near the Milnerton la-goon.

A Cape Provincial Administration media liaison officer referred SOUTH to the Milnerton Turf Club chairman G M Basson.

Milnerton racecourse manager, Mr Emilio Amoeda, referred queries to the Milnerton Turf Club.

"Management has no jurisdiction over horse owners and trainers. They only rent our stables," he said.

Milnerton Turf Club chairman Mr GM Basson could not be contacted for comment.



HARDSHIP: Grooms eating out of buckets



Oudtshoorn farm despair

Some farm children 'eat tortoise meat'

By MARIUS BOSCH

SCATTERED among Oudtshoorn's famed "feather palaces" farmworkers live in grinding poverty with some of them earning as little as R15 a week for their toil on the ostrich farms.

Some children of farmworkers eat rabbit, (ynx (tortoise)) and even tortoise meat to break the monotony of the endless ostrich meat and "pap" provided by some of the farmers, says the head of a farm school.

Here they have a feudal system with the farmers giving and taking what they want," says Mr Jacobus Lewis, the head of a farm school in the district.

His is one of the 16 farm schools in the area belonging to the Sonstrand Feeding Scheme in which World Vision and Operation Hunger take an active part.

Mr Philip Davies said the Organisation distributes more than R2 000 worth of powdered soup a month.

They are currently feeding 3 294 children in the Oudtshoorn area.

For some of these children the soup, bread and World Vision are the only nutritious food they get all day.

But one of the biggest farmers in the area, Mr Marius Spies of the farm Morrosol, says he tries to give his workers balanced meals and teach them the value of money.

"Sometimes you offer them work but then they do not want to work."

"A big problem is alcohol abuse," if they go to town they buy lots of alcohol."

On some farms children are being used

as child labour.

"I go to the lands after school until dark to cut callithewes," says 13-year-old April Barotman who earns R6 a week for five days of work.

April said she had never visited the Cape Town area about 15km away — and doesn't know what it is.

"It has happened in the past that one of the farm foremen came to my school to get children to go and work on the lands," Mr Lewis says.

Mr Spies says he hands out food worth an extra R20 a week to the workers.

Some of the children do not know how to buy food or sweets in a supermarket, says Mr Lewis.

"When we take them to Oudtshoorn they go to an one-man shop where they pay more than at a supermarket."

He maintains that the problem is not too little food but malnutrition.

"The farmer gives rations but in the vegetable season some workers will get only potatoes for a month and reduced rations," he said.

The chairman of the feeding scheme, Mr Dennis Hendricks, shares his view saying that for some of the children the soup and bread provided by the scheme are the only nutritious food they get all day.

"Since we started feeding them at school their concentration has improved, school attendance is up by a 100% and they also do better."

Most of the children know to the cent what their fathers earn because the extra rand or two could make the difference between coffee with sugar or bitter coffee.

Mr Spies says he pays R65 a week in wages for the 13 men working for him. He agrees that some farmers pay their workers more than others but adds: "I and my people get along fine."

Mr Davies says most farmers in the area take the R35 a week the Oudtshoorn municipality pays its workers as the measure to pay farmworkers.

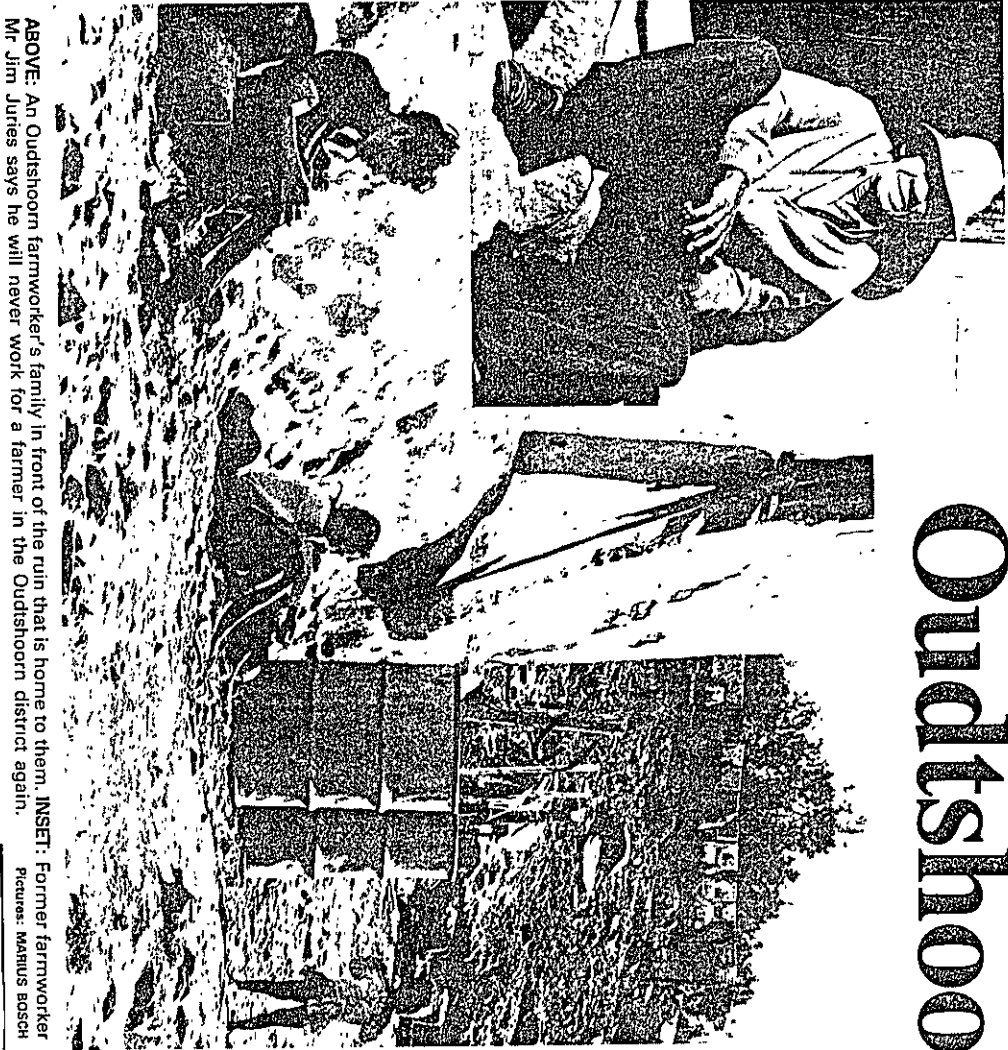
Unemployed farm worker Mr Hendrik Lourens, 36, says some of the farmers are rich "but they pay very bad."

"Ous kry bate swaar hier" (We suffer a lot here.)

Mr Lewis says the conditions under which some workers and their families live are "terrible."

He said there were no stoves and furniture in some of the houses.

"The farmer said they will break it. Some of these farmers will press a cent until tears come out of Van Riebeeck's eyes."



ABOVE: An Oudtshoorn farmworker's family in front of the ruin that is home to them. INSET: Former farmworker Mr Jim Jures says he will never work for a farmer in the Oudtshoorn district again.

Pictures: MARIUS BOSCH

② B/boom 23/8/89

Sanlam boss calls for fewer, better farmers

PRETORIA — Uneconomic protection measures were detrimental to the development of a healthy agricultural economy which needed fewer but better farmers, Sanlam chairman Tjaart van der Walt said yesterday.

He was speaking at the Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU) annual congress where major issues such as the community's near R14-million debt burden, high inflation, taxation and high interest rates, productivity, and a free market system were discussed.

Van der Walt stressed farming was not only a way of life but a financial undertaking. There had been a spirit of pessimism in the industry in recent years, he said, but there were still 22 000 white farmers in the Transvaal.

"We must not keep farmers on the land artificially. We only prolong their suffering and misery, as we know they will be unable to keep their heads above water."

Van der Walt posed the question whether there were not too many farmers, or insincere farmers.

"The country doesn't need more farmers — what we need is better farmers," he said.

TAU president Dries Bruwer said most branches of the country's agricultural industry had been hit by serious crises from which they would recover only with great difficulty.

The deteriorating position was due largely to persistent droughts

GERALD REILLY

aggravated by high inflation and high interest rates.

As a result, he said, farmers' debt had soared to nearly R14bn — an average of almost R292 000 per farmer. If it were true that 20% of farmers were responsible for 80% of production, it could be assumed that 48 000 farmers were responsible for the massive debt.

Farm debt, he said, had increased from R3,5bn in 1980 to R13bn in 1987 — an increase of 269,5%.

Referring to soaring input costs, Bruwer said government should be asked to lift tax on implements and essential production items, including irrigation equipment.

Other delegates supported a call for "brave action by a strong government" to break the spiral of high state spending, which had resulted in higher inflation, taxation and higher interest rates.

General council member Wilco Beukes said "if government fails to curb inflation, this will point to the possible collapse of the total production sector and — within the agricultural industry — of the grain sector".

Beukes said raising of interest rates to arrest spending was not the solution. This merely punished the producer more than the consumer. The popular solution was still a limitation on state spending.

Beukes forecast more costly agricultural requirement imports and this would have a further negative influence on agriculture. Big limitations, he said, had been placed on the economic growth rate by low productivity and a lack of overseas loan capital.

Council member Lourie Bosman said of cardinal importance for the survival of the industry was an agricultural finance system which suited the needs of the industry.

The greatest single stumbling block in agriculture, he said, was the dwindling profitability caused by uncertainty of yields, the continuing unfavourable disparity between producers' prices and farming inputs and high interest rates.

He said during the past decade the industry had become more dependent on external financing, because of shrinking profits and unsatisfactory reserves.

The ratio between total debt and capital assets had risen from 11,8% in 1985 to 25,7% last year, Bosman said.

TAU executive member Werner Weber said farmers supported a system in which supply and demand could work freely without interference from other market forces. However, a free market system was not supported totally without qualifications because of the threat of monopolies.



● VAN DER WALT

Women scarred after 'beatings'

By CHIARA CARTER

A WEST COAST vegetable farmer who allegedly assaulted female employees on several occasions over the past year may face a civil damages claim.

The claim is being instituted on behalf of Liesbeth Schippers and another woman, both of whom previously worked at the farm as domestic workers.

The farmer appeared in the Piketberg magistrates court earlier this month on a charge of assaulting Schippers, 26.

The case was referred to the Malmesbury regional court.

Plastic pipe

Schippers has claimed that on the morning of April 25 she was drinking coffee at a friend's house when the farmer arrived.

She said that he walked over to where she was sitting with her friend's baby on her lap and asked her when she planned to go to work.

Schippers said he then hit both her and the child on the head with an orange plastic pipe.

She alleged that he hit her on her shoulder and breast until she was bleeding.

Her friend has corroborated this.

Schippers alleged that she was again assaulted later on the same day when she asked the farmer for her savings as she wanted to leave the farm.

She said that on this occasion he hit her repeatedly across her face with a black sjambok.

She subsequently laid a charge with the police at Elandsbaai.

Schippers was examined by a plastic surgeon after the alleged assault. The surgeon found significant scarring. He said the scars could be improved by surgery but would still

remain.

Another woman claimed she was beaten by the same farmer last year.

This alleged assault was witnessed by another employee on the farm.

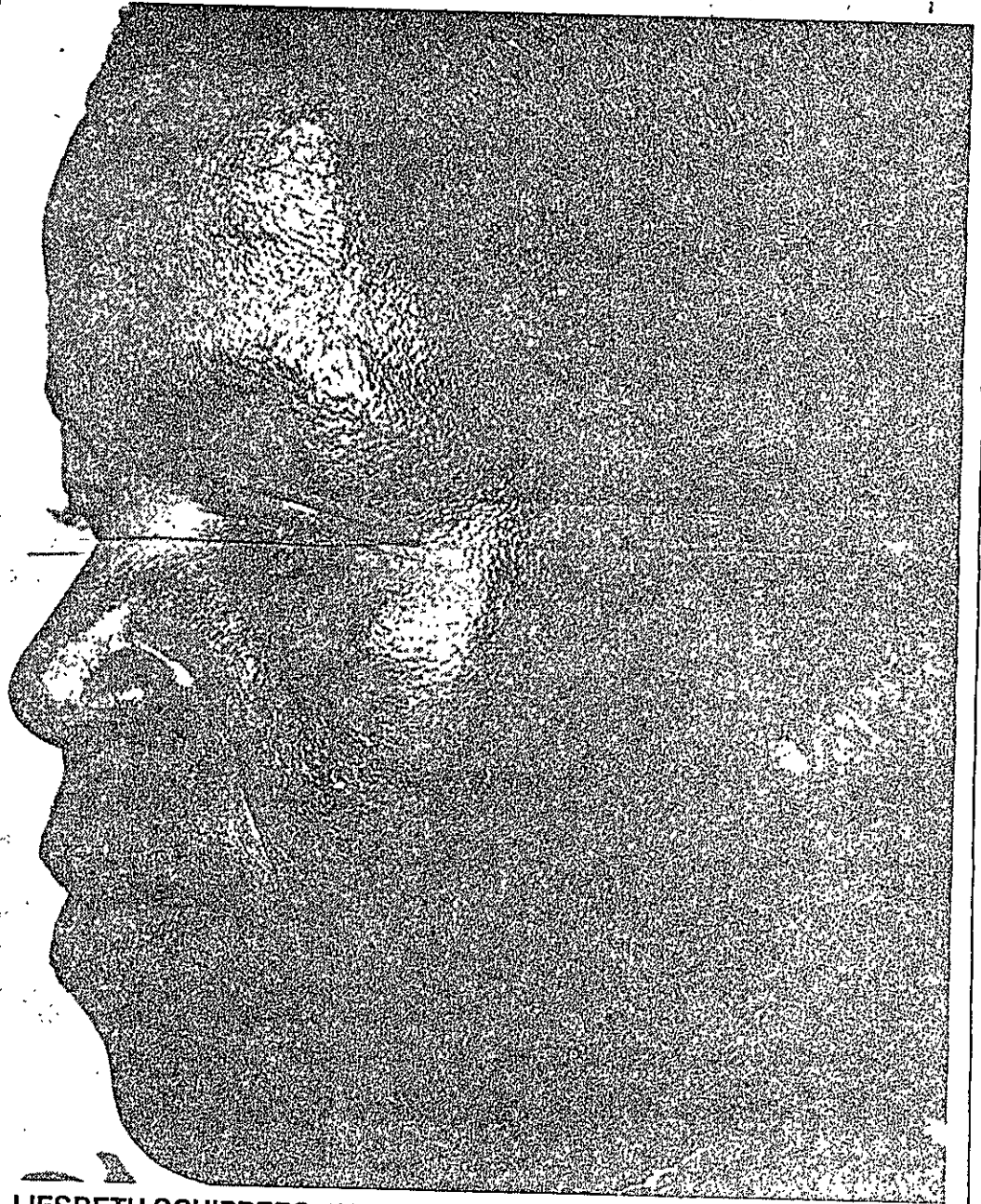
The witness said the farmer hit Carstens several times with a black sjambok while she was asleep. The witness said that after the assault the woman's back, legs and but-

tocks bled severely.

According to a plastic surgeon's report, the woman has six scars on her body consistent with being beaten with a plastic tube.

The witness claimed the farmer also beat another worker with a wooden stick last year.

The worker had an open wound after the assault, the witness claimed.



LIESBETH SCHIPPERS: "Hit repeatedly across my face with a sjambok"

'We want to stay in Koekenaap — despite assaults and low pay'

IT is difficult to imagine anyone fighting to live in Koekenaap.

Situated in the dry stretches of Namaqualand, Koekenaap consists of a railway siding with a small clinic, a post office with a separate entrance for blacks, and a supermarket.

The local farming community is conservative to the point of being voracious.

But to several African families who have lived in the area since the 1930s, Koekenaap is home and always will be.

Forced to squat since the government relocated the community under the Group Areas Act about five years ago, the families now live from hand to mouth.

Binding the families is the conviction that no one will budge them from Koekenaap.

"This is our home and we'll die here," says 53-year-old Victor Maguga.

Many of the squatters were previously employed on farms in the area and have bitter tales to tell of alleged exploitation and racism.

They claim they were expected to work in the vineyards or tomato fields for up to 12 hours a day, and were paid as little as R80 a month.

Mother of five Betty Ngewu, 54, says she has "lost count" of the times she has been arrested for pass offences and for squatting.

She claims farmers in the Koekenaap area are notorious for treating their workers badly.

"Many times I thought it would be better to be dead than to live like that, but Koekenaap was my home and I needed money," she said.

"On one farm I was beaten by the farmer because my boyfriend's son came in a car to visit me."

"While she was talking, her husband walked in. He asked how it was possible for a 'kaffir' to own a car. I did not answer. Then he told me that any black who owned a car was smuggling and he beat me."

Ngewu left the farm after the white foreman got drunk and slapped a young woman worker.

Ngewu found work at a farm where her father and brother had once worked.

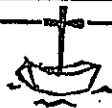
Then in December last year, the farmer died and the farm was sold.

"I spent days moving from farm to farm in search of work and a place to stay. But I did not succeed. So the only place for me was the squatter camp in Koekenaap."



Mrs Betty Ngewu rebuilds her shack on her old site after a recent raid in which shacks were destroyed

SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES



TWO VACANCIES EXIST WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

1. DOCUMENTATION AND RESOURCE CO-ORDINATOR

The successful applicant will be expected to:

- Collect and develop resources for women and distribute these.
- Co-ordinate research on women's issues through relevant research institutions.
- Collect and write articles for a newsletter on women's activities nationally and internationally.
- Produce the newsletter timeously for the Division four times a year.
- Develop systematic documentation for the Division, produce reports and all the Division's publications.
- Link with other publications and programmes doing similar work.
- Prepare background documents, posters, prospectus, pamphlets, reports and booklets for seminars and workshops.
- Be willing to work in a team.

2. NATIONAL TRAINER/FIELD WORKER

The successful applicant is expected to:

- Design learning events and offer training in areas suggested by women
- Facilitate ecumenical women's programmes in regions.
- Liaise with church women's organisations and other relevant ecumenical organisations on current issues.
- Have the ability to work in a team.
- Be a committed Christian.
- Be prepared for extensive travel.
- Should submit regular reports on work.

Both applicants should be willing to interpret the work of the Division and the SACC as a whole to the churches and to the community at large.

Be willing to undertake other responsibilities and assignments in the general work of the Division and SACC as a whole.

The women who will fill these vacancies must be committed to working for change both in the church and in society. She must understand women's issues in South Africa and be familiar with the general church scene in the country.

Applicants must please include a curriculum vitae, a letter of reference and proof of any qualifications they have quoted.

Salary negotiable within the scales of the SACC.

Applications to be sent not later than 31 August 1989 to:
The General Administrative Secretary
P O Box 4921
Johannesburg
2000

Life's hell, but it's home

REPORT by
DOCTORSON
TSHABALALA
PICTURES by
PAUL GRENDON

FOR the squatters of Koekenaap, who live in the heart of the Namaqualand, life has always held out more thorns than flowers.

Long before the National Party came to power in 1948, African and "coloured" families lived side by side on farms at Koekenaap.

They worked long hours, were paid little and accepted that their lives fell under the control of the white farmers.

Despite the hardships, they were reluctant to leave Koekenaap; this was home.

Then in 1984 the Department of Constitutional Development and Planning under the then Minister, Chris Heunis, moved to relocate African families out of the area.

"Coloured" families were allowed to stay and were housed in newly-built brick houses in a prescribed zone.

Some African families moved to Upington while others settled at Kakamas. Many others were told to return to their "homelands".

One resident opposed the order and asked the Black Sash to fight his case on the grounds that he was born in South Africa and had therefore known no other country. Today, Uzikapu "Tolo" Dlangamandla is happily settled in Cape Town.

But among the fragmented African community, there were several residents who did not succeed in settling elsewhere, and they eventually returned to Koekenaap to squat on land owned by the Divisional Council.

By 1985 the number of shacks was mushrooming, and for a while the squatters were left undisturbed by officials.

Many worked on nearby farms while others got jobs in towns such as Vredendal, Lutzville and Nuwerus in the north-western Cape.

Then one day an official arrived, questioned the squatters and later returned to demand that they pay a land fee. The money was collected by a farmer every month and handed over to the Divisional Council.

Life began to get tougher for the squatters. Their children were turned away from the local primary school because they were not "coloured".

Said Mrs Betty Ngewu: "They would only take our children if they could speak Afrikaans and if they changed their sur-

names and adopted 'coloured' names.

Before the families had returned to Koekenaap, said Ngewu, they had approached the commissioner at Vredendal for permission to build shacks.

"The commissioner told us a local committee would decide whether we could stay.

"But the people there told us no such committee existed. They said we should go ahead and build our shacks. They said Koekenaap had become a no-man's land after our departure. That's how we settled."

Four months ago, the squatters were forcibly removed from the land.

In an early-morning raid, the Divisional Council and the police swooped on the squatter camp and destroyed the shacks.

Several of the squatters

were charged with having contravened the Squatting Act and appeared in court. Some were forced to borrow clothes for their court appearance.

They were released on bail, and, having nowhere else to go, returned to the land.

Since that first swoop, six of the squatters have been arrested four times for having contravened the Squatting Act.

They are due to appear in the Vredendal magistrates court on August 31 on their third charge, and in the Lutzville magistrates court on September 14 on their fourth charge.

For Lulama Philemon, Ivy Matyene, Betty Ngewu, Jim Gaba and brothers Mzobanzi and Billy Mantame, life has been reduced to a weary round of police stations and magistrates courts.

And all they want is to go home.



Koekenaap residents; Tamatie Mvumbi, third from left, Elias Thembo, centre, and Norman Majwede explain their plight to residents of the nearby "coloured" township

V 50c (44c + 6c GST)

Crippled man beaten to death

4

Somebody 28/8/89

A PARALYSED FATHER of six died after a white farmer allegedly beat him for staying away from work.

Police could not comment or confirm whether charges had been laid against the Piet Retief farmer. The dead man's

By THEMBA MOLEFE

family said the farmer had been arrested.

Mr Ekathi Xaba (37) died on Thursday following the alleged assault the day before. Xaba was paralysed from the waist

down after he was run over by a tractor on another farm a few years ago.

His 15-year-old daughter, Lizeth, said she watched as the farmer and his son beat, kicked and

● To page 2

Farm hand beaten to death

● From page 1

28/8/89

trampled on her father for three hours. The farmer, who according to workers called himself a "vampire and a cannibal" with "boiling blood", ignored Xaba's pleas for mercy and said he was faking unconsciousness. Lizeth said He allegedly poured water over Xaba as he lay unconscious while shouting he was not man enough. He allegedly forced open his eyes to ensure the man had really fainted and was not faking it. Dorcas, tearfully said her husband was forced out of bed by the farmer who stayed away from work for two days. "My husband was sickly and had to work on the farm because the farmer had allowed us to stay on his farm after he was dismissed by a previous employer. He earned nothing as he was employed as he was a domestic worker in Piet Retief. Mrs Xaba said she was stranded and did not have money to bury her husband. The family's sole breadwinner, she earns R600 a month as a domestic worker in Piet Retief.

Farmer to face probe over death

(4)

Sowetan 29/8/89

wa
sai

POLICE are investigating a murder charge against a Piet Retief farmer who allegedly beat his paralysed labourer for staying away from work.

A district CID officer, Captain PJ Otto, yesterday confirmed to *Sowetan* that police were investigating against a man in connection with the death of Mr Ekathi Xaba.

Xaba (37), a father of six, died last Thursday after he was allegedly assaulted the day before. Xaba was paralysed from the waist down after he was run over by a tractor on another farm a few years ago.

Otto said as soon as investigations have been completed the docket would be referred to the Attorney-General for his decision.

According to Otto Xaba died following an argument with his employer after the farmer strongly objected to the work done by him. A bitter fight ensued leading to Xaba's death, the district officer said.

Xaba's widow, Dorcas, said her husband was forced out of bed by the farmer and accused of deliberately staying away from work for two days.

"My husband was sickly and had to work on the farm because the farmer had allowed us to stay on his farm after my husband was dismissed by a previous employer. He earned nothing as he was staying on the farm," she said.

Xaba said she did not have money to bury her husband as she is the family's sole breadwinner and earns R60 a month as a domestic worker.

REPORTS, pictures and comments in this edition may be censored in terms of the Government's state of emergency.

Two farmers linked to deaths still free

4

Sowetan 30/8/89

TWO farmers, one on the Highveld and another in the Eastern Transvaal, who have been recently implicated in serious allegations of murder and torture of workers, are still free.

Attorney-General Mr Don Brunette yesterday said he still had to decide on whether to prosecute the Highveld farmer who allegedly tortured and assaulted farm hand Mr Daantjie de Klerk on his farm on June 1.

His office received

Telephone

SOWETAN's Tel the current 673-4 Other numbers t FAX - from 673-6 CLASSIFIED - fr

Two farmers are still free

4

● From page 1

the docket from the senior public prosecutor in Evander on August 4.

Although known to the police, the farmer has not been arrested. Brunette has not received the docket from the Eastern Transvaal yet.

Eastern Transvaal police said they were investigating a murder charge against a Piet Retief farmer who last week allegedly assaulted a paralysed worker, Mr Ekathi Xaba (37), to death on his farm.

Xaba's 15-year-old daughter, Lizeth, told *Sowetan* she watched when her father was assaulted for three hours after being dragged from his bed by the farmer and his son last Wednesday.

She said her father was sickly and had not been to work for two days.

Police spokesman Captain Pieter van Straaten said a docket had been referred to the Attorney-General for a decision. He said the farmer was known to the police and had not been arrested.

Van Straaten said initial evidence was that there had been a fight between the farmer and Xaba over a job not well done.

Asked to comment on standard procedure when such cases were reported to the police, Captain Reg Crewe, of the Police Directorate for Public Relations in Pretoria, said in "serious" cases the suspect was detained for 48 hours during which he would appear in court to determine a prima facie case.

Crewe said he would not comment on the High-

veld case because he was not familiar with it and that it was already in the Attorney-General's hands.

"In some cases, even when the suspect is known to the police, an arrest may not be promptly effected but a summons could be issued for a court appearance after investigations were complete."

Brunette said his office followed standing orders regarding allegations of assault or murder between blacks and whites.

"We have to determine whether the allegations are not false as we regard such claims to be serious."

He said he would make a decision within the next four weeks on the Highveld case and that delays were caused by the nature of the query and by the availability of witnesses and evidence.

De Klerk, who said his wife and seven-year-old son witnessed the eight-hour torture - which included electric shocks and being hanged from the roof - had told *Sowetan* he was locked up in a cell for seven days by a police station commander when he tried to lay charges against the farmer. He claimed the policeman told him he had run to lawyers and newspapers without going to him first.

The police denied this claim and warned *Sowetan* of possible prosecution in terms of the Police Act. This provides that it is an offence to publish allegations against members of the force without belief that the claims could be reasonably true.

● To page 2

Hunger on the rise

Low farm, domestic wages seen as cause

AKGUS 30/8/89 (4) (288) (288)

By DAVID YUTAR
Staff Reporter

UNTIL there is a minimum wage for farm and domestic workers in South Africa the problem of malnutrition will not be solved, according to Operation Hunger executive director Mrs Ina Perlman.

Countrywide, Operation Hunger is feeding up to 1,3-million malnourished children daily, but the problem is growing at an alarming rate.

Thousands of young children are suffering from severe malnutrition and many have died and will continue to die unless help is offered.

"Until there is a minimum wage for farm and domestic workers, we are not going to solve the problem of malnutrition in South Africa... nor will we be able to get at the root cause of poverty", says Mrs Perlman.

"We're extremely concerned about what is happening to children, because a child that is malnourished can be severely handicapped, both physically and mentally".

"We're seeing, in increasing numbers, children who are chronically underfed. There are areas where stunting among children is as high as 50 to 55 percent."

In certain parts of the Northern Cape an alarmingly high percentage of the schoolchildren show signs of mental retardation.

In 1982, 55 percent of all deaths in the black community were children below the age of five years. By 1986 the figure had dropped to 26 percent, "nothing to be proud of but at least an improvement" comments Mrs Perlman.



Mrs Ina Perlman

Operation Hunger in the Cape covers a predominantly rural area which includes the western and southern Cape as well as the Karoo, George, Oudtshoorn and Namaqualand.

In the urban regions of the Cape, the organisation provides an average of 739 000 meals a month while the figure for the rural areas is a staggering 3 030 000 meals a month.

When Operation Hunger started in August 1980 it had a budget of R220 000 for its first year of operation. The budget for the present financial year is R19,5-million.

Children of farm workers are one of the main concerns and one of the worst areas is the Karoo. Until now the organisation has

concentrated on child feeding but it is investing much of its energies in self-help projects.

In the Karoo alone an average of 13 000 children a day are fed. In Namaqualand over 10 000 children are fed daily.

The problem has been aggravated by sanctions and unemployment.

"The policy of sanctions has the most impact on the most defenceless. Every job lost means an additional nine dependants," says Mrs Perlman.

On the Kalahari fringe of Namaqualand, where there were once 44 mines, there are now only 24, all of which operate on a vastly reduced scale.

According to Operation Hunger, the average farm worker in the Oudtshoorn area earns R25 a week. A well paid worker might earn up to R35,40 while some earn as little as R12 a week.

Cotton pickers are typically paid a wage of R35 a month.

In most areas bread is a luxury.

Operation Hunger recently launched its seventh R1-million Goldrush Competition. Since its inception the competition has enabled the organisation to raise more than R3-million for the hungry and malnourished.

If we were to stop our programme now we would be facing a national tragedy", says Mrs Perlman.

Two to hang for Inggs killing

3/19/87
D
D
D

TWO casual labourers, who raped and strangled marketing executive Gail Inggs after breaking into her Halfway House cottage on February 8 last year, each received double death sentences in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

Samuel Lucky Mzimande, 22, and Michael Mathebula, 20, entered Inggs's cottage after obtaining the keys from her domestic servant Nellie Ngoepe.

After murdering Inggs the pair set her home and car alight and then went to a friend's dwelling and had a braai.

Ngoepe was found guilty of housebreaking with intent to steal and theft and sentenced to three years imprisonment.

Mr Justice O'Donovan said given the relationship between her and her employer, and her five years of working for Inggs, the court was left with a lingering doubt that she appreciated the enormity of her actions.

Sitting with two assessors, Mr Justice O'Don-

SUSAN RUSSELL

ovan found both men guilty of murder with no extenuation.

He said it was a case where there was a direct intention to kill.

"It is clear from the evidence," he said, "that both knew exactly what they were doing."

"They acted in pursuance of a pre-conceived plan to break into the deceased's bungalow and to kill her."

"The method of killing by strangulation is of itself one of a deliberate nature."

Rejected

"The subsequent behaviour of both accused, particularly their behaviour in Sam's house where they braai'd is indicative of the complete callousness of both."

Mr Justice O'Donovan rejected defence submissions that the intake of alcohol of both men and Mzimande's anger at not having received his wages constituted extenuating circumstances.

He also rejected the submission that Mathebula's youth was an extenuating factor.

In using his discretion in imposing the death sentence for the rape, Mr Justice O'Donovan said it was difficult to imagine a more serious example of rape.

"The deceased was raped by both accused," he said. "She was attacked in the safety of her own home and attacked by men both of whom knew they were going to kill her after raping her."

"In my view the death penalty in that respect is the only appropriate sentence."

Mzimande was also sentenced to 11 years imprisonment for housebreaking and robbery with aggravating circumstances.

Mathebula was sentenced to nine years imprisonment for robbery and housebreaking.

Both men received a further eight years imprisonment each for arson and malicious damage to property.

Applications for leave to appeal will be made today.

pre
id
re
ta
l
en
d
tri
ar
e
vl
r
a

Sitting with two assessors, Mr Justice O'Don-

nis wage
stances.

Labourer killed in fight against blaze

31/8/89

Own Correspondent

(O'Don)

MARITZBURG — A 38-year-old farm labourer was killed by the runaway fires that damaged millions of rands worth of forestry and grazing in the Natal Midlands on Tuesday.

A senior SAP spokesman yesterday confirmed the death of the man, who had been trapped by flames.

The man's name would not be disclosed until his next of kin had been informed.

The labourer died while fighting a blaze that destroyed the private W Surendorff Estate in the Ahrens/Hermannsburg district.

Meanwhile, Sappi said yesterday it had not suffered serious losses as was initially believed.

The fire was under control yesterday, although remnants continued to smoulder.

Abbi Surendorff said damage to the Surendorff Estate was estimated at between R1,5m and R2m. Grazing and timber on the neighbouring farm of Richard McDuling had also been destroyed.

The fire was also reported to have spread to areas of KwaZulu.

In the Seven Oaks district, 150ha of Sappi forestry was destroyed. Timber and many hectares of valuable grazing on neighbouring Brailsford Estate was totally burned, but no estimate of the damage was available.

The fire also destroyed hectares of timber on a private farm owned by Dim Royden-Turner.

NEIL YORKE SMITH reports Sappi MD Eugene van As said the company would suffer no serious losses as a result of the fires.

"In spite of the devastation caused . . . fires on Sappi plantations were contained to only 150ha," said Van As. Sappi's production would not be affected.

Van As said although initial estimates were that 5 000ha would be ravaged, it had been established most of the land was not planted to forests.

The suffering behind the postcard scenes

FRUIT OF THE VINE, THE HUMAN COST OF SOUTH AFRICAN WINE
 PUBLISHED BY THE CATHOLIC INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

BEHIND the picture-postcard images of the Boland's scenic vineyards lies a grim perspective of human suffering.

Fruit of the Vine records through pictures and text the conditions of oppression and exploitation under which most Boland labourers live and work.

Orde Eliason's photographs are haunting images of the near slave labour conditions which persist on Cape Town's doorstep.

Adding poignancy to Eliason's photographic essay is the way photographs of labourers are juxtaposed with pictures portraying the lifestyle of the farmers.

The text, which serves as an introduction to the photographs, is a pithy outline of farm life in the Boland. It relies heavily on research conducted by University of Cape Town academic



CHILD LABOUR. A child sprays tomato crops with insecticide on a mixed-crop farm near Robertson after the grape harvest.



TOT SYSTEM: Farmer A E Kennedy pours the weekend tot for his labourers at Vlotenberg

Wilfried Scharf for detailed information about wages and living and working conditions.

Statistics provided show that farmworkers earn wages far below the poverty datum line.

In a year in which Cosatu called for a living wage of R700, the South African Labour Development and Research Unit (Saldru) recorded wages ranging between R5 and R294 on Cape farms

A 1985 survey of 7 000 farms in South Africa found the average wage to be R87 a month as opposed to the Household Subsistence Level of R380,81.

The average wage of African workers throughout South Africa was R482 and of whites R1750.

In the same year the after-tax income of wine producers was R262 million and the country's largest co-operative, KWV, showed a net profit of more than R20,7 million.

Instant eviction

Even the roof over a labourer's head is uncertain. If a worker becomes ill or is too old to continue working, he faces instant eviction.

By the time workers reach 45, they have become too frail to lift the heavy baskets and are sometimes regarded as useless. Often, the farmer evicts them.

While in theory there are laws to protect labourers from wrongful dismissal or eviction and to enforce minimum standards for housing, most farmers do not comply with these and even local regulations are not enforced.

In 1980 there was not one agricultural inspector for South Africa's 1,4 million farmworkers.

Indicative of the health risks which the labourers' working and living conditions entail is that in the university town of Stellenbosch, the tuberculosis rate is twice the national average.

Pesticides and heavy machinery present yet another health risk.

The dop-system means many women drink heavily, risking miscarriages and stunted babies.

The still-birth and mortality rate on Boland farms is more than three times the rate for white infants in South Africa.

Low pay and heavy drinking combine to create high levels of malnutrition in children who, as a result of the socio-economic conditions, are also prey to neglect and abuse.

Few children complete primary school.

Facilities at farmschools are grossly inadequate, children walk long distances to school and often miss school because they have to work on the farms.

Included in the introduction is an analysis of methods used by some farmers to control their workforce.

The chief forms of coercion are the infamous dop system, dismissals and physical punishment, including severe beatings.

Without the protection of labour law and with no other job options, labourers have little defence against their employers.

Anyone who tries to organise the workers faces instant dismissal and unions have made little inroads into the farms.

Police are reluctant to take action against farmers, and labourers who protest face dismissal and a fate of squatting and unemployment.

Workers' resistance largely takes the form of subtle sabotage — scissors are left in a basket to ruin expensive machines, sluice gates are left open wasting valuable irrigation water, a stone shatters the farmer's windscreen at night.

While the data relates specifically to Boland farms, the conditions described can be found on farms throughout South Africa.

Fruit of the Vine is therefore an accessible and valuable introduction to the near feudal conditions under which South African farm labourers exist. — CHIARA CARTER



EVICTED: A farmworker and his wife with nowhere to go. They were evicted along with another family after a quarrel between the two families

Rescue struggle at river's banks

CAPE TIMES
8/9/89
(4) (circled)

By BRONWYN DAVIDS

POLICE divers yesterday recovered the body of farmer Mr Smit Nieuwoudt Rossouw, whose lorry carrying 64 farm labourers and children plunged into the Olifants River on Wednesday night.

The body was found at 6.10pm after rescue workers battled throughout the day to secure cables for the retrieval of the truck, which crashed through a three-metre concrete barrier.

The accident happened about 10km outside the Namaqualand town of Klaver.

After the body was brought to the banks of the river, the cables snapped, sending the vehicle plummeting into the water again.

Police and Metro personnel will resume their grim search for bodies today.

Yesterday, grieving survivors told of the tragedy which claimed the lives of 52 women, men and children.

They told harrowing tales of how family members and friends were swept away when the lorry in which they were travelling plunged about 14 metres off the Kransburg bridge into the swollen river.

Mrs Hendrina Klaaste, 29, cried bitterly when she



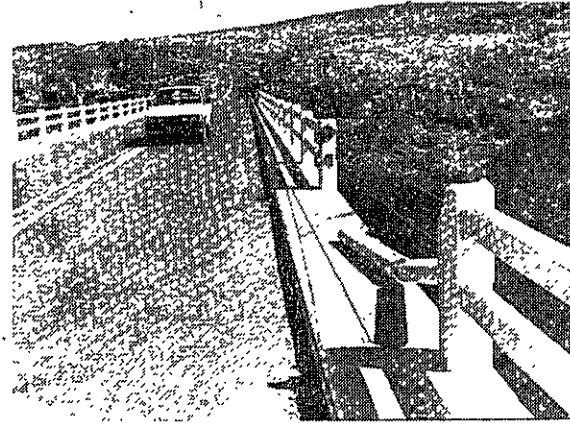
told the Cape Times that her children, Granville, 8, and Tessa, 5, were still "in the water".

"We were coming from work when the lorry started skidding from side to side on the bridge. The boss tried to control the lorry but he could not."

Mrs Klaaste was one of 12 survivors rescued from the bank of the Olifants River about 9pm on Wednesday night. They were taken to Vredendal Hospital where Mrs Katrina Mathys, 39, underwent surgery. The others were discharged yesterday.

Police liaison officer Captain Hendrik Opperman said Mr Rossouw, 26, of Rossouw Broedery, a large family farming company, was taking 64 workers and children back to their homes at the farms de Hoek and Trawal.

The bodies of a two-year-old baby, a 45-year-old woman, a five-year-old toddler and a 30-year-old woman were found at 9.30am yesterday, caught in the bushes on the river bank.

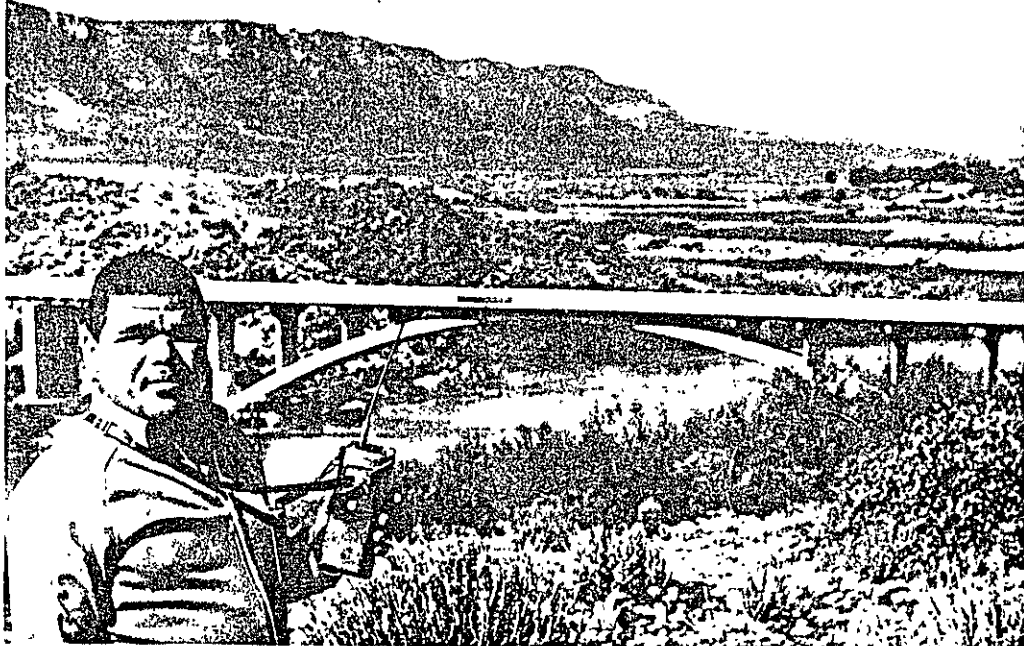


ABOVE: The bodies of those who drowned in the Klaver tragedy on Wednesday are brought to the river bank during rescue operations early yesterday along the Olifants River.

LEFT: Two strands of wire mark the gap in the bridge where the lorry carrying the passengers crashed through the safety barrier.

NEWS

The tragic hunt for bodies goes on



Mr Koos Arendse with the radio he used to alert emergency services. Behind him is the Kransburg bridge. The dark section near the centre of the arc is a temporary railing to replace the section ripped out by the lorry on Wednesday.



Survivor Miss Hendriena Klaaste held onto a tree-top in the river while her children, Granville, eight, and five-year-old Tessa were swept away by the flood.





At the riverside to identify bodies yesterday were Miss Maria Bothma, left, and Mrs Katriena Bottom, who lost a sister and an aunt in the crash. With them is Andries Bottom.



Police divers comb the Olifants banks for bodies and victims' belongings. Pictures: WILLIE de KLERK, Weekend Argus

Klawer tragedy

(Continued from page 1)

Mr Arendse said he ran back home and used a two-way radio that he normally used for work to contact his supervisor, who radioed to the police for help.

"When I went outside again, I could hear the screams again. Some of them shouted: 'Oh Lord, help us, help us'. Some were holding on to trees and shouted that they couldn't hold on any longer.

"One woman shouted: 'Will they come to help us?' after I told them I had called for help. Some of them knew me personally and called on my name for help. I felt I could jump in but I thought should rather stay on the bridge to get more help."

One of the first people who stopped was Mrs Naomi Rossouw, sister-in-law of the lorry driver. She had also seen the lorry plunge about 14m into the water.

Mr Arendse recalled how Mrs Naomi Rossouw leaned over the bridge railing and called out to victims, including her brother-in-law Smit, to hold on to tree tops rising above the 11m deep water.

"The voices became fewer and

quieter as many were swept down river," Mr Arendse said. "Some of them were just too tired because the river was strong."

Mr Arendse said the first policeman arrived 15 minutes after his radio message, and an emergency service units from Moorreesburg and Cape Town arrived as the light faded and during the course of the night.

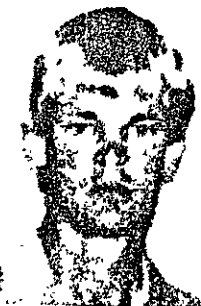
Flooded

The river tragedy came at the end of the farm labourer's 11-hour day in vegetable patches and vineyards on Uitkyk farm on the eastern side of the river.

They were on the way to De Hoek and Trawal farms and were crossing the Kransburg bridge because a drift further upstream and closer to their homes had been flooded.

Survivor Mrs Katriena Matthys, 34, said the workers were relaxed and conversing animatedly in groups when the truck hit the bridge railing. With her was her 19-year-old daughter, Anna, who is also feared drowned.

"I heard something cracking in the cab and the next moment I was in the water. I swam to a



Mr Smit Nieuwoudt Rossouw, 26, who drove the ill-fated lorry.

thorn bush and held on for more than an hour. It was dark when they found me."

Mrs Matthys, whose left shoulder is injured, said she had given up hope for her daughter. "I don't think she made it and I just thank God that I'm alive."

Sixteen-year-old Jacob Coetzee helped three people to safety after he landed in the strong current. Sadly, none of them was his 11-year-old sister, Ronel, who was swept away.

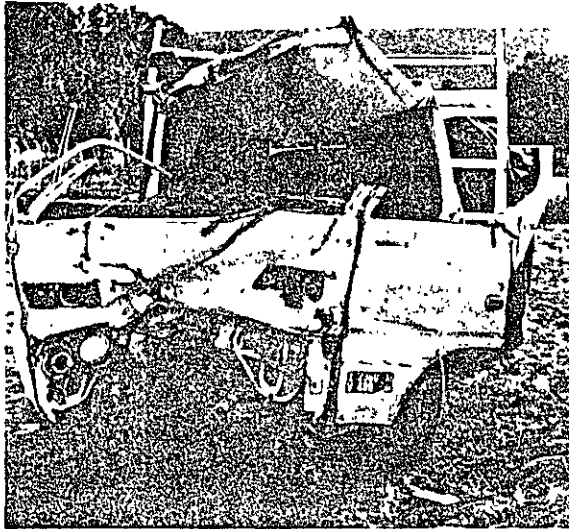
"I couldn't see or hear her. I think she disappeared while I was helping the others. Hours passed before they found us holding on to trees."

Fund to help

Weekend Argus Reporter
RELATIVES of the Olifants River lorry disaster will benefit from a fund established by The Argus, which already stands at R1 200.

People wishing to contribute should send donations to the Klaver Disaster Fund, PO Box 15399, Vlaeberg, 8018.

The money will be sent to the NG Sendingkerk, which has a fund to help communities in dire need.



Back on dry land, the Rossouws' lorry clearly shows the impact with which it struck the bridge railing before plunging about 14m.

'Why did the Lord do this to us?'

Mother's grief after 52 drown

Wk Argus 7/9/84
KLAWER. — "I don't know why the Lord did this to us," a tearful Mrs Sophie Rossouw said, battling to accept the death of her son "Smitjie" who drove the lorry that plunged into Olifants River with 64 people on Wednesday.

Slumped in a chair on her stoep overlooking the family plot at Trawal, Mrs Rossouw's mournful figure summed up the grief in the region.

Namaqualand is in mourning. For the first time in many springs, the area's floral beauty is fading in the face of human tragedy.

In fact, many of the early spring daisies will be used next weekend on the graves and coffins of the 52 men, women and children who drowned at dusk. Only 12 survived.

Mr Smit Nieuwoudt Rossouw's death has broken his mother and placed a question mark over the prominent Namaqualand family's continued farming operations.

"I don't know why the Lord did this to us.

"Look at me, I'm finished. Eighteen months ago I lost my husband, and now it's 'Smitjie'."

"I feel so empty. All of us are shocked. The workers and we as farmers were very close to each other. This is a terrible loss."

The horror of labourers screaming for help will always haunt the Rossouw family — Mrs Rossouw's daughter-in-

By TYRONE SEALE
Weekend Argus
Reporter

was no one else to take care of them during the day.

Two of Mrs Rossouw's surviving four sons are studying in Cape Town and she doubts if they will cope with the family business.

"I think we'll have to sell up now," Mrs Rossouw said.

Harrowing tale

By yesterday, eight bodies had been recovered and shocked survivors were telling their harrowing tale over and over again to news teams and members of the close-knit farm labourer communities around the towns of Trawal, Klaver, Vredendal and Calvinia. And as they told their stories, the heroes and heroines of Wednesday's disaster emerged.

Waterworks labourer Mr Koos Arendse was on his way to church from his home on the bank of the Olifants River when he saw the Isuzu lorry zigzag along the narrow bridge as it was heading for Trawal.

The bridge, on the N7, is seven kilometres from Klaver which is 280km from Cape



Pictures: WILLIE DE KLERK, Weekend Argus
Mrs Sophie Rossouw and son Willem at their Trawal home.

clip
...er
...ifants
... will
... estab-
... which
... 200.
... to
Fund,
...
sent to
... which
... ni-

'Why did the Lord do this to us

Mother's grief after 52 drown

Wk Argus 7/9/89
KLAWER. — "I don't know why the Lord did this to us," a tearful Mrs Sophie Rossouw said, battling to accept the death of her son "Smitjie" who drove the lorry that plunged into Olifants River with 64 people on Wednesday.

Slumped in a chair on her stoep overlooking the family plot at Trawal, Mrs Rossouw's mournful figure summed up the grief in the region.

By TYRONE SEALE
Weekend Argus
Reporter

Namaqualand is in mourning for the first time in many springs, the area's floral beauty is fading in the face of human tragedy.

In fact, many of the early spring daisies will be used next weekend on the graves and coffins of the 52 men, women and children who drowned at dusk. Only 12 survived.

Mr Smit Nieuwoudt Rossouw's death has broken his mother and placed a question mark over the prominent Namaqualand family's continued farming operations.

"I don't know why the Lord did this to us.

"Look at me, I'm finished. Eighteen months ago I lost my husband, and now it's 'Smitjie'."

"I feel so empty. All of us are shocked. The workers and we as farmers were very close to each other. This is a terrible loss."

The horror of labourers screaming for help will always haunt the Rossouw family — Mrs Rossouw's daughter-in-law, Naomi, was on her way to the Uitkyk farm from which the lorry was returning when she saw it plunge into the Olifants.

Mrs Naomi Rossouw could not give interviews yesterday.

"Naomi shouted at one of the workers, Maria Stevens, that she should try to float, but we lost her," Mrs Rossouw senior said.

She said the family was considering selling some of the farms that make up Rossouw Boerdery which employed most of the disaster victims. Many of the women who died took their children to work with them every day as there

was no one else to take care of them during the day.

Two of Mrs Rossouw's surviving four sons are studying in Cape Town and she doubts if they will cope with the family business.

"I think we'll have to sell up now," Mrs Rossouw said.

Harrowing tale

By yesterday, eight bodies had been recovered and shocked survivors were telling their harrowing tale over and over again to news teams and members of the close-knit farm labourer communities around the towns of Trawal, Klawer, Vredendal and Calvinia. And as they told their stories, the heroes and heroines of Wednesday's disaster emerged.

Waterworks labourer Mr Koos Arendse was on his way to church from his home on the bank of the Olifants River when he saw the Isuzu lorry zigzag along the narrow bridge as it was heading for Trawal.

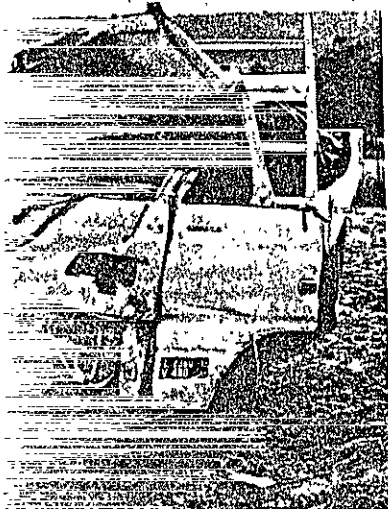
The bridge, on the N7, is seven kilometres from Klawer which is 280km from Cape Town.

"I don't know what went wrong but as it was coming towards me the lorry first hit the left rail of the bridge, and that impact seemed to send it crashing through the railing on the other side of the road," Mr Arendse said.

"Most of the people stayed on the back of the truck until it hit the water.

"They screamed terribly. Then there was silence for a few moments as they went under. When people came up again they were all shouting for help. I could make out the voices of men, women and children."

(Turn to page 4, col 4)



id, the Rossouws' lorry clearly
set with which it struck the
before plunging about 14m.



Mrs Sophie Rossouw and son Willem

Caltex gives R10 000 to Klawer Fund

By SHARKEY ISAACS
Staff Reporter

CALTEX South Africa has given R10 000 to The Argus Klawer Disaster Fund.

The cheque, the biggest so far, has sent the fund soaring to R13 512,50.

Mr Moegsien Harris, Caltex co-ordinator of social responsibility programmes, Western Cape, said: "Caltex is committed to a programme of helping educational, welfare training and advancement of disadvantaged communities.

KEus 14/9/87
"Our gift will help to bring some relief to those rural farm-worker families who have been hard hit by the tragic accident.

"There is no doubt when a tragedy like the lorry disaster hits a poor farming community like the one at Klawer then it affects us all.

"All of us feel deeply moved by the tragic loss of life and the bereavement suffered by the families."

He described the gift as "a small token to assist the families of all

those affected, including the survivors".

Accepting the cheque on behalf of the fund, the editor of the Argus, Mr Andrew Drysdale, said he hoped it would encourage other companies to contribute to the fund.

At least 40 people died last Wednesday when a lorry laden with rural contract workers, their relatives and a farmer crashed through safety railings on a bridge spanning the fast flowing Olifants River and plunged into the water near Klawer.

Only 12 half of the passengers, mostly women and children, were saved.

The fund was launched by The Argus with a gift of R1 000. An additional R200 was given by the community newspapers The Plainsman, Athlone News, Southern Mail and Northern Echo. Mail-room staff of The Argus also raised R245,50.

Yesterday gifts from 46 readers boosted the fund by R2 067.

People who want to contribute to the fund should send donations to: Klawer Disaster Fund, P O Box 15399, Vlaeberg 8018.

Final plans for Klaver mass burial

By SHARKEY ISAACS, Staff Reporter

FINAL arrangements are being made for the mass burial of at least half the victims of the tragic Olifants River lorry accident as readers swelled contributions to the Klaver Disaster Fund of The Argus to R17 128.50.

Among the latest gifts sent were R200 collected by 700 pupils at Strandfontein Primary School and a R1 000 cheque from the Standard Bank. The school's gift was handed over yesterday to the fund by pupils Dorian Morris and Nazreen Dannon.

Meanwhile, police have disclosed the accident last Wednesday claimed the lives of 53 people and not 40 as was at first believed. Only 12 of the passengers, mostly women and children, were saved.

The lorry, driven by a farmer and laden with rural contract workers and their relatives, crashed through safety railings on a bridge spanning the fast-flowing river. It plunged into the water.

Captain Hendrik Opperman, a police liaison officer, said it had been difficult to ascertain the death toll because the victims were seasonal farm workers and their families.

Police intensified their search this week with the help of two teams of divers and a helicopter. They discovered 11 more bodies yesterday which brought the number of victims retrieved to 34.

"We hope to locate the other 19 missing people with renewed efforts tomorrow," Captain Opperman said. Surveys among farm-workers in the area

KLAVER DISASTER FUND

have showed 17 of the victims came from Klaver, more than 20 from Calvina, three from Carnarvon, one from Pletberg, one from the Northern Cape, and two from Moorreesburg.

The Rev David Willemsse of the Ned Geref Sendingkerk, Klaver, yesterday said the town's "disaster committee" was making final arrangements for a mass burial on Sunday afternoon.

But the Rev James Frans of the Ned Geref Sendingkerk, Calvina, said it was not certain that funerals would be held in his town on Saturday because his colleague and co-priest, the Rev Adriaan Louw, was ill. The funerals might have to be postponed until early next week.

Latest contributions to the fund are

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Previously acknowledged: | R2 067.50 |
| Mr S Kalam of Mitchell's Plain | R10 000.00 |
| Calver Oil (SA) (Pty) Ltd | R10 000.00 |
| A V B Pactor | R1 200.00 |
| B B Hodgkiss | R300.00 |
| G H Kojie of Knysna | R25.00 |
| N R Smith | R1 000.00 |
| Standard Bank | R1 225.00 |
| P Groshefs of Lansdowne | R50.00 |
| E G Betsewirth of Bloubaergant | R5.00 |
| A Pensthor | R25.00 |
| P W Kallis of Table View | R10.00 |
| Ron Bell | R50.00 |
| E Foustmann | R20.00 |
| C T Kohn of Milnerton | R100.00 |
| M A Perfit of Somerset West | R20.00 |
| D C Law | R20.00 |
| W Louber of Mowbray | R10.00 |
| Ms E E Hoffman | R20.00 |
| O L C Shephard | R25.00 |
| T H Hampton of Table View | R15.00 |
| P A Carrey | R25.00 |
| E Ball of Table View | R100.00 |
| Ebenazer Ned Geref Sendingkerk | R50.00 |
| Miss Ann Kreitzer of Modville Point | R50.00 |
| G E I Roese | R10.00 |
| Anonymous | R10.00 |
| A Rother of Sea Point | R50.00 |
| Ms F E Russell of Durban | R20.00 |
| M J H Bestler of Thornton | R20.00 |
| D Grinwald | R30.00 |
| A James of Tokai | R10.00 |
| ER Nadder of Newlands | R2.00 |
| Anonymous | R70.00 |
| Mr and Mrs S Livesey of Athlone | R30.00 |
| R V Delschlander | R50.00 |
| Cecil and Thelma Skaines of Oorwater | R60.00 |
| R V Alexander | R20.00 |
| Mr Benjamin | R50.00 |
| D C Watson of Fresno | R25.00 |
| Boulevard Play Centre | R15.00 |
| Anonymous | R50.00 |
| Mr H Jankings of Plumstead | R50.00 |
| M Freeman | R25.00 |
| W R Marriot | R10.00 |
| O K Marrens of Keatland | R5.00 |
| A E Orantay of Oranjestad | R50.00 |
| R B Githen-Toung | R10.00 |
| P H Kojie of Somerset West | R40.00 |
| G S Cochin | R20.00 |
| D M Khera of Dine River | R50.00 |
| A M Grogan of Cape Town | R50.00 |
| E L Taitnes | R50.00 |
| Anonymous | R15.00 |
| R B Druzen | R30.00 |
| R E Chalkin of Langebaan | R20.00 |
| H Kojie of Geiterville | R200.00 |
| H Hornpool of Pinedlands | R100.00 |
| Anonymous | R100.00 |
| M G and D W Williams of Constantia | R100.00 |
| K D Feilchenfeld | R50.00 |
| C Appel of Estias River | R20.00 |
| J M Smuts of Constantia | R20.00 |
| Mitchell's Plain Primary School | R100.00 |
| Metropolitan Church Association | R50.00 |
| Miss D H Reid of Meedowridge | R10.00 |
| E K Siegas | R10.00 |
| Ms J M Schneebeger of Sea Point | R10.00 |
| Anonymous | R25.00 |
| Mrs Sheila van Blek of Bergvliet | R20.00 |
| A H Krauss-Mors of Hout Bay | R50.00 |
| Alice Mertens of Stellenbosch | R2.00 |
| J R Court of Bonteheuvel | R100.00 |
| Anonymous | R25.00 |
| P M Davey of Rondebosch | R18.00 |
| I Choritz of Sea Point | R50.00 |
| G P M Rulwal of Constantia | R10.00 |
| I Madland of Mowbray | R25.00 |
| Ms E Fish of Wynberg | R1 200.00 |
| The Argus | R17 128.50 |
| TOTAL | R17 128.50 |

Long row of timber crosses marks the resting place

ARGUS 18/7/87
 (4) (10)

By TYRONE SEALE
 Staff Reporter

A LONG row of simple timber crosses in the Calvinia cemetery marks the resting place of 23 of the town's residents who drowned in the Olifants River 12 days ago.

And in the Namaqualand town of Klawer, a mass grave holds another 12 of the 52 people who drowned when a lorry driven by Mr Smit Rossouw, 26, smashed through a railing on a bridge over the river and plunged into the strong current. Only 12 survived.

Mr Rossouw, a member of the prominent family which runs the farms where the victims worked, was buried separately in Klawer on Saturday.

The labourers, most of whom worked at Trawal more than an hour's drive from Calvinia, were starved of life's luxuries.

They worked up to 11 hours a day and earned very little. Mothers took their babies along to the vegetable fields and vineyards where they toiled, because there was no one to take care of them at home.

Knew suffering

They knew what it was to suffer and to share their meagre resources.

But this weekend, the compassion and charity of thousands of concerned South Africans provided a dignified final farewell for the Olifants River victims.

Numerous speakers at the Calvinia service on Saturday thanked contributors to the Klawer Disaster Fund for their concern.

The service was attended by more than 2 000 people who crowded into and leaned through the windows of the 1 500-seater Ned Geref Sendingkerk in the dusty Hantam town.

Among the mourners were the mayor of Calvinia, Mr Christie Rheeder, and his wife Viola.

"Our deepest sympathy goes to all who lost family and friends," Mr Rheeder said. "When we lay a wreath this afternoon, we want you to know it is a symbol of the sympathy of the entire community."

Father Chris Hendricks of the Klawer Anglican church said "Not only Calvinia and Klawer lost people in the Kranskop bridge disaster, but communities at Piketberg, Leipoldtville, Postberg and Carnarvon were also affected.

"(Memorial) services must still be held there."

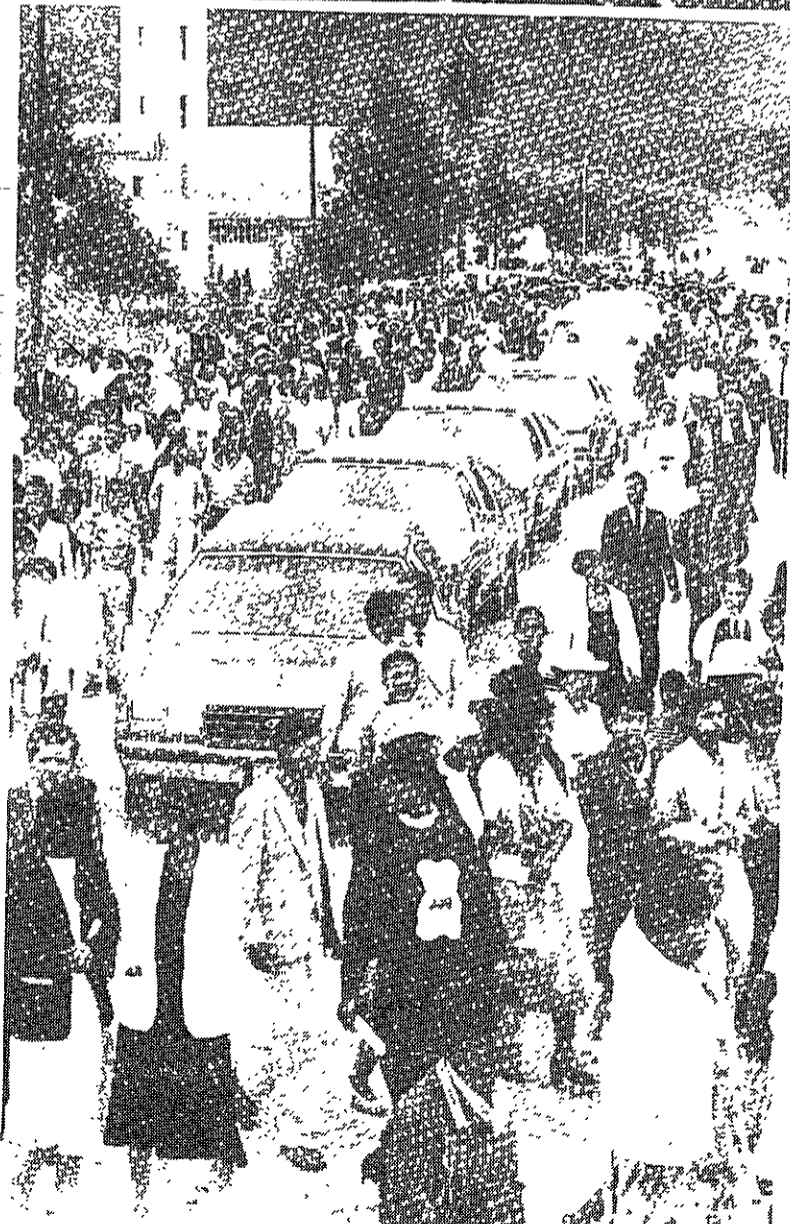
The Rev Attie Louw urged mourners to "hold on to your faith".

"More than 22 people have died in the floodwaters of the Olifants River. How do you hold on to the truth that is in Christ when your heart is broken over people who have been swept away by water and people whose bodies you can't even view?"



Pictures: DION TROMP, The Argus.

CASKET COLUMN: Undertakers, right, line up along the mass grave as church officials, in the foreground on the right, each take a handful of earth to scatter over the coffins.



TRADITIONAL PROCESSION: The procession leaves the Calvinia Ned Geref Sendingkerk for the nearby cemetery.

Klawer: Thousands at mass funerals

Staff Reporter

THOUSANDS of mourners attended the two mass funerals — one of them at Klawer and the other at Calvinia — which were held this weekend for 39 victims of the Olifants River lorry disaster.

Yesterday, 16 of the 39 were buried at the Karookop cemetery. The cemetery is near the Kransburg bridge, where the lorry driven by farmer Mr Smit Rossouw, with 64 labourers and children as passengers, plunged into the flooded Olifants River on Wednesday, September 6.

The Rev Chris Hendricks, the Anglican priest at Klawer, said hundreds of mourners attended the inter-denominational service conducted by the Rev Dawid Willemse. The service was held at the Klawer NG Sendingkerk.

Speakers at the service included Mr Chris April, MP in the House of Representatives; Mr L F Lategan, chairman of the Namaqualand Headmasters' Association, and the Rev D K Abrahams, regional chairman of the NG Sendingkerk.

Among those buried yesterday were eight pupils from the Karookop farm school. They were brothers Jan Karools, 13, and Jacob Karools, 10; Johanna Nansie, 12; Karelina Cloete, 15; Kathleen Cloete, 11; Lydia Abrahams, 8; Petrus Lewis, 14 and seven-year-old Jacqueline Lewis.

The mass burial at Calvinia, at which 23 of the victims, eight of them children, were buried, was held on Saturday. The funeral coincided with that of the driver, Mr Rossouw, which took place in Klawer.

More than 1 000 people attended the funeral service for the 23, which was held at the Calvinia NG Sendingkerk.

● Police liaison officer Captain Gys Boonzaaier said yesterday that although most of the bodies of the 53 people drowned in the disaster had been recovered, 11 were still missing.

He said the missing bodies were probably trapped under mud and thick tree branches.

A decision would be made today on how long the grim search for bodies will continue.

we were abused, say contract men

'SLAVES'

'We slept in stable next to horses'

(4) Sowetan 18/9/89
FLEE

FARM

THIRTY Mozambicans contracted to a Natal cotton farmer have claimed he sold them like "slaves."

They said he assaulted them, made them sleep next to horses in a stable and generally abused them.

Approached with the allegations yesterday, the farmer, told *Sowetan*: "What do you want from me? I have nothing to tell you and you can write anything about the matter. Then we will see what happens."

The men started working on the farm on June 29. The farmer fetched them from the Komatipoort border and they are contracted to him until next June.

According to their contracts, the workers were promised R75 a month which they allege was not paid. The farmer gave them only R55 a month, they claimed.

Bricks

The men said last week the farmer took them to Potchefstroom, "sold" them to a farmer who made them to do bricklaying work which was not in their contracts.

Speaking on behalf of his colleagues, Mr Antonio Simba (29) said: "We were made to sleep next to horses in a stable. The conditions were terrible and our meal was a mixture of cabbage and fat and porridge. We were frequently assaulted."

"On Tuesday two of us were beaten up and the other two who fell sick were left in the stable and not given medical attention," said Simba.

Simba and three other workers, Mr Orlando

• To page 2

By
**THEMBA
MOLEFE**



Sowetan 18/9/89
**'Slaves
flee
farm**

• From Page 4

Mbeza (30), Mr Joao Afandica (30) and Mr Chababe Selemane (25) said they were threatened with deportation after they "fled" the Potchefstroom farm to seek help.

"We were arrested and taken back. Van Eeden said we had breached our contracts," said Simba.

The four men again fled the farm and have reported the matter to the Mozambican Labour Department in Johannesburg. They are now looking for work elsewhere. Simba said they did not wish to return to Mozambique as there were no jobs there.

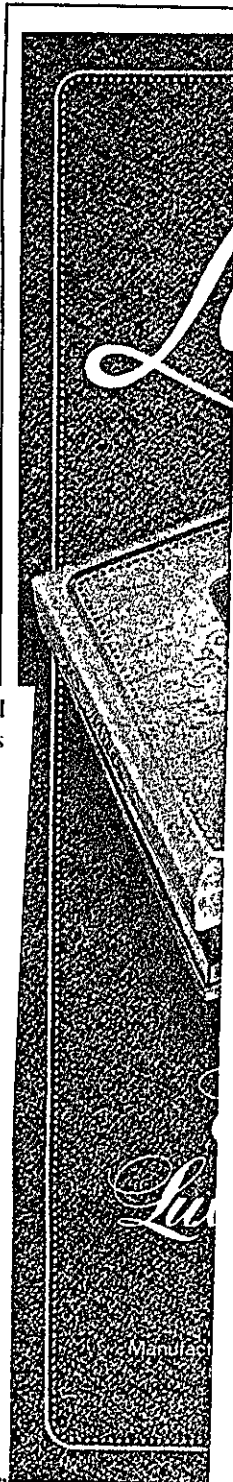
Van Eeden returned with the other 26 workers to Natal on Friday.

Simba alleged Van Eeden drove workers with a sjambok and patrolled the farm on horseback.

"He treats us like slaves and gives very little to eat," he said.

Some of the conditions stipulated in their contracts provide that the workers, besides getting their wages, are entitled to food, medical assistance and lodging supplied free for the duration of their contracts.

Their South African employer should pay their wages in cash and no illegal deductions should be made from their pay, according to the contract.



kwaZulu deports Mozambicans

Refugees exploited as cheap labour

By Helen Grange

Scores of Mozambican refugees being deported from kwaZulu are being picked up at the Komatipoort border by South African farmers who exploit them as cheap labour.

This is according to Operation Hunger's Mrs Ina Perlman, who said yesterday that kwaZulu's refusal to grant sanctuary to Mozambican refugees is leading to the most "ghastly" exploitation by farmers.

As refugees were identified by kwaZulu officials and taken to the border to be deported, they were being approached by farmers looking for labour.

Last week, 30 Mozambicans contracted to a Natal cotton

farmer claimed he sold them like "slaves" after assaulting and abusing them.

The men said they started working on the farm at the end of June, after the farmer fetched them from the Komatipoort border and "contracted" them until next June.

They were promised R75 a month, but received only R55 a month, they claimed.

The men said that last week, the farmer took them to Potchefstroom and "sold" them to a farmer to do bricklaying, a job not included in their contracts.

Said refugee Mr Antonio Simba: "We were made to sleep next to horses in a stable. Our meals were a mixture of cabbage, fat and porridge. We were frequently assaulted."

"Two of us were beaten up and the other two who fell sick were left in the stable and not given medical attention."

Mr Simba said he and the three other workers had fled the farm, but that the other 26 were taken back to Natal.

Mrs Perlman said that legally, Mozambican refugees could not be employed in South Africa. This was confirmed by a spokesman for the Department of Home Affairs, who said Mozambican citizens had to be contracted in Mozambique before they could enter South Africa.

Deported

However, many South African farmers were known to be employing Mozambican refugees illegally and there had been several reports of exploitation, according to Mrs Perlman.

"There was recently a case of a farmer near Mala employing Mozambican refugees, but just before they were to be paid, he contacted the authorities to have them deported.

"In kaNgwane (where sanctuary to refugees is granted), there many refugees are working for farmers, but the government has clamped down and there is now less of it," she said.

A fieldworker from the Environment and Development Agency, Mr Dan Mogale, said that in the eastern Transvaal, farmers picked up refugees from camps for cheap labour on citrus and tomato farms.

Mobil's R5 000 boosts

Klawer disaster fund

By SHARKEY ISAACS
Staff Reporter

AKU 5
19/9/89

A CHEQUE for R5 000 from the Mobil Foundation of South Africa has boosted the Klawer Disaster Fund of The Argus to more than R26 000.

Mr Phumlani Tyali, the foundation's community development manager, said he hoped the gift would bring temporary relief to families affected by the disaster.

The Olifants River lorry accident in which 53 people, including children, were killed had brought home the plight of rural farm workers and the disaster had also highlighted a seasonal farming system in which working parents and their families were ferried by lorry.

Mr Tyali said: "We also plan to visit the affected communities and discuss self-help projects with them to enable them to become economically independent."

"This is in accordance with the policy of the Mobil Foundation to help communities gain economic independence."

The fund, which at presents stands at R26 104,50 was launched by The Argus with a gift of R1 000. An additional R200 also has been given by the community newspapers, Plainsman, Athlone News, Southern Mail and Northern Echo.

People who would like to contribute to the fund should send their do-

nations to the Klawer Disaster Fund, Box 15399, Vlaeberg 8018.

The money will be sent to the Ned Gerel Sendingkerk which runs a fund to help communities in times of dire need.

The money is distributed on the advice of the Sendingkerk's regional welfare branches. The welfare number of the fund is F1 08 800167 000 4.

● See page 3.

Klawer disaster spotlights the plight of farm workers

By SHARKEY ISAACS, Staff Reporter ¹⁴ ~~17~~ ¹⁴ 20/9/89

THE need to focus attention on the plight of rural farm-working communities has been brought home by the tragic loss of life in the Klawer lorry disaster, says leading health and welfare expert, Dr Ebrahim Jarodien.

Dr Jarodien, chief director of the department of

health and welfare services in the administration of the House of Representatives, said this in an interview.

"Everyone has been so concerned at the large number of deaths that many fail to see the real tragedy is not the accident itself, but the plight of the disadvantaged rural farm-worker community," he said.

Surveys among farm workers in the Cape's hinterland had shown that many earned a meagre income of R25 a week during seasonal work.

He criticised some Cape farmers, particularly in the provincial hinterland, for not co-operating with the Rural Foundation which had also encouraged farmers to improve housing conditions for farm workers and their lot in general.

Farmer 'treated us like slaves'

A MOZAMBICAN refugee has added his voice to claims of slave labour in South Africa. *S Times 24/9/89*

Antonio Simba was one of four people repatriated this week. Another 26 simply vanished, said the Mozambican Consulate in Johannesburg.

They were first found in Skukusa by "an agent" who took them to a cotton farmer in northern Natal.

Mr Simba said: "The farmer said he wanted us to have a happy life and promised us basic food and proper accommodation if we worked hard.

"After two days, the farmer began to change. He assaulted us and said there was no way we could go back to our country.

"He had said he would pay us R75 a month, but we received only R55. For two months he paid us no wages.

"When we asked for money he beat us and used abusive language. We had to sleep in a stable with the horses."

By VICTOR KHUPISO

Operation Hunger spokesman Ina Perlman said Kwa-Zulu's refusal to grant refugees sanctuary was leading to "ghastly" exploitation by farmers.

Legally, refugees from Mozambique may not work in South Africa, Mrs Perlman said.

This was confirmed by an SA Home Affairs spokesman.

4 Flood

SA Government official Daniel Mogale said that in the Eastern Transvaal, farmers picked up refugees for cheap labour.

The Swaziland Government reported cases where refugees were being paid R3,34 a month.

● In Soweto, there have been reports linking the easy availability of AK-47 assault rifles to the flood of Mozambicans into Soweto.

Spec 25/9/89

Probe into union rights for farmworkers (4)

By Drew Forrest

A committee comprising Parliamentarians and organised agriculture has been set up to weigh the "sensitive" issue of trade union rights for farmworkers, the new Minister of Manpower, Mr Eli Louw, has announced.

Addressing a press conference in Pretoria last week, Mr Louw said the committee would enable interested parties to "negotiate and come forward with suggestions" on the issue.

PARAMOUNT

While he was willing to hear representations from any quarter, the views of those in the farming industry were paramount, Mr Louw said.

The exclusion of farmworkers from the Labour Relations Act is a major union complaint.

Mr Louw said he had appointed a private advocate to investigate the Industrial Court, but rejected suggestions that the court was in crisis.

Bank boosts fund by R10 000

Staff Reporters

ARR643 26/9/89 (4) 188
A DONATION of R10 000 has been made by First National Bank to The Argus Klawer Disaster Fund, swelling it to more than R43 000.

Regional general manager Mr Bob Wood, in handing over the cheque, extended the bank staff's sympathy to the families bereaved by the tragedy.

Readers have sent in a stream of donations ranging from R5 to large amounts.

The Mobil Foundation of South Africa has contributed R5 000 and Caltex R10 000.

The Argus launched the fund with R1 000 for the families of the accident victims.

An additional R200 has been given by community newspapers Plainsman, Athlone News, Southern Mail and Northern Echo.

People who would like to contribute should send their donations to: Klawer Disaster Fund, Box 15399, Vlaeberg 8018.

The money will be sent to the Ned Geref Sendingkerk which administers a fund that helps communities in times of dire need.

The church's regional welfare branches make recommendations about the distribution of the money. The welfare number of the fund is F1 08 800167 000 4.

Pupils raise R1 000 for Klawer Fund

By SHARKEY ISAACS
Staff Reporter

ACC 5
22/9/81
A GIFT of R1 000 raised by pupils at Stephen Road Primary School, Lotus River, has helped the Klawer Disaster Fund of The Argus to soar beyond the R30 000 mark today.

The money, collected within a week by pupils, swelled the fund to R30 510,50. They raised the money mainly from school collection lists and the proceeds of a debutante dance.

Headmaster Mr Kenneth Williams said their combined fund-raising efforts were "particularly" significant because about two thirds of the school's pupils came from under-privileged families.

"They know what difficulties and hardships face under-privileged families and were so moved by the Klawer lorry disaster that they approached me to issue them with collection lists. They also asked teachers to help them organise a debutante dance to raise money to help the families of victims of the accident."

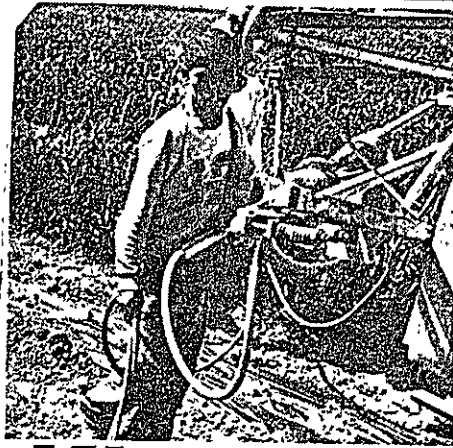
Among the other gifts sent this week were donations of R5 000 from the Mobil Foundation of South Africa, R750 from the Methodist Church of South Africa, Ottery, R616 from Paul Devereux and Staff, R200 from the Dove Club of Athlone, and R200 F A Smithers of Saldanha. Dozens of other readers sent smaller gifts from R5 to R100.

The Argus launched the fund to help the families of accident victims with a R1 000 cheque. An additional R200 has also been given by the community newspapers Plainsman, Athlone News, Southern Mail and Northern Echo.

People who would like to contribute to the fund should send their donations to the Klawer Disaster Fund, Box 15399, Vlaeberg (8018).

The money will be sent to the Ned Geref Sendingkerk which some time ago established a fund to help communities in times of dire need.

The Sendingkerk's regional welfare branches advise on the distribution of the money. The welfare number of the fund is F1 08 800167 000 4.



Klawer's shame

JOHANNES van Wyk, 14, works 11 hours a day for only R5 in the Namaqualand town of Klawer.

Child labour, child abuse, alcoholism and cheap labour is rife in Namaqualand towns, a SOUTH investigation has found.

The tragic accident in which 52 people were killed when a farm truck plunged over a bridge into the Olifants River three weeks ago has focused attention on the small town of Klawer.

Farmers in the area recruit child labour from impoverished towns and bring the children to plant and harvest their crops.

Johannes, pictured above, was recruited in Calvinia and his parents do not know his whereabouts.

Judy Lombard, 10, who was killed in the accident, was a labourer in the onion fields.

See page 8.

South 28/9-4/10/89

Out in the cold

South 28/9-4/10/89

FORMER workers on a Kraaifontein farm who have been fighting the rain and bitter winter weather with makeshift shelters for five months claim they have been evicted from their homes by a prominent medical doctor.

The workers claimed they and their children were evicted when Dr HMA Arnold bought the farm Klein Akker.

They had been assured by the previous owner that they would be allowed to stay on.

Dr Arnold, contacted for comment, vehemently denied all the allegations.

They claimed Arnold had first told them he was changing the policy of the previous owner and would not allow adults to live on the farm while working elsewhere.

Later their possessions were thrown over the vibracrete fence around the farm and they were ordered off.

They have since been braving the cold and rain under corrugated iron shelters leaning against the fence.

Animal feed

The houses are being used as barns to store feed for animals.

Workers initially kept on claimed

they were also recently told there was no work for them and their power and water supplies were disconnected.

These families also expect to be evicted soon.

The group claimed they and their children are continually terrorised by armed men who "chase the children and shoot into the air". The men also randomly "fire into the bushes" near the people.

Some of the families have lived on the farm for 16 years and they say they have "never been treated as badly as this".

Altogether seven families have been affected. Among the 15 children are several pupils, some at high school, who tried to study for exams while rain poured down on them.

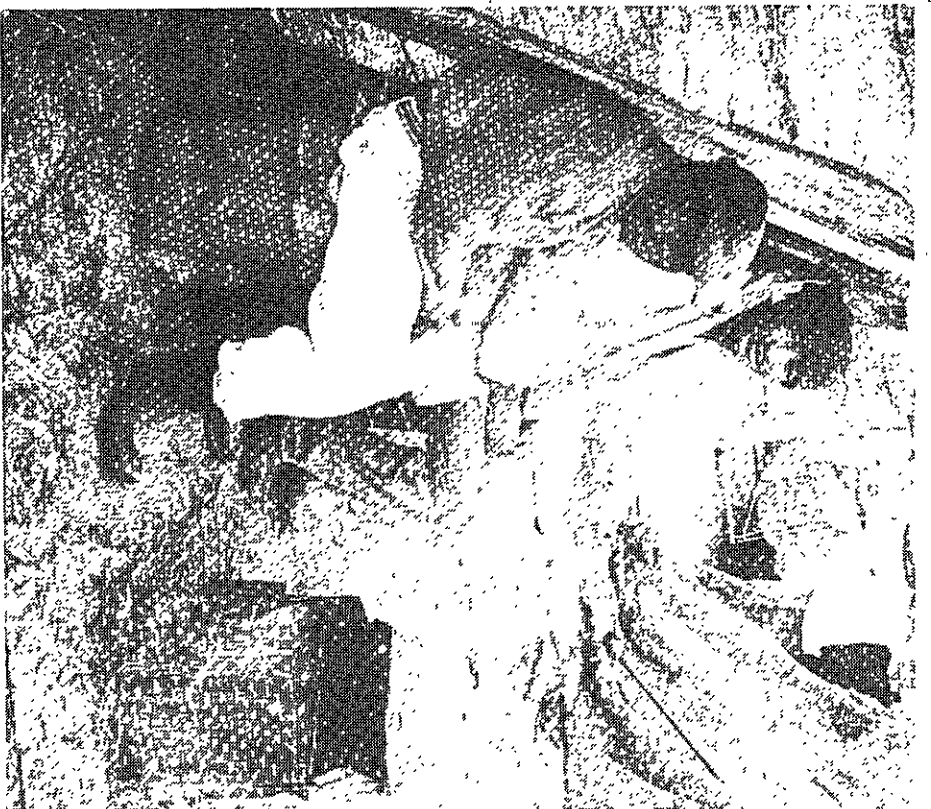
Fierce dogs

While some women remain at the camp to tend the children, others go off with the men daily to look for work. Except for the odd casual job, all remain unemployed.

The former workers say no farming is being done on the farm, which is patrolled by armed guards and fierce dogs.

Arnold vehemently denied the allegations and said he "seldom" visited the farm.

"I never asked anyone to go. The previous owner had in fact asked them to leave the farm," he said.



STRANDED: Some of the evicted workers outside their makeshift shelters

"I know of only two families who are still squatting near the farm. There's a law that controls squatting. It forbids these people from living there. Now if they're being told to leave, am I to blame for this?"

Arnold said he did not know who

the men were whom the families alleged were terrorising them. Workers alleged the men were Arnold's guards.

The stacks of workers still living on the farm was burnt under mysterious circumstances on Tuesday night.

New book slams wine farmers' 'dop' system

A BOOK by a South African author slamming the conditions under which many Cape wine farm labourers live and work was published in Britain this week.

Fruit of the Vine: The Human Cost of South African Wine is a glossy paperback filled with pictures taken by photographer Orde Eliason during a visit home two years ago.

Eliason, 32, was born and raised in Paarl. He says he's unhappy with the finished product — because it doesn't go far enough.

"I'm well aware that I face an unpleasant reception when I go back. But I would have preferred more attention to be given to conservative farmers — the ones who've made no effort.

"The further I got from Cape Town, the worse I found it."

On sale at about R28, the book criticises the "dop" (tot) system — the practice of giv-

By JEREMY BROOKS
London

ing workers daily liquor rations as a "fringe benefit".

Much of the research was undertaken by University of Cape Town lecturer Wilfried Scharf for a Master's thesis on the impact of alcohol on the Western Cape working class.

The book says the dop is "part of a process that keeps labour poor, disorganised and immobile".

"The dop keeps workers in a state of befuddled obedience."

The book was published by the Catholic Institute of International Relations, a 50-year-old charity that raises money for educational and development aid in Africa.

It is funded partly by public donations, the European Community and the UK Foreign Office's overseas

development aid programme.

Spokesman Stephen Gray said the book was already popular with anti-apartheid bodies who were buying up copies to support their boycott campaign.

"If any criticism can be levelled, it is that the book is slightly out of date — the figures refer to 1987," Gray said.

"But this has been a long, carefully planned and researched project.

"It is not entirely critical — progressive farmers who have made strides in trying to improve conditions on their farms have been singled out."

One such wine maker is former Springbok Boland Coetzee who has introduced a model housing scheme on his farm.

Shabby

Mr Coetzee believes, the book says, that "good conditions are crucial in labour performance".

Next to pictures of beautiful Cape scenery and harvest scenes are the shabby interiors of shacks in Simondium, Gondini and Zwelethemba.

Children without protective masks are shown spraying insecticides on to tomato plants.

An elderly couple, sitting in their bedroom with a candle on a jam tin for light, are photographed in the "feudal" conditions of the farm Klipdrif, near Gondini.

The book states legal measures in 1945 reduced the dop from three bottles to just over a bottle daily.

But researchers who visited 18 farms found that 13 exceeded the legal limit — and none had abolished the system.

Argus's Klawer Disaster Fund tops R70 000

By SHARKEY ISAACS
Staff Reporter

M6 us
6/10/89
(4)

A GIFT of R5 000 from the Foschini Group has boosted the Klawer Disaster Fund of The Argus beyond the R70 000 mark.

The cheque from the clothing and jewellery retail chain has swelled the fund from R65 134,70 to R70 134,70 in 24 hours.

Reserves were further boosted yesterday to R71 685,00 by a gift of R500 from the Look Alive Boutique (Pty) Ltd and a contribution of R1 185 from the Springbok Toeriste Forum.

The Argus launched the fund to help the families of 53 farm workers who died when the lorry in which they were travelling crashed through safety railings and plunged into the Olifants River near the small Namaqualand town of Klawer on September 6.

In addition to a few large contributions from corporations, the fund has been boosted by a steady stream of smaller gifts from small businesses, school pupils, parents, churches, institutions and individuals.

All contributions, however small, bring a measure of relief to the suf-

fering and hardship of the bereaved families.

People who would like to contribute to the fund should send their donations to the Klawer Disaster Fund, Box 15399, Vlaeberg (8018).

The money will be sent to the Ned Geref Sendingkerk which some time ago established a fund to help communities in times of dire need.

The money is distributed on the advice of the Sendingkerk's regional welfare branches. The welfare number of the fund is F1 08 800167 000 4.

● See page 5.

40 feared drowned as lorry plunges into flooded river

From DON HOLLIDAY
Staff Reporter

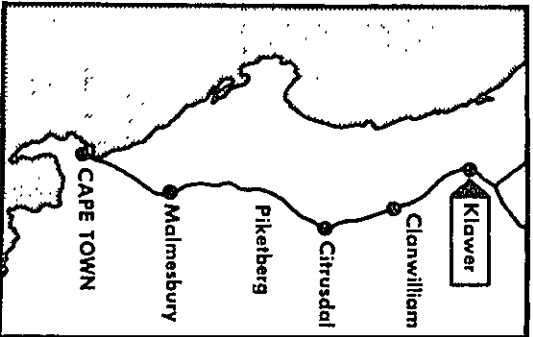
KLAWER. — More than 40 people — many of them women and children — are missing and feared drowned after a three-ton lorry in which they were travelling burst through the concrete railing of a bridge over the flooded Olifants River near here last night and landed in the water.

They were mostly contract farm workers from Calvinia, employed on Uitkyk farm.

The lorry was taking them back to their homes on Trawal farm.

A register showed there were 53 people on the truck. Only 10 were saved.

The lorry was driven by farmer Mr Smit Rossouw of Rossouw Boerdery. As the lorry crossed the bridge it crashed through the right-hand



railing and plunged into the river, which is at its highest level of the year. The Klawer police were first

47
1/11/89
Kl's

on the scene and emergency services units from Moorreesburg and Cape Town were called.

A search using floodlights continued until late last night but had to be aborted because of bad visibility on the strong flowing river.

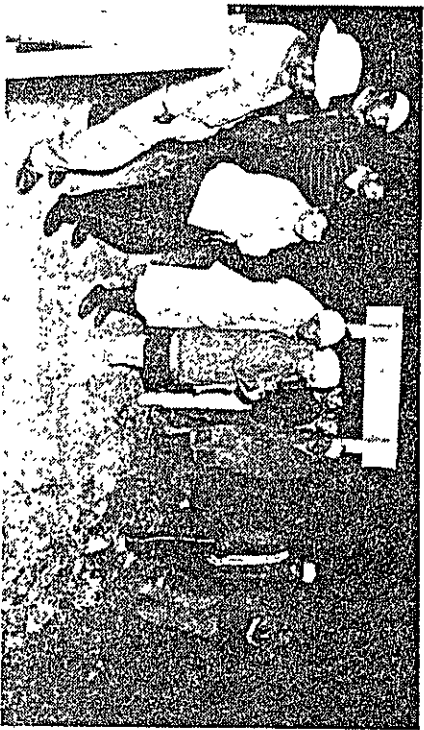
Divers took to the water again at 8am today.

Clothing was found caught in trees in the river.

Detective Warrant Officer H A van Langejaar said there were about 10 children under the age of 10, about 20 men, including Mr Rossouw, and about nine women still missing.

Six of the survivors were taken to Vredendal Hospital. People at the scene today said the lorry had started its journey from a side road only 150m from the bridge.

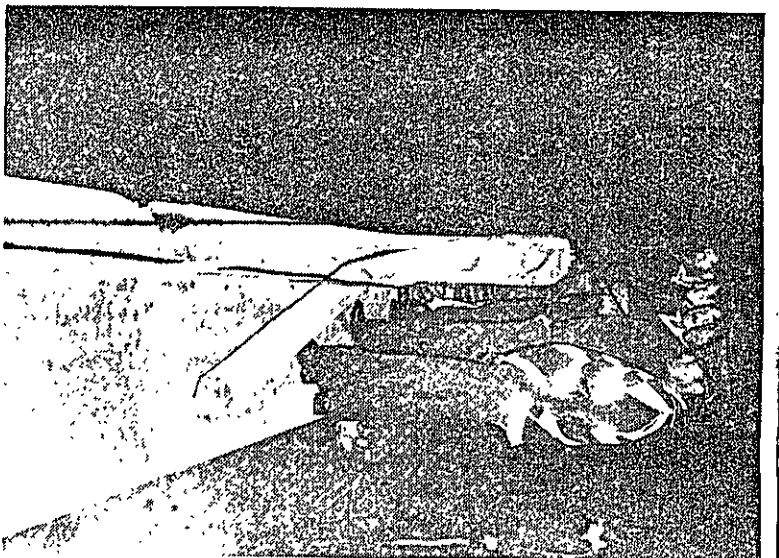
● See page 2.



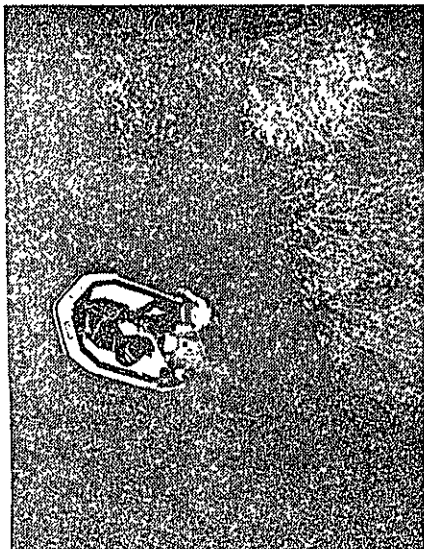
DEATH PLUNGE: Concerned policemen, above right, stand at the broken rail on the bridge over the Olifants River near Klawer where the lorry went out of control.

Right: Metro rescue workers in an inflatable boat drag the river.

Left: Anxious survivors wait on the bank for news of their companions. More than 40 people are feared drowned.



Pictures: DION TROMP
The Argus



Forestry industry plans vast expansion

South Africa's forestry industry has the potential to double its present plantation area, construct up to 21 new processing plants and create 150 000 new jobs over the next 30 years, according to the second strategic forestry development plan released in Pretoria.

The plan was compiled by the senior forest scientist at the Department of Environment Affairs, Dr Dick van der Zel, in collaboration with the Forestry Council's Planning Committee.

Dr van der Zel estimates that demand for roundwood timber will increase by an average 2,5 percent a year until the year 2010 to about 29,3 million cubic metres.

PRIORITY

The report urges forestry strategists to plan for an expansion of 35 000 ha a year.

Thirteen priority development areas are identified: four of them in Natal, three in the Eastern Transvaal, two in the Eastern Cape and one each in Swaziland, Transkei, Venda and the Western Cape.

It is estimated that an additional 1 132 500 ha of forests could be established in these catchment areas without exceeding existing runoff limits or prejudicing other agricultural operations.

EMPLOYMENT

This afforestation will create 56 625 permanent employment opportunities, plus roughly the same number of jobs in wood processing industries, with multiplied effects in other sectors.

The net effect would be to produce an additional 158 000 new jobs. — Sapa.

5 Feb 11/10/89

Farmers must be 'ready for the new South Africa'

9643 18/10/89



Staff Reporter

A CONSTITUTION for a new South Africa could be an economic and emotional disaster for farmers unless they took part in the debate when land issues were discussed.

This warning came from the outgoing president of the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU), Mr Kobus Jooste, at the opening of the 85th congress of the union in Sea Point last night.

Mr Jooste, who has served organised agriculture for the past 39 years, said land was the farmer's most precious possession and was a big emotional issue in Africa.

He said this was already true in Namibia and unless the problem was correctly handled from

the start, South African farmers would be on a collision course.

"Farmers must take part in the debate when land issues are discussed. Let us make sure we are ready for that day — it may come sooner than we think," he warned.

Mr Jooste said he knew farmers were willing to help President De Klerk in the creation of the new South Africa.

A good base for the future had been laid with the creation of a strategic plan for healthy agricultural development.

He warned that the welfare of farm workers would also be influenced by political developments.

About 5-million people lived on

farms but only about 1½-million were economically active.

There was a continuous struggle to get money from government to help build housing on farms.

But he warned that unless the State contributed to housing, farmers in their own interests and the interests of agriculture would have to remove more than half of the unproductive people from their farms. Those that remained would have to be more productive.

Farmers in the new South Africa would have to accept that farm labour could not be treated differently from other labour and agriculture could not continue to be excluded from the labour Acts, Mr Jooste said.

Subsidy as farm housing becomes part of overall plan

By GRAHAM LIZAMORE
Staff Reporter

HOUSING for farm workers and their families is to come into overall planning for housing in South Africa in future, Agriculture Minister Mr Jacob de Villiers has announced.

Speaking on the final day of the South African Agricultural Union congress in Sea Point, Mr De Villiers said President De Klerk had given an undertaking to farmers when he opened the congress on Tuesday night that he would be looking into housing.

Mr De Villiers said the government had now decided that in principle planning housing for farm workers and their families would form part of the total housing strategy for South Africa.

It was envisaged that the adjusted scheme would be administered in the same way as in the past, by respective departments of agriculture (own affairs administrations).

SIMPLIFIED

However, the application of the scheme would be considerably simplified and entail a non-recurring capital subsidy to *bona fide* farmers for the construction of housing.

This would eliminate the registration of bonds, he said.

It was also possible that simplified building standards would be developed for rural areas with a view to affordability.

Particulars of the scheme, as well as requests from the South African Agricultural Union,

were being given urgent attention.

He expected the funds to be available in 1990/91.

A spokesman for the South African Agricultural Union, Mr Gerrie Smit, said farmers would welcome the news because they had been under considerable financial pressure in ensuring proper housing for their workers.

'Many farmers exploit refugees'

By Winnie Graham

Relief workers assisting starving Mozambicans who arrive in Gazankulu and kaNgwane have confirmed that South African farmers exploit the jobless and desperate refugees.

Three sources in the two Eastern Transvaal homelands say they have been told of many instances where farmers recruit labour "only to call in the army just before pay day to prevent payment of wages".

Father Angelo Matordes, a Catholic priest who works among the refugees, says they do not have permission to work in the homelands or in SA. When they are offered work, however, they snatch at the opportunity — but have no comeback when things go wrong. Refugees do not complain because they are afraid of repatriation.

DESPERATE TO FIND WORK

"Farmers are not allowed to employ Mozambicans," he says. "If they are caught, they can be fined R1 000. However, there is no known case of a farmer being prosecuted."

Mr Sam Nzima, a former photographer and now a prominent figure doing refugee work in Gazankulu, says refugees know they are not allowed to work in SA or the homelands but are so desperate that they take any job they can find.

"We know of a Brits farmer who collected refugees in the Eastern Transvaal to work on his farm and, at the end of the second month, called the police to remove 'illegal migrants'," he says.

Jan 22/1987
"They were repatriated to Mozambique and the farmer got two months' free labour."

The refugees are subject to exploitation because they have no unions to determine their rights or wages, says Mr Nzima.

A Kiepersol farmer, he adds, employed a group of refugees to pick bananas, offering them R2,50 each a day. They accepted the offer because it was better than nothing — yet even in job-creation projects in Gazankulu, people earn a minimum of R5 to R7 a day.

Mr Nzima says the refugees are often not willing to lodge complaints because they are afraid of being detected and repatriated to Mozambique, where it is difficult to find food.

Mr Claude Mahoudeau, a representative of the French medical organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres, which is helping to develop an assistance programme for the refugees in kaNgwane, says there are many stories of farmers "informing the Defence Force of the presence of refugees on their properties". The reports, however, usually follow after the men's usefulness has ceased.

"They are repatriated before receiving their wages," he says.

Mr Mahoudeau fears that refugees are becoming a political tool. "On the one hand the refugees are proof to the black population that Mozambique made the wrong political choice, and on the other, they have become the scapegoat to be exploited by the white population."

SA farm-workers' quality of life 'improved'

By GRAHAM LIZAMORE, Staff Reporter

FARMERS spent more than R23-million on housing for their workers last year and had rapidly increased the standard of living conditions for workers and their dependents in recent years.

This is the view of Mr Herman Bailey, spokesman for the Rural Foundation which represents almost 3 500 farms countrywide and more than a thousand farms in the Western Cape.

The Rural Foundation was founded in 1982 in response to a call by farmers to promote the quality of life and living standards of about seven million people on farms in South Africa.

Mr Bailey said the new generation of younger farmers did not deserve the criticism that was often levelled at the industry.

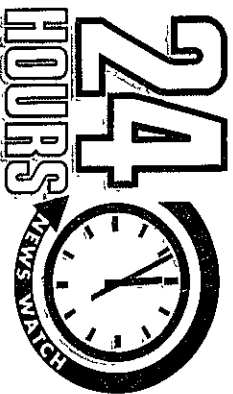
He was reacting to a book published in London recently which says the Cape's wine farm labourers have little to separate them from their slave predecessors and are still bound to farmers by the "dop" system which keeps them in a state of befuddled subservience, without basic rights, eking out a miserable existence under the total authority of the farmer.

Fruit of the Vine: the human cost of South African wine hits out at the chasm that it says exists between the opulence of the winefords and the insecurity and poverty of their labourers.

This view is, however, strongly denied by at least two groups involved with the wine industry — the Rural Foundation, based in Stellenbosch, and the KWV which processes most of the grapes produced by wine farmers in the Cape.

Mr Bailey, who has been studying labour conditions on farms for the past 15 years, claimed the book was out of

**Allegations
in book
on wine
labourers
challenged**



"This might have been true at one time but definitely not now," he said.

A spokesman for the KWV also insisted that the information used in the book was drawn from a few farms and was out of date.

The authors claim the "dop" or wine ration is one of the most destructive labour practices in South Africa today and has resulted in a wine-land workforce that is riddled with alcoholism, and all of its accompanying evils.

"Though most wine farmers earn huge profits most farms pay poverty wages — malnutrition is widespread, health care is minimal, farm housing is usually overcrowded and unhygienic. The incidence of tuberculosis is twice the national average," the booklet claims.

The infant mortality rate among farm labourers is 50 percent higher than the average for "coloureds", and three times higher than for "whites".

Child labour is common; farm schools are rudimentary and it is almost impossible for children to progress beyond primary level, the booklet claims.

The authors do, however, concede that the younger, better educated farmers have improved pay and living conditions for their workforce.

Many of these farmers have abolished the "dop". They quote farmers like former Springbok rugby player Boland Coetzee who believes

that good conditions are crucial in labour performance.

A former wine farmer, who now supplies agricultural products to the wine farms, said he believed the basis for criticism still existed, particularly as one moved further from the Western Cape.

The businessman, who asked not to be named, said conditions similar to those quoted in the booklet could still be found on a few farms in the Montagu, Swellendam, Worcester and Robertson areas.

"Those farmers guilty of ill-treating their labourers are almost always bad farmers who shouldn't be farming," he said.

This view is shared by Mr Bailey, but he added that since 1984 there had been rapid changes in employer attitudes and recent surveys had shown that there had been considerable improvement in living conditions among farm workers.

In 1987 55,4 percent of farms associated with the Rural Foundation throughout South Africa used the tot system. In 1989 this figure had dropped to 13,9 percent.

However, in the Western Cape, out of 1 035 farms, 334 or 33,2 percent still used the tot system, he said. But this was often because it was still part of a tradition going back to the arrival of the Huguenots.

Mr Bailey said the average age of farmers was falling all the time and they were quick-

ly moving into a new age where stable and productive workforces were very important.

"There is no place in today's high-tech agricultural environment for archaic labour practices and conditions," he said.

He said that while there were farmers who did abuse workers, they were very much in the minority.

He said the Rural Foundation had a waiting list of more than 2 000 farmers who were prepared to pay to have the foundation assist them with labour relations on their farms.

A recent Argus investigation showed that many farmers were now investing in their staff and were spending huge amounts on housing, in spite of little or no subsidy support from the government.

In April this year the Deputy Minister of Health and Population Development, Mr Lewellyn Landers, said in parliament that South Africa's farm workers were no better off than slaves and were open to exploitation with the tacit approval of the government.

Mr Landers said farm workers had no access to industrial courts and had no means of seeking redress for unfair labour practice.

He said farmworkers were excluded from the benefits of the Unemployment Act, Wage Act and the Labour Relations Act. Workers were also excluded from the Basic Conditions of Employment Act which meant that no "minimum" conditions of employment needed to be laid down.

This meant, he said, that farm workers were in terms of the law, not entitled to sick leave, overtime and holidays.

"In a nutshell the farm worker finds himself in the position of serf, at the mercy of the Minister of Manpower and South Africa's white farmer," he said.



Agricultural workers excluded from four basic labour laws

Staff Reporter

FARM workers were excluded from four of the eight basic laws governing labour in South Africa, resulting sometimes in worker abuse and adverse publicity for the agricultural sector, according to an expert in labour relations.

Mr Herman Bailey, a spokesman for the Rural Foundation representing almost 3500 farms throughout South Africa and over a thousand in the Cape, said farm workers were excluded from the Labour Relations Act, the Unemployment Insurance Act, the Wage Act and the Basic Conditions of Employment Act.

They did however fall under the Workman's Compensation Act, the Manpower

Training Act, the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act and the Guidance and Placement Act.

The outgoing president of the South African Agricultural Union warned farmers that they would have to accept that farm labour could not be treated differently from other labour.

He said agriculture would have to be included in the Labour Relations Act.

However, according to Mr Bailey, despite exclusion from the various labour acts, farmers had made tremendous strides in improving the socio-economic conditions of their workers.

He pointed out that while the government allocated R800-million on urban housing last year, farmers received a paltry R10-million

subsidy for housing. This year the subsidy had been cut completely, he said.

Studies on 1035 farms in the Western Cape showed that many farmers had outlawed the "dop" system and were using "progressive" farm management techniques for labour relations.

Mr Bailey said unemployment had decreased and farm workers' wages in the Western Cape had increased by about 22 percent per year over the past three years.

The infant mortality rate had decreased from 145/1 000 in 1986 to 73/1 000 in 1988 and teenage pregnancies had also fallen.

Mr Bailey said there was a tremendous demand from farmers, especially the younger ones, for guidance on labour relations.

A WEEKLY MAIL INVESTIGATION REVEALS THAT FARM LABOUR ABUSES CONTINUE...

Need cheap labour? Hire a convict — at R1,05 a day

By M. M. M. 27110 - 211189

THE prison labour system — in which convicts are "sold" as workers for as little as R1,05 a day — is still operating, despite a government announcement three years ago that it was being phased out because it violated international trade agreements.

A *Weekly Mail* investigation has found that this form of forced labour is widely used on farms in the Transvaal and Natal, as well as on gold mines and saw mills in the Barberton district of the Eastern Transvaal.

The system — known to inmates as "ukuthenga amabhandini" (the buying of bandits) — allows farmers and industrialists to employ prisoners for unskilled work for R28 a month.

Former prisoners report that the system exposes the convict labourers to maltreatment. *Weekly Mail* has statements from former convicts who claim to have suffered extreme forms of abuse, including systematic beatings and assaults.

The Department of Prisons announced in June 1986 that a similar scheme that had been used on the farms since 1940 would be phased out, mainly because of a chronic protest from abroad.

The use of convict labour on farms — a controversial practice which allegedly ceased several years ago — continues. And in some cases, prisoners are brutally treated by farmers.

By EDIE KOCH and MUSA ZONDI

in the morning and returned in the afternoon.

The second method uses short-term prisoners who are put on parole on condition that they work for a local farmer. The minimum wage, paid to the labourers rather than prisons, is R1,05 a day. The farmer must feed and clothe the prisoners.

Employers must take prisoners for the full length of their parole period, which can vary from a few weeks to six months. Availability depends on the number of prisoners due for parole.

Local warders said it was possible to hire prisoners but that demand from farmers and state departments was so high that there was a waiting list for "dalies".

At the Nelspruit Prison, a Sergeant Spath told us they were able to supply labour to private employers only over weekends because provincial authorities were using the supply of available convicts.

Warders at the Barberton prison said all their "dalies" were fully booked by local farmers for the next two weeks.

Under the "daily" system, employers become acting warders for the period they use prison labour and can be fined if negligence on their part allows prisoners to flee. But warders say the prison authorities accept that convicts use the scheme as an opportunity to escape and employers are seldom prosecuted.

Under the parole system, employers do not have to sign up as warders. However if a parolee attempts to escape or is insubordinate, he can be sent back to jail. This exposes the prison labourer to maltreatment.

Farm workers from the Potchefstroom area say prison workers on their farm in 1987 were seldom paid as they were given food from the farm and the cost of this was then deducted from their "wages".

Warders at Nelspruit and Barberton said it was common for prisoners on parole to escape. However most had only a short stretch of their sentence to complete and this reduced their temptation to escape. Farmers are not responsible if parolees escape but must report the event to the prison authorities, who issue a warrant.

The Prisons Act and prison regulation still make provision for prison and parole labour. Although the government announced in 1986 that it intended to phase-out the system, no legislative action was taken.

A hand-out provided to employers at the Barberton prison states that convicts may not be used for skilled work or jobs governed by minimum wages and clauses in the Minimum Conditions of Employment Act. Convicts are specifically excluded from being used in construction work.

Prisoners must under no circumstances be left in the care of women, the hand-out says. Employers must take measures to ensure that convicts do not escape. It is forbidden to give convicts money or other valuable items, except tobacco and matches.

Prisoners are not allowed to be sent on errands or to the toilet one-by-one as a number of escapes have taken place through these methods," the document says. "Rather take the whole team at a stipulated time or times to the toilet. Every prisoner that wants to use the toilet must be regarded as a potential fugitive."

However there is no provision in the document for workplaces to be inspected by prisons officials and it is clear that little is done to ensure that these rules are implemented on farms. Regulations that govern the use of prison labour also appear to vary from region to region. The *Weekly Mail* was told by a farmer in southern Natal that he could obtain inmates as little as 50c a day.

Prison officials had told him that the aim of the scheme was to offset some of the costs of running the jails which are estimated to be in the region of R16 a prisoner per day.

Inmates are not allowed to work in hazardous places or come into contact with dangerous animals. Prisoners are not allowed to carry heavy sacks on their heads.

BARBERTON, A TOWN THAT RUNS ON PRISON LABOUR

THE Weekly Mail this week visited Barberton to investigate reports that the prison town and its surrounding farms and sawmills still thrive on the use of convict labour.

Along the way we picked up an old man and his wife who need a lift into town. He was a retired prison warden and told us how the system works.

"You see that gold mine," he said. "It's the Carson Mine, owned by Anglovaal. I used to take gangs from the prison there, especially in the summer when the workers go home to their villages to prepare their fields for planting. The Agnes mine also uses bandits to work on top of the mine. They still do it. In fact everybody here uses bandits."

Barberton itself is made up of a hotel, a cluster of shops that sell to tourists attracted by the town's gold-mine folklore, the prison and a suburb that houses its white warders.

A drive through its streets verified the old man's notion that the political economy of the region is geared to the use of convict labour.

Black men in green prison overalls could be seen working in the suburban gardens and the grounds of the local high school. A gang of convicts cleared weeds on the other side of the golf course fence. Prisoners marched in lines through the streets of the town accompanied by warders.

To get to the prison farm we drove along a road flanked with bougainvillea and barbed wire fencing. A white sergeant supervising two labourers responded to our request for information about how to hire prison labour. "Go back to the main prison in town," he said. "I think it costs about R1 a day. You must swear yourself in as a temporary warden and they will give you the boys you want."

We expressed some reservations. "What kinds of criminals will we get and what if they escape?"

"Don't worry, man. We only hire out those with short-term sentences. They are mostly vagrants and people arrested for minor offences like being around drunk on the streets or stealing something from a shop," he said.

"Usually they don't want to run away because they have got a short time to go. But some do escape. If one of them does, then all you have to do is round the others up and phone the prison and they will sort things out."

Back at the main prison block in town a warden explained the formalities of obtaining a gang of convicts.

But demand is at a peak "because all the farmers around here want them" and supply is restricted to three convicts a day for private individuals. The rate is R1,40 a day per prisoner and they must be collected at 6am and returned by 4pm. On Saturdays the prisoners must be back by R1,10.

The Lomati Mill stands on the outskirts of the town. On its premises, three men in prison garb worked with wheelbarrows, spades and picks.

A member of the gang explained how inmates are divided into A and B groups: A is for those with sentences between three and 18 months and B is for those who are in for 18 months

After breakfast men in these categories will be sent out to work on the mines, saw mills and schools.

Workers leave the prison at 6am so they can begin work by seven. They are given unskilled jobs that include planting, weeding and gardening.

At 2.30pm the company takes them back to the prison where they are given supper before being locked up.

In 1983 the Barberton prison was at the centre of controversy after 10 prisoners had been killed within 10 months and scores injured when they were beaten by warders while tending loaded wheelbarrows loaded with peat.

Although conditions appear to have improved since three warders were convicted in the "heat exhaustion trial" and jailed for assault, the prison is still used as a penal centre for rebellious inmates and is feared among convicts for its stringent discipline.

Mail 27/10-2/11/83
17
18
19

A WEEKLY MAIL INVESTIGATION REVEALS THAT FARM LABOUR ABUSES CONTINUE...

Need cheap labour? Hire a convict — at R1,05 a day

W. Mail 27/10 - 2/11/89

THE prison labour system — in which convicts are "sold" as workers for as little as R1,05 a day — is still operating, despite a government announcement three years ago that it was being phased out because it violated international trade agreements.

A *Weekly Mail* investigation has found that this form of forced labour is widely used on farms in the Transvaal and Natal, as well as on gold mines and saw mills in the Barberton district of the Eastern Transvaal.

The system — known to inmates as "ukuhenga amabhekini" (the buying of handis) — allows farmers and industrialists to employ prisoners for unskilled work for R28 a month.

Former prisoners report that the system exposes the convict labourers to maltreatment. *Weekly Mail* has statements from former convicts who claim to have suffered extreme forms of abuse, including systematic beatings and assaults.

The Department of Prisons announced in June 1986 that a similar scheme that had been used on the farms since 1940 would be phased out, mainly because of a chorus of protest from abroad.

At the time, Norway, Sweden and Ireland accused South African farmers of employing "slave labour" and indicated they would use the issue to press for a boycott of South African produce. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), to which South Africa is a signatory, outlaws

the use of prison labour on farms.

Our investigation has established that gold mines, timber mills and local industrialists in the Barberton district "buy" labour from the local prison for R1,40 a day (R28 a month) — especially in summer when migrant workers leave to plough their own village fields.

Local municipalities and provincial administration departments also use prison labour in a number of Transvaal plateau towns.

These practices are widespread in Natal and the Transvaal. Farmers and labourers from Bethal, Barberton, Potchefstroom, Standerton and Kokstad confirm that the system operates in their areas.

There are two methods for farmers and other employers to hire prison labour.

Inmates can be obtained direct from the prisons at a cost of R1,40 a day per person. Employers are sworn-in as temporary wardens and the fee is paid direct to the prison authorities.

The prisoners themselves are not paid. The convict team must be collected

The use of convict labour on farms — a controversial practice which allegedly ceased several years ago — continues. And in some cases, prisoners are brutally treated by farmers
By EDDIE KOCH and MUSA ZONDI

in the morning and returned in the afternoon.

The second method uses short-term prisoners who are put on parole on condition that they work for a local farmer. The minimum wage, paid to the labourers rather than prisons, is R1,05 a day. The farmer must feed and clothe the prisoners.

Employers must take prisoners for the full length of their parole period, which can vary from a few weeks to six months.

Availability depends on the number of prisoners due for parole.

This week the *Weekly Mail* visited prisons in Nelspruit and Barberton to "buy" a team of inmates for a few

days. Local warders said it was possible to hire prisoners but that demand from farmers and state departments was so high that there was a waiting list for "dailies".

At the Nelspruit Prison, a Sergeant Spath told us they were able to supply labour to private employers only over weekends because provincial authorities were using the supply of available convicts.

Warders at the Barberton prison said all their "dailies" were fully booked by local farmers for the next two weeks.

Under the "daily" system, employers become acting warders for the period they use prison labour and can be fined if negligence on their part allows prisoners to flee. But warders say the prison authorities accept that convicts use the scheme as an opportunity to escape and employers are seldom prosecuted.

Under the parole system, employers do not have to sign up as warders. However if a parolee attempts to escape or is insubordinate, he can be sent back to jail. This exposes the

prison labourer to maltreatment.

Farm workers from the Potchefstroom area say prison workers on their farm in 1987 were seldom paid as they were given food from the farm and the cost of this was then deducted from their "wages".

Warders at Nelspruit and Barberton said it was common for prisoners on parole to escape. However most had only a short stretch of their sentence to complete and this reduced their temptation to escape. Farmers are not responsible if parolees escape but must report the event to the prison authorities, who issue a warrant.

The Prisons Act and prison regulation still make provision for prison and parole labour. Although the government announced in 1986 that it intended to phase-out the system, no legislative action was taken.

A hand-out provided to employers at the Barberton prison states that convicts may not be used for skilled work or jobs governed by minimum wages and clauses in the Minimum Conditions of Employment Act. Convicts are specifically excluded from being used in construction work.

Prisoners must under no circumstances be left in the care of women, the hand-out says. Employers must take measures to ensure that convicts do not escape. It is forbidden to give convicts money or other valuable items, except tobacco and matches.

"Prisoners are not allowed to be sent on errands or to the toilet one-by-one as a number of escapes have taken place through these methods," the document says. "Rather take the whole team at a stipulated time or times to the toilet. Every prisoner that wants to use the toilet must be regarded as a potential fugitive."

The document lays down basic rules to ensure the safety of convict labourers and stipulates that they may not be assaulted.

Inmates are not allowed to work in hazardous places or come into contact with dangerous animals. Prisoners are not allowed to carry heavy sacks on their heads.

However there is no provision in the document for workplaces to be inspected by prisons officials and it is clear that little is done to ensure that these rules are implemented on farms. Regulations that govern the use of prison labour also appear to vary from region to region. The *Weekly Mail* was told by a farmer in south-east Natal that he could obtain inmates as little as 50c a day.

Prison officials had told him that the aim of the scheme was to offset some of the costs of running the jails — which are estimated to be in the region of R16 a prisoner per day.



The desperate screams that haunt all in Namaqualand

THE screams of women and children clutching trees and reeds on the banks of the swollen Olifants River will ring forever in the minds of the 12 people who survived when a truck carrying 64 labourers crashed through a bridge over the river.

The crash, just after 6pm on Wednesday, September 6, horrified the Namaqualand

community and touched hearts and wallets countrywide.

By the next day, thousands of rands had been donated to the Klawer Disaster Fund which has since grown to hundreds of thousands of rands

The sluice gates on irrigation farms further upstream were closed and the search for bodies began.

The driver of the truck, Smit Nieuwoudt Rossouw, 26, the youngest son of the family which owns most of the land in the Klawer district, was recovered by police divers.

"Smit was very quiet on the day of the accident. Usually he chats to us in the evenings, but he had nothing to say to us," said Mrs Alida Swanepoel, a labourer for Rossouw Boerdery for two years.

Most of the dead, many of them women and children, were pulled out of the Olifants River over the next few weeks. The funerals began.

After the first week of the search the sluice gates were reopened.

Intervene

Relatives of the victims, all of whom were farm labourers, asked for the closure of sluice gates, but their request was initially ignored.

The river level had already dropped considerably, but closing the sluice gates would make the water level even more favourable for the search.

A delegation of community leaders asked the Klawer police commander to intervene. The sluice gates were closed and police undertook to continue the search after they had considered calling it off.

But when police divers left the Olifants River banks for the last time last Monday, 10 bodies were still missing.

Later in the week the decomposed bodies of three children were found. Their mothers were only able to recognise them by their clothes.

The police investigation into the crash has not been completed.



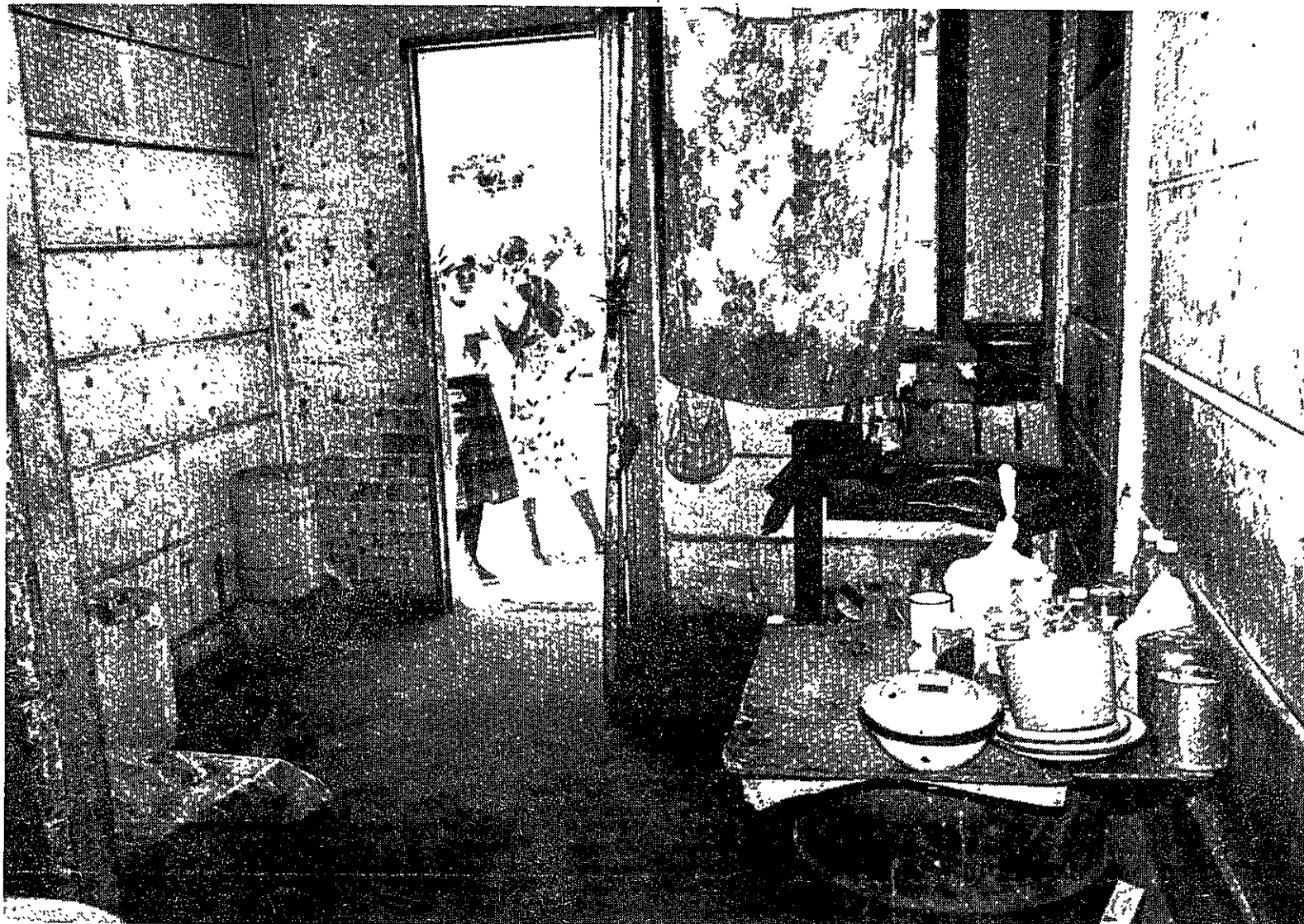
A toddler, who spends the day in the fields because there is no pre-school, watches while her mother works



Children and other labourers hard at work in the Klawer fields, earn R5 for

Children the onion fie

Namaqualand's farmworkers made headlines recently when 52 died after a truck plunged into the flooded Olifants River near Klawer, about 280km from Cape Town on the N7. The river disaster was one of many tragedies among the large



The inside of Magrieta Witbooi's room in the Donkerhoek hostel is bleak and empty

RELATIVES of the Klawer disaster victims have had little time to mourn the loss of loved ones, as they continued their tragic lives.

Despite liberal contributions to the disaster fund, little is being done to improve the lives of those left behind.

The accident highlighted the plight of the farm labourers in Klawer and surrounding districts.

Many of those killed were also victims of hardship caused by employment practices in the area.

The labourers on Smit Rossouw's lorry were collected at 6pm on the day of the accident at his fields near Karrookop.

They were being taken to a hostel in Donkerhoek, just outside Klawer.

Many of the labourers in Klawer are seasonal workers from Calvinia, brought to plant and harvest the onion and potato crops.

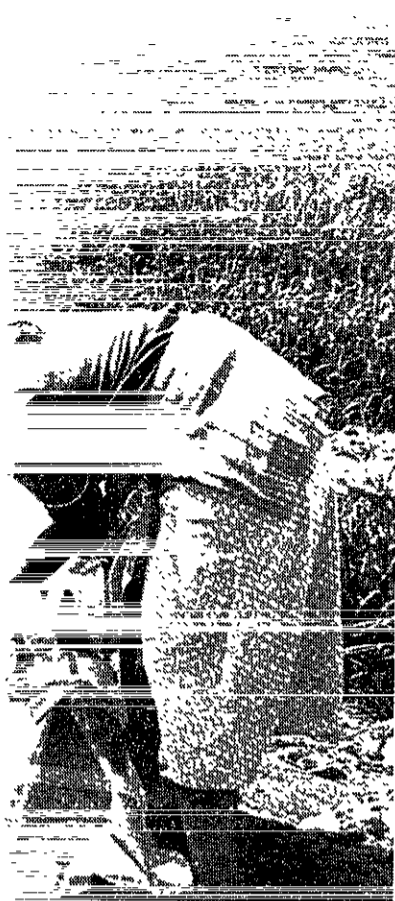
The workers are "recruited" on Sundays by farmers who visit areas where unemployment is rife.

The seasonal workers have no say over how much they will be paid or how long their services will be required

The farmers also visit the local jails and pay the bail or fines to free people to work on their farms, according to the Reverend David Willemse, an NG Sendingkerk minister.

The prisoners are released from jail into a life of bondage - "owned" by a farmer responsible for their freedom from official jails.

Many relatives of the dead did not even know that they had been working in Klawer. The farmers seldom let new workers tell their families that



an 11-hour day

of

in labourer community. has been said about child abuse, holism and other items in the area. ANA ROSSOUW visited area. YUNUS AMED took the res.

ds

Relatives of accident victims have little time to mourn



Three survivors of the crash who lost their families, from left, Hendrina Klaaste, Anna Tromp and Marta Hanekom, back in the fields

are leaving. All they take along is a mug, a blanket and a pot. Young children, supposed to be at school, are also recruited in this way. Lombard, 10, of Calvinia, Mariana Hanekom, 15 and Jan Smit, 14, who died in the accident, were drafted from Calvinia. The girls are housed in hostels with older men and the boys fall victim to the "dop" system, where the work-

ers are "rewarded" with a mugful of cheap wine at the end of a hard day's work. "The dop system still exists here and the farmers say the workers want it that way," said Willemse, who buried most of the dead in the past two weeks. He also helped to trace victims' relatives. "The conditions in which we found the families were terrible. Living

standards in the area have deteriorated to a point where they are just existing. "The disaster affected them terribly, but at the same time, they were too helpless to do anything themselves. They could not lift themselves out of their depression to bury their own dead." The disaster committee had to buy clothes for relatives who had been reluctant to attend the funerals because they had nothing to wear.

"All those children needn't have died. They were on the truck because they went with their mothers to the fields every day. The Rossouw's did not provide pre-school care for the children." Children killed in the disaster were Christiaan Smit, six months; Els Swanepoel, six months; Roselda Isaacs, eight months; Lettie Olivier, four; Mariana Hanekom, five; Fransisco Isaacs, six; Jennifer Kok, two,

CHILDREN who work on "Gielie" Rossouw's farm near Klawer earn a measly R5 a day, SOUTH discovered during a visit to the farm.

A group of 20 workers were planting sweet melon near the onion fields, digging into the clay soil and carefully placing the seedlings into holes dug by children.

The farmer's wife stood watching them, ticking their names off a list pinned to a clipboard.

"I have to watch them all the time. If I don't stand here all day they'll just sit in the sun," she said.

"They are so irresponsible, these plants cost two cents each but they don't care."

When she was asked whether the workers were available to be interviewed during their lunch break, she replied that they did not need to take a break during their 11-hour day.

Workers who slack off get docked a day's pay.

Mrs Hendrina Klaaste lost both her children in the accident, Granwill, 8 and Tessa, 5.

Loud bang

Both children had been brought to the field every day. Granwill had never had a day's schooling. Sometimes they helped their mother, but spent most of the day playing while she worked.

Klaaste cannot remember the accident. All she recalls was a loud bang and found herself underwater, struggling to swim to the air.

She returned to the fields the day after her children's funeral. There was no time off for grief.

Working next to her was Mrs Anna Tromp, whose two-year-old daughter Jennifer, died as well.

Tromp's weather-beaten face is lined and she looks much older than her 46 years.

She has been a labourer for almost all her life, for as long as she can remember. She tried to get a job "in service" recently, but discovered that she was too old for any of the farm wives to want her.

"Jennifer used to play next to me all day while I worked," she said.

"I earn R5 a day, we all do, and I couldn't miss any work because of the accident," Tromp said.

"It's not enough, but there is no other work around. The Rossouws pay less than all the other farmers.

"If I didn't work for them I wouldn't be able to live."

They work 11 hours a day — for only R5



Johannes van Wyk, 14, irrigates the field. He was recruited in Calvinia

Among the group of 20 workers were three 14-year-old boys, one 15-year-old and two 17-year-old girls who had not completed their schooling.

Rachel Arendse, 17, was in Std 7 in Calvinia. When the Rossouw's needed more help on the farm, her uncle, one of their labourers, came to fetch her.

"I've been here for two weeks now, but at least I'm not living in Donkerhoek with the other workers from Calvinia, I'm living with my uncle," Rachel said.

She was not sure how long she would be working on the farm or whether she would go back to school.

Johannes van Wyk, a cocky, self-assured 14-year-old who was taking a smoke break in the field, cried when he was asked whether his family knew

he was in Klawer.

When the Rossouw's truck came to Calvinia on a Sunday morning three weeks ago he jumped on, believing that he was old enough to make his own decisions.

But now he does not know when he'll be going home again or how he'll get there.

Johannes is living in the Rossouw's hostel in Donkerhoek. He says the older workers take care of him.

"We look after the children, especially the girls and make sure the older men don't use them," Tromp said.

"They are like our children. We take them in with us."

Tromp said the older workers kept

the young ones away from the "dop" the farmers poured out every evening.

"We get a mugful every evening, but everyone doesn't take, only those who are interested in it."

Tromp says she always lines up for the "dop". At every farm she's worked at, she always had the "dop".

Donkerhoek is an ideal name for the Rossouw's hostels. Three rows of grimy, dark cottages hugging the dry cliffs are home to the seasonal workers while their services are needed.

The hostels were deserted in the afternoon. The only workers there were Mrs Alida Swanepoel and Mrs Magrieta Witbooi, who were only returning to work after they buried their children, Els Swanepoel, six months and Marius Witbooi, two.

Marius' body has not yet been found. Els was found last Wednesday. His face was so badly decomposed that his mother could only recognise him by his clothing.

Witbooi does not know if the search is continuing for Marius.

"Mr Rossouw said we could stay here until the funerals are over," she said.

Empty drums

"Here" was a two-roomed cottage, with bare concrete floors, no toilet, no tap and no ceilings.

Witbooi has made storage space for her few groceries with empty paint drums and a piece of cardboard.

A skimpy mattress covered by two worn blankets on the concrete floor serves as a bed for Witbooi and her husband. Her brother, who lives with them, sleeps on an old car seat recovered from a wreck.

She came to Klawer from Calvinia two years ago because work was very scarce there.

At the other cottages, doors were hanging off hinges and there was no furniture inside except for mounds of blankets which served as beds for the workers who shared the cramped space.

"It's hell here, but at least we are working," Swanepoel said.

Approached for comment, farmer Gielie Rossouw said not all the workers killed in the accident worked for him. They had worked on his land but some were employed by other farmers as well.

He refused to comment on allegations on working conditions.



Reverend David Willemse serves on the Disaster Committee and buried most of the dead.

and five-year-old Tessa Klaaste. The children and babies waited with their mothers every morning at 6.30am to be taken to the fields in the farm truck, spent all day tied to their mother's backs or playing in the fields, and went home again at 6pm.

"Even in winter, when it rains, those children stay tied to their mother's backs. There is no shelter in the fields," said Willemse.

"The women have to work. The pay is far too little to sit at home and survive on their husbands' wages."

The farm labourers working for the Rossouw family earn R25 a week. They are given free accommodation in the hostels, but have to buy food and clothing with their wages.

Willemse would like to see the money donated to the Klawer disaster fund used to improve the lot of farm labourers in the area.

Prison Services respond

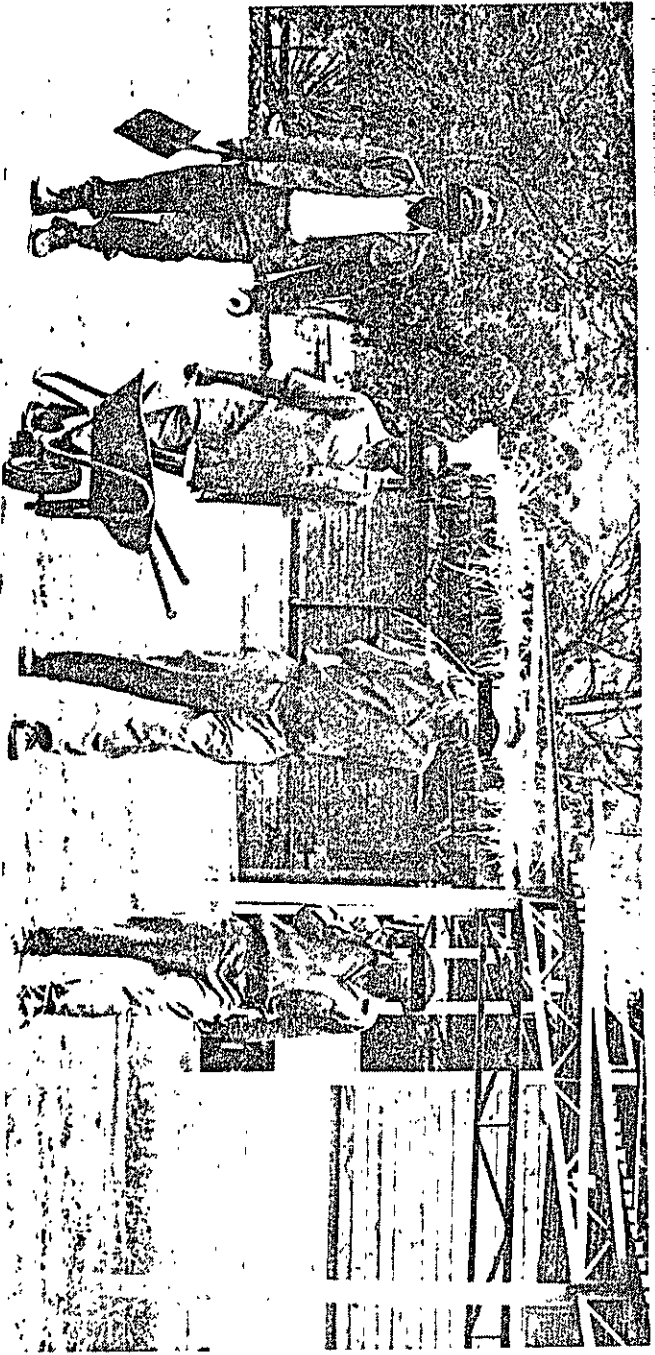
RESPONDING to questions, a liaison officer for the SA Prisons Service said:

"A person's bail is established at the court of law and it can be paid either at the court or at the prison.

"The Prisons Service assists such persons through contacting their families, friends or employers to arrange for their bail to be paid. When a person has paid his bail as far as the Prisons Service is concerned, he is a free man and we have no jurisdiction over him.

"As far as fines are concerned, the Prisons Service also assists all prisoners in arranging for their fines to be paid. This is done only on request of the prisoner.

"When an employer is prepared to pay the fine and the prisoner agrees to it, it can be done. A farmer cannot simply visit the prison, pay a prisoner's fine and take him to work on the farm without the prisoner's consent."



The gold-rush town of Barberton, once a centre of controversy after 12 convicts died, is still thriving on prison labour.

Tales of savage beatings on Standerton farms

PRISONERS working on farms in the Standerton area are sometimes treated brutally by their "employers".

In the Conservative Party-controlled town south-east of Johannesburg, one farmer has been accused of being particularly harsh, not only maltreating prisoners but farmworkers as well.

Known by his employees as *Machambo* (because he used to be thin), the farmer is a former wrestler and is "very powerful", said one worker.

A former prisoner from Soweto who was jailed for possession of dagga, said he and 19 others in Diepkloof Prison were taken to the Standerton farm, Concordia, on August 8 this year.

He asked not to be named for fear of reprisal.

He worked there for two days before he and four others decided to escape after one worker had threatened to report him to Machambo for milking cows without using saline.

"I was warned by one of the women working in the kitchen that if I did not get away as soon as I could, I would regret it," he said.

He had heard other workers talking about how the farmer punished his employees.

If a labourer slept during work-

ing hours, he would be beaten until almost unconscious. One prisoner, who later fled, was allegedly beaten until he defecated. He was helped by people on the adjacent farm who hid him until he was fit enough to make his escape.

Another prisoner known as Umfundisi, was also beaten by the farmer. "All along he was vomiting and urinating blood," said the woman on the neighbouring farm.

A third victim, Victor, was assaulted twice — for sleeping during work hours and for not working because he mistakenly thought he was off that day.

Victor lost a finger after the beating.

"He (the farmer) tied Victor to the garage and started *spankboeking* him just under the butlock until walls showed. He did not stop. He carried on beating him until it got livid and he started hitting at the bone itself.

"After that he was paralysed and was taken to hospital. In the hospital he was apparently advised to take the matter to the police ... the

farmer is reported to have agreed to an out-of-court settlement," said Boet Jidi, a farmworker who fled after an argument with the farmer. He is now employed on another farm some 20km from Concordia.

When *Weekly Mail* tried to trace Victor, we were told he was last imprisoned at Salisa, near Standerton. A policeman there said Victor had told him he was going to Transkei after his release.

The farmer also allegedly punishes his victims by tying them to a crane.

"While you are dangling, one thing that you will be thinking of is how to remove the rope that is almost choking you while he is busy *sjambokking* you," said the ex-prisoner from Soweto.

A former wrestler, the farmer likes to slam labourers against a stone wall — "the holds you close to him and repeatedly bangs your head against the wall," he said.

According to Jidi, on arrival at the farm, the prisoners are "intiated" — assaulted severely.

He brings along a couple of frozen ducks and some money which is given to the officials at the jail, the former prisoner claimed.

The practice of using prisoners as labourers started in the early 1970s. The driver, who has been working at the farm since 1959, said he also used to collect women prisoners.

But it was "useless to feel pity for the prisoners because they always escaped," he said.

When the *Weekly Mail* visited Concordia last weekend, most of the farmworkers living on the farm with their families insisted their "master" was not cruel.

"He treats us like you would treat your wife. If she goes out of the way, you beat and show her the way. We are like children to him and we are his subjects," said one labourer who has worked for the farmer for almost 20 years.

Sitting under the tree drinking *umqoboli* (gorghum beer), the other farmworkers agreed with him — nobody was treated badly.

"Don't mention me. I only work here with my hands for the white man. I haven't seen anything since 1971," said the labourer.

W. M. Wed. 3/10-2/11/89 Immates eager to work outside jail — Prisons

THE SA Prisons Service replies: As it is clear from your report that some confusion exists regarding the difference between prison labour and parole, the following:

PRISON LABOUR

Prison labour is utilised within the prison context where the focus falls on training with a view to eventual reintegration into the community. As the length of sentence and other considerations such as the lack of work opportunities do not always make this possible, section 75 of the Act also provides for prison labour to be made available to other bodies such as the government departments, schools, hospitals and even private individuals of all races, subject to certain conditions and solely for the performance of unskilled labour.

The allegation that prison labour is made available to the farmers for farming programmes on a daily basis is devoid of all truth.

PAROLE

Parole is a system which is widely used in the Western world. Some advantages of parole for the short-term prisoner include the opportunity to work outside the confines of the prison, away from hardened criminals and to receive remuneration. This form of parole is subject to various conditions and some of these conditions are as follows:

- Screening of prospective employers
- The written consent of the prisoner to enter into a formal agreement with the employer.
- Anyone of the parties could terminate the contract, in which event the parolee returns to prison.
- The parolee must be declared physically fit for parole by a medical practitioner.

The agreement also makes stipulations in respect of salary, housing and clothing, etc. It also remains the prerogative of every prisoner to decide whether or not he wishes to accept such employment.

Control measures in the parole system, such as periodic inspections, are carried out to ensure that stipulations are adhered to. In those cases where an employer fails to comply with any of the conditions of contract, a proper investigation is held. Pending the outcome thereof, paroles can be withdrawn.

If found guilty, the employer can be declared unfit as an employer of paroles. A parolee is of course free to leave the service of an employer on expiration of his contract.

A warrant of re-imprisonment is issued in respect of persons who do not comply with their parole conditions and they are returned to prison to serve the unexpired part of their sentences.

The rules governing parole and prison labour are the same countrywide and do not differ from prison to prison as suggested in your report.

Another point which must be stressed is that prisoners are very eager to make use of parole and to partake in labour outside the confines of the prison.

In your article the exact opposite impression is created and this distorts the view of parole and prison labour, and the allegation that paroles are assumed and escape-at-risk, are refuted.

Unions condemn use of convict labour on farms

By EDDIE KOCH

TRADE union representatives and social workers have demanded a full investigation into allegations that black convicts are still being used as forced labour on farms and industries in rural areas of South Africa and that many of them suffer serious abuse. The Paper Print Wood and Allied Workers' Union (Ppwawu) said it was shocked to learn that "the barbaric practice of using prison labour by farmers, foresters, government bodies and other individuals" is widely practised and demanded a full enquiry

into abuses of the system. The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) responded to reports that prisoners are used as unskilled surface labour on some mines in the Barberton district by accusing some mine owners of practising "slavery under the guise of prisons labour". Said NUM general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa: "While about four million people are unemployed, it is shocking that mine bosses use vic-

tims of apartheid laws as labour rather than alleviating the current crisis of unemployment... The victims of re-employment should be given an opportunity of making a living in the mining industry rather than to use prisoners in their place". The *Weekly Mail* last week reported that the use of convicts and parole labour was widespread in parts of the Transvaal and Natal despite an undertaking by the government in 1986 to phase out the system because it violated international trade agreements.

The SA Prisons Service responded to the *Weekly Mail's* investigation by saying that prisoners voluntarily went out to work as part of a training programme designed to reintegrate them into society. But a representative for the National Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders (Nicro) this week confirmed that the organisation was aware of parolees being abused under the prison labour system.

"Nicro as an organisation concerned with the welfare of prisoners and ex-offenders is acutely aware of the vulnerable position prisoners and parolees find themselves in vis-à-vis employment," said Nicro national director John Pegge.

The organisation, however, added: "In Nicro's experience the prison authorities are acutely aware of the vulnerability of prisoners to exploitation in these particular situations and go to great lengths to prevent such exploitation from taking place."

Ten years ago the Legal Resources Centre in Johannesburg, which had been requested to deal with cases of severe assault on convicts, said that the "voluntary" nature of the scheme seemed extremely doubtful.

"Almost without exception parolees interviewed ... said they had not been offered any choice as to whether they wished to work on parole or where they wished to work." Former convicts interviewed by the *Weekly Mail* confirmed that this pattern persists today.

Ppwawu said the use of prison labour was banned internationally.

USWMS 3-9/11 89
D

Industry snubs wine farmer over labour remark

By GRAHAM LIZAMORE, *ALBURY*
Agricultural Reporter *10/11/89*

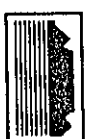
A LEADING wine farmer's remarks quoted in a British newspaper about the conditions of farm workers in the Western Cape has caused a furore among wine farmers.

Senior members of the KWV, the largest wine and grape producers' co-operative in the country, went so far as to boy-

cott a luncheon in honour of the Diners Club winemaker of the year, Mr Peter Finlayson, winemaker for the Hamilton-Russell Estate near Hermanus.

KWV members said yesterday remarks made by Mr Tim Hamilton-Russell, were unfair and would harm the wine industry, particularly the export of wine.

● Full report, page 5.



Wine industry in ferment Over Cape farmer's attack

By GRAHAM LIZAMORE
Staff Reporter

THE Wine industry is seething after one of the Republic's top wine farmers allegedly attacked labour conditions and apartheid on Cape wine farms in a British newspaper.

The article, which appeared in the Daily Telegraph, quoted Mr Tim Hamilton-Russell, whose '86 Pinot Noir was judged the winner of this year's Diners Club Wine Maker of the Year Award this week.

Deeply resentful and angry senior KWV members turned down invitations to attend a Diners Club celebratory luncheon in honour of the Hamilton-Russell wine maker, Mr Peter Finlayson, at a Somerset West hotel yesterday.

Many Cape wine farmers are members of the giant KWV cooperative and the Rural Foundation.

Both organisations claim to be dedicated to improving conditions of farmworkers and in-

sist the article is unfair in the face of big strides made recently in the wine industry concerning wages and living conditions.

Sources in the KWV yesterday said they had turned down invitations to the luncheon because of the damage Mr Hamilton-Russell's remarks could do to the Cape wine industry.

Mr Piet Mornberg, managing director of Edward Cavemish and Sons, a wine exporter based in Southampton, said Mr Hamilton-Russell's remarks would harm the marketing of South African wines.

No protection

Mr Hamilton-Russell, who owns the wine estate by the same name near Hermanus, was quoted in the Daily Telegraph last week as saying that many practices in the wine industry in the Cape were morally indefensible.

"Now is the time to make people aware of what has been going on in this backward system, and to commit ourselves

to changing it," he is quoted as saying.

In the article, Mr Hamilton-Russell allegedly says one of his main objections is that farm workers are excluded from the Basic Conditions of Employment Act.

The article said this meant that conditions of employment were dictated by individual farmers, including vineyard owners, leaving workers with virtually no statutory protection.

In a move to end apartheid and to improve workers' conditions, Mr Hamilton-Russell and three other English-speaking farmers had launched the Winelands Commitment pledged to ending apartheid policies, the article said.

According to the article the Winelands Commitment wants black and coloured people to be allowed to own agricultural land, to have freedom of association, to gain promotion on merit and to have a guaranteed wage.

Including Tim Hamilton-

Russell, the other farmers are Mr Stephen Barlow, whose family owns the Rustenberg and Schoongezicht vineyards; John Platter of Cios du Ciel vineyard and John Younghus-band of the Haut Provence vineyard.

The article claims that these farmers pay at least double the wages of other vineyards and they guarantee trade union membership as well as standards of housing and medical expenses.

Good reasons

They have also undertaken to unilaterally apply the Basic Conditions of Employment Act covering holidays, the working week, sick pay and overtime.

"There are two very good reasons for making this public stand. For a start a well satisfied group of workers is going to be more productive and if we want to stand a chance of selling our wine abroad we must do something about changing our image," Mr Hamilton-Russell is quoted as saying.

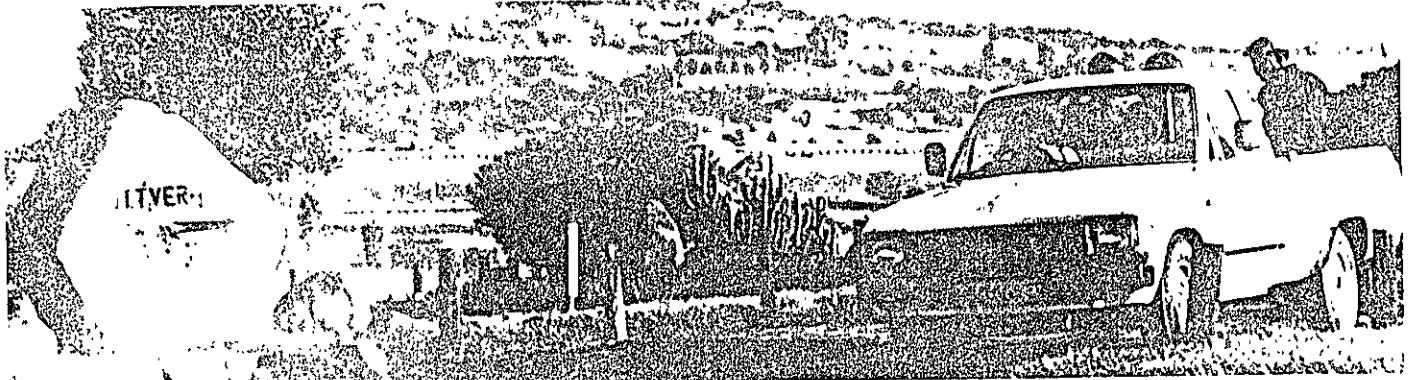
At the moment the only country where South African wines are widely available is in Britain. The United States, Australia, New Zealand and Canada all ban the importation of South African wines, the article says.

Mr Hamilton-Russell denied this morning that he was ignoring progressive farmers but insisted that apartheid laws were still affecting the lives of coloured and black farm workers.

"I believe while the Rural Foundation is doing a very good job, it is not addressing itself to the problems of the absence of a minimum wage, or conditions of employment," he said.

He said both the KWV and the Rural Foundation should be looking at the pillars of the apartheid system such as the Group Areas Act and the Separate Amenities Act which prevent a coloured or black man of talent from owning his own wine farm.

'For hire', says the sign to Leeuwkop Prison, where labour is easily and cheaply available



For hire ... a roadside sign points the way to a place where prisoners can be 'bought' as labour for R1,40 a day despite a government decision to stop the practice

Weekly Mail 'buys' convicts - at R1,40 each

THE *Weekly Mail* this week went to Leeuwkop, a sprawling prison complex on the outskirts of Johannesburg, and "bought" a pair of convicts for the day — for less than R3.

After we had paid R1,40 for each man, and waited for 15 minutes outside the gates of C2 block, two prisoners in green overalls were ushered out of the jail and into the back of our delivery van.

The visit confirmed reports that the system, known to inmates as "ukuthenga amabhantlantsi — the buying of bandits" is still widely practised even though the government took a decision to phase it out three years ago.

It also demonstrated the South African Prison Services exercise little control over the way prisoners are treated once they leave the prison.

After we arrived outside the gates of block C2 yesterday morning, we joined a queue of farmers, nursery owners and policemen who had come in vans and trucks to collect their quota of labour for the day.

The South African Police were waiting in three pick-up vans and a pantechnikon to transport a daily supply of convicts to a training college near Pretoria, where they are put to work in the gardens.

Other employers included Eskom, a paving company, the Kyalami Golf Course and owners of small plots in the district. The Eskom driver left in a staff bus loaded with convicts while others collected teams of six prisoners each.

Inmates of the prison say a building contractor takes the same *van* (team) of convicts every day and uses them as unskilled labour on his construction site. As prison regulations pro-

Weekly Mail writer
EDDIE KOCH went to prison this week — and came back with two convicts, his for the day for just R1,40 each. The visit to Leeuwkop confirms that the 'buying of bandits', as prisoners call it, continues, despite a government decision to phase it out three years ago

hibit the use of convicts for industrial work, they say convicts are made to wear ordinary overalls for the day.

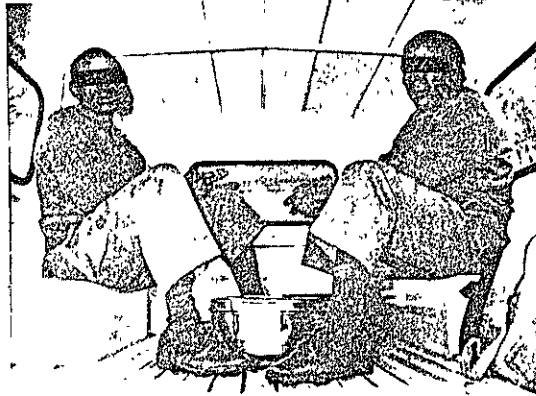
The only precondition for hiring labour from the prison is that employers must swear themselves in as temporary warders and agree to abide by regulations that prohibit the use of convicts in skilled work and prevent them from being assaulted.

Our pair of inmates from Leeuwkop said C2 block hired out about 300 prisoners a day. Conditions vary from place to place but convicts are sometimes assaulted if their employers feel they are being lazy.

Employers can also complain of misconduct to the warders. Prison authorities then put the offenders on a spare diet of "watery soup" for up to 30 days in the disciplinary section of the prison known as "kulukuthu — solitary confinement".

This form of punishment, the inmates say, acts as sufficient deterrent to laziness. It also adds a large element of compulsion to the prisons' system of forced labour.

The International Federation of Plantation Agricultural and Allied Workers told the *Weekly Mail* that



'Bought bandlets' are taken away without any address being given

the system contravened the International Labour Organisation's codes ILO convention 29 allows convicts and parolees to work outside prison on condition that "the said person is not placed at the disposal of private individuals, companies or associations".

This week representatives for Unifruco, the official body for the export of deciduous fruit, confirmed that use of convict labour for the cultivation of farm produce is prohibited by the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT), which South Africa has signed.

Unifruco PRO Fred Meintjies said that as a result his organisation had long banned the practice.

"Our members are required to sign an affidavit that they are not using it (prison labour) and if we find that

they are using it we will expel them," he added.

A number of trade unions have responded to disclosures that convicts are extensively used on farms — and some gold mines — in the eastern Transvaal by calling for a full judicial enquiry.

This week the Food and Allied Workers' Union, which organises farmworkers in the Western Cape, said it would like to see the system of convict labour halted.

"If people are to be reintegrated into society (as stated by the SA Prisons

Services) then the farms are not the place. Unskilled farm work does not re-integrate people. For this to work they need to be trained with specific skills and sent out to work as apprentices for a decent wage."

Prison regulations state that convicts may not be used for skilled work or in jobs covered by industrial council regulations.

They may not be assaulted and the regulations provide advice on how they can be protected from extreme cold and treated in cases of heat exhaustion.

Prison rules also stipulate that temporary warders "must wear shoes and socks" and can be put on parade for dress inspection before they take convicts away.

But our trip to Leeuwkop indicates that prison authorities do little to monitor employers so that they can ensure regulations are adhered to.

I was sworn in as a temporary warder last week together with two members of the Sandton Fire Brigade and the owner of a smallholding. A prison officer spent some 30 minutes explaining the contents of the regulations.

And we were able to take the convicts away from Leeuwkop without leaving the address of the place where the men would be working.

● These reports have been put to SA Prisons Service for comment, though no response was received at the time of going to press. Their response will be published as soon as it is practicable.

Hello? A phone-call from a prisoner

CONVICT Zamxholo Meintjies phoned the *Weekly Mail* from a call box in Plettenberg Bay this week, to tell of the predicament of prisoners who work as forced labour.

Meintjies, sentenced to six months at the Patensie Prison in the Eastern Cape for stealing a car windscreen, was sent on parole to work on a farm near Knysna for six months.

The convict says he was not given a choice about going on parole and was simply told he had a few minutes to pack his belongings because he was going out to work on the farms.

The farm-owner, Doukie Boukers, forced Meintjies and a colleague to work 20 hours from 5am each day until 1am the next morning. One of their tasks, says the convict, was to accompany a truck that collected waste food from the Beacon Isle Hotel at midnight. The two convicts then had to feed the food to the farmer's pigs before going to sleep.

Meintjies says the parolee who had accompanied him to the farm, known to him only as "Hansa", absconded about a week ago after Boukers had allegedly assaulted the convict for complaining about the late hours.

Although his sentence has now expired, Meintjies claims that Boukers refuses to pay his wages or return his belongings and prison documents.

Before contacting *Weekly Mail*, he

Convict Zamxholo Meintjies heard that the Weekly Mail had written about the convict labour system ... so he phoned us from a call box.
EDDIE KOCH reports

went to the Plettenberg Bay police who said they could not help and gave him a telephone number. When Meintjies called the number it rang without being answered.

Meanwhile the convict was running out of coins to use the public telephone. The call box was also within sight of a garage called Terry's Motors, where Boukers worked as a part-time mechanic. Meintjies was afraid he would be discovered making his desperate calls for help.

At that stage a man standing in the queue at the phone box heard Meintjies talking about his experiences and remembered seeing an article in *Weekly Mail* about the convict labour system. He then put Meintjies in contact with us.

Weekly Mail contacted the Knysna Prison to see if any assistance could be offered but was told that the officer concerned was "out for lunch".

We telephoned the nearest National Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders (Nicro) office in

Port Elizabeth which offered to help. The office was, however, about 150km away and Meintjies had no money to travel there.

Later Nicro called Meintjies back at the call box and is now giving him advice and assistance.

If it were not for the intervention of the stranger in the queue it is likely that Meintjies would have had only two choices: to abscond or return to bondage on the farm.

Other allegations of abuse received this week include:

● Claims by Reverend Dawid Willemse, a pastor in the Cape district of Klawer, that farmers frequently visit local jails and bail out prisoners so that they could be used as cheap labour.

● A letter in *Wynboer* magazine from Leonard Macleod says the average wage for wine estate workers in the Western Cape is R200 a month. "Many farmers pay R20 a week when it rains. If the workers grumble they are sometimes replaced by prison labourers, who are paid R1,80 a day," the letter says.

● Johann Hammann, organiser for the Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu), says farmworkers involved in union organisation are frequently threatened with replacement by prison labour and this helps to undermine the union's recruiting drive.



Secure a grandstand seat on the world history pavilion

THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT

The well researched, generously illustrated Chronicle series has become a legend in its own time! Each book offers the reader a wealth of fascinating facts — bringing ancient and contemporary history alive as never before. An ideal reference work, the Chronicle series places an exciting world of general knowledge at your fingertips. The perfect Christmas gift!

Available in the series:

CHRONICLE OF THE WORLD
CHRONICLE OF THE 20TH CENTURY
CHRONICLE OF THE YEAR 1988
CHRONICLE OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

Available at CNA,
Exclusive Books and
leading book stores

**Maskew Miller
Longman**

Wine farm labour conditions row intensifies

By MARIUS BOSCH

THE ROW over remarks made by a prize-winning wine farmer in a British newspaper against labour conditions in the industry intensified yesterday with the farmer accusing the KWV of being "bully boys" acting in a "knee-jerking fashion".

Wine farmers and the KWV were up in arms yesterday over the remarks made by Hermanus wine farmer Mr Tim Hamilton-Russell in a London newspaper.

On Thursday senior KWV officials boycotted the Diners Club wine-maker of the year celebratory function at which one of Mr Hamilton-Russell's wines was judged the best South African red wine.

Yesterday Mr Hamilton-Russell stood by his remarks made to the Daily Telegraph, saying that although the Rural Foundation — an organisation working to improve the conditions of farm workers — "did an excellent job", it did not go far enough.

"It doesn't get to the fundamental

tal issue which is the apartheid system," he said, adding that the foundation did not stipulate a minimum wage for farm workers or detailed conditions of employment.

Rural Foundation vice-chairman Mr Jan "Boland" Coetzee said the organisation is non-political. "We stimulate the guys to do justice to the working conditions of the farm workers," he said.

KWV chief director, communications Mr Theo Pegel — who also refused to attend the award func-

tion — said some farmers were going out of their way to improve workers' conditions.

Mr Hamilton-Russell said he would welcome the chance to speak to the KWV. "I would like to know how many of their members were still practising the 'dop-system,'" he said.

The owner of the Kanonkop wine farm outside Stellenbosch, Mr Janie Krige, said many wine farmers were incensed about the remarks. "We started with the Rural Foundation and the upliftment of our

workers about nine years ago," he said, adding that there were a lot of shortcomings still.

Mr Krige said wine farmers were forerunners among the country's farmers in improving the working and living conditions of their workers.

Mr Hamilton-Russell said that although "a lot of wine producers were exemplary in the way they treat their workers", there were still some wine producers who did not treat their workers well.

Farmer jailed for killing worker

TZANEEN. — A white farmer who beat his Namibian-born labourer to death and hid the body in a ditch, has been sentenced to eight years' imprisonment.

Johannes Jacobus Leeb, 27, of London Farm, near Naboomspruit, was charged in the Tzaneen Circuit Court with the murder of Simon Snyders on March 11 this year.

He pleaded not guilty before Mr Justice J Coetzee and two assessors yesterday.

The court was told that trouble started at 4pm on March 11 when Leeb told Mr Snyders and another labourer to run to a store and fetch beers for themselves. The two refused to run because they feared Leeb's dogs. Leeb was offended by their attitude and ordered them to go to their compound.

Two hours later Leeb found Mr Snyders fixing his bicycle. He began beating Mr Snyders with his fists on the head, chest and body. Mr Snyders fell to the ground and was kicked and trampled until he lost consciousness.

Later Leeb left a party, took Mr Snyders' limp body and threw it into the back of a van.

BODY BURIED

Leeb took Mr Snyders's body to a store where he chained him to the window bars for the night. The following morning Leeb poured cold water repeatedly over Mr Snyders's body. He took the body, put it in a sack and buried it on a neighbour's farm.

Leeb told his wife and other labourers that Mr Snyders had gone home. However, when police came to the farm, he pointed out the spot where he had buried Mr Snyders.

Leeb said he had been annoyed by Mr Snyders's refusal to obey him to fetch beers. Mr Snyders had also ignored him and did not call him "Baas".

Mr Justice Coetzee found that Mr Snyders's death was caused by cerebral injuries due to the beating. But there were extenuating circumstances because Leeb was drunk. An application for leave to appeal was adjourned. — Sapa.

Worker beaten to death, body hidden in a hole

FARMER GIVEN 8 YEARS

Swetlan
14/11/89
(4)

Farmer jailed

• From page 1

wrong for a farmer to regard his labourers as property.

"If the sentence is too lenient the administration of justice will be brought into disrepute," Justice Coetzee said.

He said the sentence should satisfy the needs and concerns of the community and that it should also deter other white farmers.

An application for leave to appeal was postponed after one of Leeb's relatives became hysterical when sentence was passed.

Leeb (27) of London farm near Nqoomspruit had pleaded not guilty to the charge of murder at Potgietersrus last month.

The court was told that on May 11 this year Leeb assaulted and kicked Snyders for refusing to obey instructions. Snyders was a Namibian of Damara origin. He was imported from Leeb's parents' holdings in Namibia.

By ALINAH DUBE

A FORMER member of a South African Defence Force special unit, Petrus Johannes Jacobus Leeb, was yesterday jailed for eight years in the Tzaneen Circuit Court for the murder of a farmworker.

He beat up Mr Simon Snyders until he died and then hid his body in a hole.

In passing sentence, Mr Justice J Coetzee said the right to life was most important.

He said that Leeb had violated Snyders' right to live. The judge said it was

• To page 2



A policeman stands on top of a shack while squatters leaving Mshenguville, Soweto, for Orange Farm load their possessions on a TPA truck. The area was tense yesterday following action taken by police against people who were marching to the home of former mayor Mr Ephraim Tshabalala to deliver a list of grievances. See story on page two.

Evidence led in court revealed that:

* Leeb had instructed Snyders and another farm worker to run to the store room to fetch beer for themselves. The two had refused because they feared that Leeb's dogs would bite them.

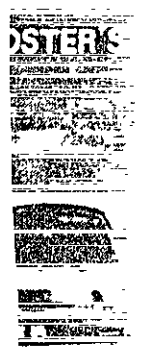
* This was seen as insubordination by Leeb who then told them to go to their compound. Two and a half hours later he went to the workers' compound and beat and kicked Snyders for ignoring his presence in the compound and not calling him baas.

* Leeb assaulted Snyders with fists on the head, chest and body and trampled on him as he lay on the ground. Snyders lost consciousness as a result.

Judge Coetzee said the fact that Leeb had been drinking on the day was one of three mitigating factors. He described Leeb as a man who had "no capacity for pity for his black farmworkers."

Leeb was "an unfeeling person" and "without emotions."

TAX
jo
CI
TC
m
WA
THE I
LYAL



Killer farmer jailed for 8 years

^{STAN 12/11/89}
TZANEEN — A farmer who beat his labourer to death and then hid the body in a ditch was yesterday sentenced to eight years' jail by a Circuit Court judge in Tzaneen.

Johannes Jacobus Leeb (27) of London farm near Naboomspruit, was charged with the murder of Mr Simon Snyders on March 11 this year.

He pleaded not guilty before Mr Justice J Coetzee and two accessors.

Evidence was that trouble started at 4 pm on March 11 when Leeb told Mr Snyders and another labourer to run to a store and fetch beers.

TRAMPLED

The two refused to run for fear of Leeb's dogs. Leeb then ordered them to go to their compound.

Two hours later Leeb found Mr Snyders fixing his bicycle. He beat Mr Snyders with his fists on the head, chest and body.

Mr Snyders fell to the ground and was kicked and trampled on until he lost consciousness.

Later Leeb left a party, took Mr Snyders' limp body and threw it into the back of a van.

Leeb took Mr Snyders to a store

where he chained him to the window bars. Mr Snyders spent the night in this position.

The following morning Leeb poured cold water repeatedly over Mr Snyders' body. He took the body, put it in a sack and buried it on a neighbour's farm.

Leeb told his wife and other labourers that Mr Snyders had gone home and he had given him R50 for transport.

Later however, when police came to the farm, he pointed out the spot where he had buried Mr Snyders.

Leeb told the court he had been annoyed by Mr Snyders' refusal to fetch beers. Mr Snyders had also ignored him and did not call him "Baas", he said.

Leeb said he had been a member of a special Reccie unit of the South African Defence Force. In that time, he had killed "many people" in Angola, Botswana and Zimbabwe.

A specialist psychiatrist in post-trauma and war stress, Dr H Potgieter, told the court that the training for Reccie members made them aggressive. He said some of them had problems adjusting to civilian life. — Sapa.

8 years for farmer who killed worker

TZANEEN. — A white farmer who beat his Namibian-born labourer to death and then hid the body in a ditch, was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment in the Tzaneen Circuit Court yesterday.

Johannes, Jacobus Leeb, 27, of London farm near Naboomspruit, was charged with the murder of Mr Simon Snyders on March 11 this year.

He pleaded not guilty before Mr Justice J Coetzee and two assessors.

Evidence led in court was that trouble started when Leeb told Mr Snyders and another labourer to run to a store and fetch beers for themselves.

The two refused to run in fear of Leeb's dogs. Leeb was offended by their attitude and ordered them to go to their compound.

Two hours later Leeb found Mr Snyders fixing his bicycle. He started beating Mr Snyders with his fists on the head, chest and body. Mr Snyders fell to the ground and was kicked and trampled on until he lost consciousness.

Chained to bars

Later Leeb left a party, took Mr Snyders's limp body and threw it into the back of a van. The noise of his body hitting the van was heard by a witness who was standing at a distance, the court heard.

Leeb took Mr Snyders to a store where he chained him to the window bars. Mr Snyders spent the night in this position.

The following morning Leeb took the body, put it in a sack and buried it on a neighbour's farm.

Leeb told his wife and labourers Mr Snyders had gone home and he had given him R50 for transport.

However, when police came to the farm he pointed out the spot where he had buried Mr Snyders.

Mr Justice Coetzee found that Mr Snyders' death was caused by cerebral injuries due to the beating. But he found there were extenuating circumstances, because Leeb was drunk.

An application for leave to appeal was adjourned when one of Leeb's relatives, overcome by emotion, started crying and shouting in court. — Sapa

Klawer Disaster

MC645 15/11/89

Fund tops R88 000

By SHARKEY ISAACS
Staff Reporter

All gifts, however small, bring relief to the bereaved families.

A GIFT of R500 from the Cape Friendly Society has boosted the Klawer Disaster Fund beyond the R88 000 mark.

THE ADDRESS

Those who would like to contribute should send their gifts to the Klawer Disaster Fund, Box 15399, Vlaeberg (8018).

The fund, begun by The Argus, climbed to R88 503,40 with the help of R300 from the Volkskerk van Afrika, Kraaifontein, and R102,31 from the church council and congregation of the Moravian Church, Atlantis.

The money will be sent to the Ned Geref Sendingkerk, which has established a fund to help communities in times of dire need.

VALUABLE

Gifts from readers R McClelland (R50), H K Walton (R25) and Miss H L Patten of Mitchell's Plain (R10) also made a valuable contribution.

The money is distributed on the advice of the Sendingkerk's regional welfare branches. The welfare number of the fund is F1 08 800167 000 4.

The Argus launched the fund to help the families of 53 farm workers who died when their lorry crashed through safety railings and plunged into the Olifants River near the small Namaqualand town of Klawer on September 6.

Latest contributions to the fund:

Previously acknowledged:

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| | R87 516,09 |
| Cape Friendly Society | R500,00 |
| Volkskerk van Afrika, Kraaifontein | R300,00 |
| Church Council & Congregation of the Moravian Church, Atlantis | R102,31 |
| R McClelland | R50,00 |
| H K Walton | R25,00 |
| Miss H L Patten of Mitchell's Plain | R10,00 |
| SUB TOTAL | R987,31 |
| TOTAL | R88 503,40 |

In addition to a few large contributions from corporations, the fund has been bolstered by a steady stream of smaller gifts from small businesses, school pupils, parents, churches and individuals.

Labourer walks 5 km to shoot his farm manager

GRUDGE MURDER



Pupils from J J de Jong Lower Primary School in Atteridgeville, Pretoria, won the Mathematics Olympiad for Standard Two and Three categories. Seventeen junior primary schools around the country took part in the olympiad. Pictured are Victor Mokone, Thabang Madiba, Tebogo Mogaswa, Makgosi Morudi and their teacher, Mrs Constance Legodi showing off their trophy.

SOWETAN
Correspondent

A GREYTOWN farm labourer who walked 5 km to shoot dead his manager after he had been told to reduce the number of his cattle was jailed for an effective 12 years by the Judge-President Mr Justice Howard in Pietermaritzburg Supreme Court yesterday.

Father of four Sofasha Khoza (37) pleaded guilty to the charge. He was found guilty of murder with extenuating circumstances for the killing of the manager, Mr Michael Manley on the night of July 15 1986.

State counsel Mr Jan Venter did not accept the extenuation plea for the fact that Khoza had walked a long distance to shoot Manley in the dark. He sat down 15 metres from the Manley

● To page 2

Page 2

Grudge murder

● From page 1

home, waited until he (Khoza) stopped shivering from the cold. He had leaned on a fence and took aim before shooting.

This showed that it was a well-planned murder that deserved the death penalty, Venter said.

The bullet had passed through an asbestos wall and hit Manley who was writing a letter.

Khoza had been linked with the killing ballistically more than a year after the murder and he kept on working on the farm until his arrest 16 months ago, Venter said.

Mr Justice Howard said that although Khoza had had other avenues open to him, his frustration, anger and distress had built up to the stage that he took the extreme step.

RL
KE
(between
TEL: (01
O. Fax: (0

AY

11/11/89

11/11/89

Sowetan 16/11/89

Sowetan 16/11/89

Sowetan 16/11/89

Farmer's sentence shocks DP

By Peter Fabricius,
Political Correspondent
and Staff Reporter

The Democratic Party has expressed shock at the eight-year sentence this week on a Na-
boomspruit farmer who beat a
labourer to death and then
buried him in a sack because he
refused to run to fetch him beer
and did not call him "baas".

DP justice spokesman Mr
Dave Dalling said the sentence

passed on Johannes Jacobus
Leeb (27) for killing Mr Simon
Snyders was a "glaring example
of inappropriate sentencing"
and he intended raising it in
Parliament.

There were too many discre-
pancies in sentencing criminals
for crimes, particularly when
they related to crimes across
the racial barrier, he said.

With time off for good behav-
iour, Leeb would be out of jail in
2½ years, he said.

STOP PRESS

Beaten into submission

17/11/89
Sowetan

Gruesome tales of the murder and torture of farmworkers send chills down one's spine. And, more often than not, the perpetrators of such crimes run free without just retribution. MATHATHA TSEDU reports.

BLACK farmworkers have always been most severely exploited in terms of wages and working conditions.

As far back as the early '60s one of the country's finest journalists, the late Henry Nxumalo, exposed the murders and torture of farm workers on the potato farms in Bethal. The exposure so shook the country and the world that a boycott of potatoes was launched.

Nxumalo's investigation revealed that workers, slogged in the fields from sunrise to sunset. They were beaten up at random and many died in the process.

The dead were buried on a particular spot to serve as manure for the next crop of potatoes. After the outcry that followed, coupled with the boycott, it was believed that things would change for the better.

But another story of human abuse unfolded in Tzaneen this week. 27-year-old Johannes Jakobus Leeb, farm foreman at Naboomspruit, was found guilty of murdering a Namibian-born farm labourer on March 11 this year. Leeb is a former member of the South African Defence Force's Reece Unit.

Evidence on the side of the defence was that Leeb had ordered Simon Snyders, another worker, to run to a storeroom to get beers for themselves. The beer was



part of the food and drinks for a braai later that night where a pair of Leeb's twin friends were to be guests of honour.

Fearing Leeb's dogs, the two refused to run. This annoyed Leeb and set into motion a bizarre series of events that culminated in Snyders lying dead in a shed, chained to a grille by his neck.

Snyders' beating took place just prior to the party. Leeb followed the two to the compound and unleashed devastating blows to the head and body, leaving Snyders unconscious.

Later Leeb was to slip away from the party to carry the limp body to the shed where it was chained. He made no effort to summon medical help for the prostrate Snyders.

Transport

Snyders was already dead the next morning when Leeb put his body in a sack and drove to a neighbouring farm where he stuffed it in a hole dug by wild pigs. He covered the hole with branches to camouflage the grave.

He went home and told his wife and other farmworkers that Snyders had regained consciousness and gone back home to Namibia. He was given R50 for transport, Leeb lied.

Justice Coetzee found Leeb guilty of murder and said he found him to be an "unfeeling person", without emotions and with no capacity to pity his farmworkers. Finding that Leeb had been drunk on that day Coetzee said this was a mitigating factor.

He said a stiff sentence was necessary to deter other white farmers from treating their workers as "loose things" (los goed). He then sentenced Leeb to eight years. Tears flowed freely from Leeb's family, including his wife, who were in court when sentence was passed.

Publicity

Snyders' Damara relatives were not there. No mention was made of whether he was married or not. Did he have children? How are they coping? No one in that court seemed to care. As Leeb's counsel, Mr Johan Els, applied for leave to appeal.

While the farmers Nxumalo wrote about were never brought to trial, today some farmers do end up in court because of the publicity given to such incidents.

But they end up with light sentences. However, most go without retribution. The authorities tend to turn a blind eye. After all, in their eyes a black life is not equal to that of a white.

Then there was the infamous Sambo case in which one Jacobus Vorster, a white farmer from Levubu near Sibasa, beat the farm-hand to death for accidentally running over

two puppies with a tractor.

Vorster searched for Eric Sambo for more than two months before cornering him on December 11. He beat him up and tied him to a tree for the whole night. The beating continued during a party Vorster hosted.

Justice

Sambo died the following day at the Levubu police station where Vorster dumped him. It was only a Sowetan article evoked an international outcry that the police arrested Vorster. He appeared before Mr Justice Strydom who found him guilty of culpable homicide and sentenced him to a suspended prison term of five years. The judge said the community's desire for justice did not mean that Jacobus Vorster should go to jail.

Sambo's girl friend was awarded R7 800 in sixty instalments of R130 each.

The judge said Vorster was responsible for the welfare of 44 black workers who would be without income if he were to be jailed.

The sentence has become one of the most criticised judgements in this country's history and an attempt was made by Mrs Helen Suzman to have Justice Strydom struck off the roll.

Paralysed

On August 17 1989, Mr Ekathi Xaba of Piet Retief was allegedly beaten to death by his employer for failing to report for duty. Xaba's wife Dorcas later said her husband, who was paralysed from the waist down, had been ill. She said the employer had charged into the house and assaulted Xaba till he died. The beating took place in front of his children. Nobody has been arrested and the Attorney General says he is awaiting the docket from Piet Retief.

In Orkney in the Western Transvaal last year Steven Mononye was visiting his brother on a farm when the owner

complained that two of his cows were missing. Mononye was bundled into a van and tied up.

The farmer, Louis Venter, and his friend Fouchie took Steven to the farm house where he was repeatedly beaten and thrown to the ground. He was later dumped at his brother's house in a critical condition. When the brother tried to call for a doctor, Venter stopped him and offered him pain killers.

Mononye died and the two were found guilty and sentenced to four months imprisonment or a fine of R1 200.

On June 1 this year, at a farm on the Highveld, Daantjie De Klerk was accused by his employer, a senior Conservative Party town councillor, of stealing a welding machine.

Stealing

Instead of calling the police the farmer assaulted and tortured De Klerk for more than 12 hours and applied electric shocks while hanging him upside down from the roof of a garage.

Part of the torture was witnessed by his wife and child. When De Klerk went to the police station to lay charges, the police allegedly refused to open a docket. The matter was reported in the Sowetan, and when De Klerk returned to the police station to lay charges, he was allegedly locked up for seven days and accused of being cheeky by running to the Press.

Nobody has been arrested to date and De Klerk has disappeared, fearing for his life. The Attorney General says he needs further statements from De Klerk to proceed with the case.

Gruesome

Speaking to another journalist yesterday while writing this article, it became clear that a strong perception exists that courts mete out lenient sentences on whites who kill blacks.

"You sit in court listening to all the gruesome details of how people were tortured and killed, then you have to hear a judge bend over backwards to find reasons why he should not convict or give a strong sentence," the journalist said.

Would the introduction of legislation to protect farm workers help in curbing this menace? Or is the Government's standpoint that farm and domestic workers are not workers in terms of the Act, not responsible for the case with white farm owners mistreat workers?



Political comment in this issue by Aggrey Klaaste and Joe Ihloloe. Sub-editing, headlines and posters by Sydney Mathaku. All of 61 Commando Road, Industria West, Johannesburg.

The reproduction or broadcast without permission of articles published in this newspaper on any current economic, political or religious topic is forbidden and expressly reserved to The Argus Printing and Publishing Company Ltd under Section 12(7) of the Copyright Act 1978.

• Write to the Editor at PO Box 6663, Johannesburg 2000. Non-de-plumes can be used, but full names and addresses should be supplied or the letter will not be published.

Child labour not abused - Louw

(4) *Sweetan* 21/11/89



Mr ELI LOUW

The new Minister of Manpower, Mr Eli Louw, says he is not aware of large-scale abuse of child labour in South Africa. In an interview with THEMBA MOLEFE he also gives his opinion on farmworkers and human rights, labour legislation as it affects these workers, black trade unions and international law.

QUESTION: It is widely believed that human rights do not exist on the farms especially because there is little legal protection for farmworkers. What is your comment?

ANSWER: I cannot agree with you on the non-existence of human rights on the farms. The farmer and the worker are bound by contract law. However, I agree that the contracts entered into are in many cases not of a high standard, which is not proper.

The old master and slave laws have been repealed and all farmworkers are covered by the Workmen's Com-

pensation Act and the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act. All farmworkers have freedom of association. They can join trade unions. There is no law prohibiting them from organising themselves. Small claims courts are also available for them.

Q: That is what the Government thinks is happening. Has your department spoken to unions in this regard?

A: I do not know what your experiences are. But the Government always listens to what organised labour has to say. Unions do not come and talk to me. I believe they should

come and talk to me. What is the good when an organisation does not talk and influence people?

Q: Do you mean that union groups like Nactu and Cosatu refuse to serve on the special committee you have appointed to investigate possible amendments or regulations that would protect farmworkers and domestic workers?

A: They are refusing. I do not know what their reasons are.

Q: I would like to give you two examples which illustrate the absence of human rights on the farms and how the common law does not offer farmworkers basic protection.

Accused

The first is of a Highveld worker who was allegedly tortured by a farmer who accused him of stealing a welding machine. The incident occurred on June 1, but to date the farmer has not been arrested and the worker is missing following threats on his life.

The second is that of a crippled Piet Retief farmworker who was beaten to death by his employer. The farmer has not been arrested as the Attorney-General still awaits the police docket.

These delays could be interpreted as being racist because had blacks committed such crimes against whites they would have been arrested.

A: I condemn the criminal behaviour of the farmers. Courts are there for everybody's protection, regardless of colour. Should I get the facts (about the cases) I will forward them to my colleagues, the Ministers of Justice and Law and Order.

Q: What is your opinion on the contentious subject of child labour in South Africa? There are examples of children as young as eight years old working for up to R5 a month on farms.

A: What is the definition of child labour? You know I am a farmer's son and have never considered it to be abuse when I

helped my father on his sheep farm.

I am not aware of the large-scale abuse of child labour in South Africa, because there is such a big supply of labour in the country.

Q: Why should children be allowed to work at all? What does the law say?

A: The Department of Health and Welfare is presently working on a Bill concerning child abuse.

Code

In terms of the International Labour Organisation Convention concerning the minimum age for admission to employment, the stipulation is that children younger than 15 years may not work in agriculture.

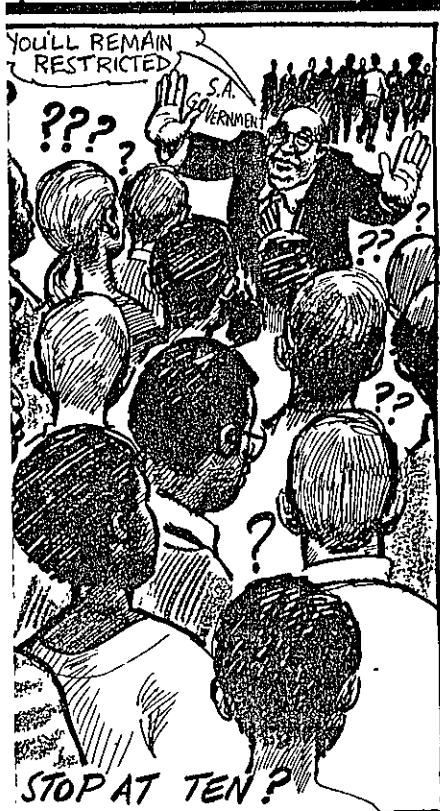
A total of 138 signatory countries adhere to the code. Only a fifth - 34 countries - do not adhere to ILO's Convention 10. We are in step with the rest of the world. We agree. Work is one thing, but abuse is something else. The Child Welfare Act is against child abuse.

Demands

Q: Have you personally sought to speak with black trade unions in the light of growing opposition to the Labour Relations Amendment Act?

A: The demands made by unions, including the recent marches, have nothing to do with worker-employer relationships. A list of demands handed to my department recently was about jobs, free education, evictions, rents, and so on. They should be directed to the relevant departments as they have nothing to do with labour issues.

Black unions are being used for political ends. They should leave politics to the politicians.



Political comment in this issue by Aggrey Klaaste and Joe Thifoloe. Sub-editing, headlines and posters by Sydney Mathaku. All of 61 Commando Road, Industria West, Johannesburg.

The reproduction or broadcast without permission of articles published in this newspaper on any current economic, political or religious topic, is forbidden and expressly reserved to The Argus Printing and Publishing Company Ltd under Section 12(7) of the Copyright Act 1978.

• Write to the Editor at PO Box 6663, Johannesburg 2000. Nom-de-plumes can be used, but full names and addresses should be supplied or the letter will not be published.

Getting in first

In what appears to be a further move towards paving the way for the unionisation of farm workers, the Department of Agriculture's weekly magazine, *Agricultural News*, has published an article suggesting statutory minimum employment conditions.

The article quotes Ingrid Smith, an assistant economist in the department's director-

Final 24/11/89.

ate of marketing, as saying agriculture can act to "neutralise" unionisation by improving working conditions.

Smith suggests that the SA Agricultural Union (SAAU) should be empowered to draw up and enforce a set of rules, in terms of which farmers in particular areas must treat their workers. Farmers should also ensure reasonable working hours for their labourers and provide housing with the assistance of State subsidies.

She says the prospect of farmworker unions can be approached from two angles: a united effort by employers to provide conditions of such a standard that unions would be unnecessary; or acceptance of the inevitability of farm unions.

Smith says it's clear that labour relations issues will continue to put pressure on employers. However, unions realise that high wage demands can affect jobs, while productivity programmes can benefit workers. At the same time, the onus is on employers to show that improved productivity does not necessarily lead to fewer jobs, but can in fact stimulate the creation of new job opportunities.

She believes the central issue is improved conditions of employment and better opportunities. The need for unions will diminish in relation to the amount of time and money a farmer is prepared to spend on the care of his workers and their families.

The article notes that the "overwhelming majority" of farmers regard unions as a "negative and retarding" factor and are not interested in allowing union activity on their farms.

At the SAAU annual congress in Cape Town last month, outgoing president Kobus Jooste said farmers will have to accept unionisation. ■

R2 600 paid to get 60 goats back

Evicted workers' livestock impounded

4
Star 22/11/89

MARITZBURG — Weenen farmworkers living in emergency camps after being evicted from their homes by white farmers have paid up to R2 600 to have their livestock released from the Natal town's pound.

More than 1 000 former farmworkers are living in makeshift accommodation in an emergency camp on the outskirts of Weenen, about 200 of them in tents. Their cattle are being impounded for grazing on Weenen town land.

Wad of notes

Mr Ndimande Nquindi, who said he lived at one of three emergency camps outside Weenen, showed a reporter a receipt for R2 654,36 he had paid to have 60 goats released from the pound.

The receipt stated he had been fined R2 100 for trespass, R147,54 for driving fees, R120 for pound fees, R240 for herding fees and R46,80 for other expenses.

Mr Nquindi pulled a further R1 540 in notes from his pocket, with which he said he was going to pay for the release of seven cattle belonging to a friend.

The headman of the emergency camp, Mr Mshoba Sibisi, showed an Association for Rural Advancement worker, Mr Mandla Msomi, a receipt for R244,05 he had paid to claim an impounded cow belonging to his son.

The mayor of Weenen, Mr Hans Kilian, who is also chairman of the Weenen Town Board, said: "They are living illegally on town land. They should be prosecuted. They have been told they are not to have any cattle on town land.

"This is not the last they have heard of it. The cattle will be impounded tomorrow."

Town clerk Mr L Cunha said the pound ran at a loss. One bale of lucerne cost between R7 and R10. He said the land had been withdrawn from grazing by the Department of Agriculture because it had been overgrazed and the grass was considered to be only 2 percent palatable.

There had been numerous meetings and the people had received written warnings, but they had been ignored.

Deputy Director of Land Usage Control Mr Vic de Klerk said he was trying to work with the Department of Development Aid to identify land with the intention of settling the people in a rural lifestyle.

He said they had received permission from the town board to "put the people there until such time as we can identify land elsewhere".

Mr de Klerk said that some time ago kwaZulu representative Mr V Mvelsala had said he would take the matter up with the kwaZulu authorities and make arrangements for them to graze their cattle elsewhere. He had not been informed that the cattle were being impounded. — Sapa.

Part to be used to build hall for all

By SHARKEY ISAACS
Staff Reporter

PART of the money raised to help families of victims of the Klawer bridge tragedy in which 53 people died will be used to build a community hall to launch a long-term upliftment programme for the farming community.

The hall, to be run by a local committee, with a full-time community worker, will offer recreational and educational activities.

Dr Samuel Pick, director of welfare services at the Ned Geref Sendingkerk's Diakonaledienste, said the fund had two objectives — a short term and a long term.

So far R60 000 of the money raised had been spent, with about R34 000 going towards funeral expenses and the rest on medical costs, clothing and food for bereaved families and the care of survivors in the short term programme.

EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Surveys of the crash victims showed 11 children had been orphaned by the accident. Most of the dead had been women and children and it had been established that only a few of the adults killed had been family breadwinners.

Some of the money would also be used for the temporary support of orphaned children placed in the care of unofficial foster families. The State would take over payment of their support as soon as a children's court had appointed legal foster parents for them.

Meanwhile, part of the money will be placed in trust for their education needs and special provision is to be made for their higher education and residential costs up to university level.

"The primary long term objective of the fund will be the building of a community hall for the benefit of the entire Klawer farming community," he said.

Klawer fund closes at R90 000-mark

By SHARKEY ISAACS
Staff Reporter

THE Argus is today closing its Klawer Disaster Fund after raising nearly R90 000 for the families of 53 farm workers who died when their lorry crashed through safety railings and plunged into the Olifants River near the small Namaqualand town of Klawer on September 6.

A gift of R1 000 from The Argus and an additional donation of R200 by the community newspapers, Plainsman, Athlone News, Southern Mail and Northern Echo opened the fund and the remaining R89 771,75 raised came from readers.

Donations came from all quarters and a large percentage was collected by schools, factory workers, sportsmen and churches with many gifts coming from in under-privileged communities.

"Warms the heart"

Among the last gifts sent was a cheque for R250 from the Cape District Football Association and an accompanying letter from the general secretary, Mrs Sylvia Jetha, to the Editor said: "My association would like to thank The Argus for their gesture of opening this fund. Besides making possible help for the victims it warms the heart to know that there are those who care."

The Argus has already presented a cheque for R65 000 to Dr Samuel Pick, director of welfare services at the Ned Geref Sendingkerk's Diakonaledienste, and the balance will be handed over soon.

Messages of condolence with the gifts were a noteworthy feature of many donations.

The money will be sent to the Ned Geref Sendingkerk which some time ago established a fund to help communities in times of dire need.

The money is distributed on the advice of the Sendingkerk's regional welfare branches. The welfare number of the fund is F1 08 800167 000 4.

Dr Pick said the public's response to the fund was "fantastic".

Latest contributions are as follows:

| | |
|--|---------|
| Previously acknowledged: | R88 503 |
| African Life Assurance Co Ltd | R300,00 |
| Cape District Football Association | R250,00 |
| Springbok Toeriste Forum (re: Namaqualand Jewish Pioneers) | R250,00 |
| Congregational Sunday School, Pniel, | R200,00 |
| Staff at Hocroft Abtatoir County Fair Foods | R218,35 |
| Peninsula Caravan Club | R90,00 |
| The Volmoed Trust | R60,00 |

TOTAL R89 771,75.

● In addition to money raised by The Argus, funds totalling R324,189,99 were collected by other media for Sendingkerk's umbrella Klawer Disaster Fund. The following breakdown was given of the total: SABC's Radio Good Hope (R150 000), The Argus R89 771,75, Die Burger, R79 731, 51; and a gift of R20 000 from Rapport. Donations totalling R9 458,48 c were also sent directly to the Sendingkerk.

Further donations can be sent direct to The Klawer Disaster Fund, Ned Geref Sendingkerk; Private Bag X One, Belhar (7501). Anyone seeking further details can telephone 952 2151.

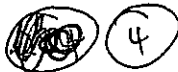
Plight of coloured workers stressed

(4) Own Correspondent *skw 29/11/59*
KIMBERLEY — Debates on the plight of farm workers, on toothless local government bodies and on health issues kept delegates to the Labour Party congress busy yesterday.

Delegates said coloured farm workers often lived in poor conditions, were lowly paid and could be evicted at any

time. People serving on local government bodies complained that all the major decisions were taken by the white councillors and officials.

Mr David Curry, Minister of Housing in the House of Representatives (HoR), said the Labour Party was responsible for the building of 32 000 houses through the HoR.



A VISIT TO THE SCENE OF THE CONTROVERSIAL 'MISSILE TESTING' CENTRE IN THE SOUTHERN CAPE

FOREIGN Minister Pik Botha this week denied press reports, based on sources inside the CIA, that South Africa and Israel have collaborated at Armscor's testing range near Arniston to make a long-range missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

Botha was speaking in Vienna after holding talks with representatives of the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union. The three governments are concerned that South Africa possesses nuclear weapons and are pressuring Pretoria to sign a treaty that bans the spread of nuclear weapons.

Last month the US television agency NBC

quoted US intelligence sources saying Israel and South Africa were involved in a "full blown partnership" to make nuclear-tipped missiles and had jointly carried out their first successful test at the Arniston site on July 5 this year.

The television agency said Israel has been secretly sharing nuclear technology with South Africa for the past 10 years in exchange for use of the Arniston test site and a supply of enriched uranium.

Asked to comment on the NBC report, Botha replied that he had no knowledge of any such project.

He also told reporters South Africa was not yet prepared to sign the 1970 nuclear non-

proliferation treaty (NPT). The treaty requires signatory states to open all nuclear installations to inspection by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency to make sure it is not diverting nuclear fuel for military purposes.

"Why should we place our facilities under supervision and inspection if we derive no benefit whatsoever from joining the treaty," said Botha. "There is this tendency to exclude South Africa from international meetings for political reasons. We wish to make sure that the terms of the treaty would apply to us as it would apply to other parties."

South Africa is a member of the IAEA, which regularly inspects the power station at Koeberg

near Cape Town and a research station at Pelindaba near Pretoria. However a research reactor at Valindaba, which can produce plutonium for use in bombs, remains closed to international scrutiny.

On July 6 this year, the day after CIA sources say the Israeli/South African missile was launched from Arniston, Armscor issued a press statement saying it had successfully fired a "test booster rocket" that marked a "major milestone" in the development of the test range. No further details were supplied.

The *Weekly Mail* this week asked Armscor's manager of client and media liaison, BR Relief, to supply more information about the booster



Fisherman and local parson Eil Murtz: 'Armscor puts up beacons where you cannot sail' Pictures: CEDRIC NUNN, Afrapix

A little Eden ... hunting

WHEN Mike Engel's ancestors settled at Waenhuiskrans on the southern tip of Africa, they laid the foundations for a village of "coloured" fishermen who have waged a resolute fight to retain their way of life for nearly 200 years.

The community has already survived three attempts to expropriate their white-washed cluster of thatched cottages. Now American intelligence sources have identified what may be a more serious threat: a joint project by South Africa and Israel to develop a long-range missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

The village is squeezed on one side by a white holiday resort called Arniston and on the other by a missile range built by the parastatal armaments corporation, Armscor, five years ago to test its rockets and bombs.

"When they came here they said they would give us jobs. They began by clearing the land and putting up those buildings behind our homes," says Mike, using a colourful dialect

Fishermen on South Africa's most southern tip complain that a nearby missile test centre disrupts their fishing and ruins their livelihoods. 'It is to God that this sea belongs... but they have come and taken it for themselves...'

EDDIE KOCH reports

of Afrikaans that has been developed by generations of residents at Waenhuiskrans.

"They built a fence that runs out into the sea and stops us sailing in front of their land. Last year they began with this bombing of theirs. It is to God that this sea belongs. But they have come and taken it for themselves."

The intermingling of warm currents from the Indian Ocean and the cold waters of the Atlantic create perfect conditions for a rich supply of plankton. Every year hundreds of endangered right whales swim thousands of kilometres from the Antarctic to give birth to their calves off these shores.

The marine conditions on which the whales thrive also teem with small pelagic fish that attract the shoals of yellowtail, cob, and kingklip that the men from Waenhuiskrans catch and sell to fishing companies.

Armscor appears not to have chosen the site next to Arniston for strategic reasons. There are no gun placements or strike vessels there to indicate this. There are numerous sites on the country's barren and unpopulated West Coast to use for testing missiles. It would appear that the military simply wanted to own their corner of Africa's southern tip.

The effects of this on fishermen who do not own their own boats is especially traumatic. "We suffer the most in the winter months. Armscor closes the sea for three days, then the weather stops the boat for a few days and sometimes we get no fish for two weeks at a time," says Mike.

Eil Murtz owns one of the boats in the Waenhuiskrans fleet and goes with it to sea, except on Sundays. He is the parson for the local Anglican congregation and the community's chief spokesman.

"Now Armscor makes it very heavy here at the sea. They put up beacons where you cannot sail. And there lie

our only fishing grounds in the winter. They have also stopped us from walking down the coast to trap haddock in nets by building a security fence that goes deep into the sea," he says.

He remembers how the village was moved twice in the early 1900s to its present site so the holiday houses in Arniston could be built.

In the 1930s, when "coloured" people were still on the voters' role, a white parliamentarian arranged for a winch to be built in the harbour so that the fishermen's boats could be pulled into the docks. The capstan fell over on the first occasion it was used and its wreckage still lies in the water. "Well there are bigger and more important things that the parliament must look to. We must just wait like we always have," says Mike.

Eil's brother, Jollop, is the village boat builder. He learnt his trade by standing around in the boat yard and watching what the *larnies* (white men) were doing. "I didn't let them know what I was planning otherwise they would have chased me away."

He has been elected to a committee of village elders that is busy talking to Armscor about the damage their missile testing is doing to the community and trying to negotiate more time for the men to go to sea.

"When Armscor came here they said they would give our people jobs. But now they have brought in many people from the big towns around here and we still need the sea to live," says Jollop. "It has even happened that we are already sailing out to the reefs and a message comes over the radio ... 'Return to port. Armscor is testing today.'"

Jollop's committee has managed to persuade the military to give at least two day's warning before they close off access to the reefs and obtained an undertaking to keep the restricted periods as short as possible.

But this has done little to eliminate the uncertainty the fishing village faces. While they are not yet ready to give up their 200-year-old independence, many are thinking of sending children to seek jobs in the city.

The biggest regret for Mike is the effect it has all had on his daughter. "She went to boarding school in Bredasdorp. The food there is poor. Every Wednesday I would take her money and food. I could not bear it when I could no longer do that. I have taken her out of the boarding house."



rocket. He replied: "No. I'm afraid not. These things are very confidential." He acknowledged that the Arniston range had a busy test schedule over a period of six months this year but said Armscor had nothing to add to its press release of July 6.

In August last year, while Botha was in Vienna for similar talks about the NPT, the foreign minister admitted his government had the capacity to make a nuclear bomb "should we want to" but declined to say if one had already been produced.

African and Third World countries have repeatedly tried to have South Africa expelled from the IAEA for its refusal to sign the NPT.

A further set of talks with the NPT's three trustee members, Britain, the US and the Soviet Union, is due to take place next year.

But Peter Vale, research fellow at the Institute for International Affairs in Johannesburg, told the *Weekly Mail* it appeared the South African government had no intention of signing the NPT in the near future.

"They always kick for touch on this one in the hope that they can use it to extract concessions from the West," he said.

The US government is known to be deeply perturbed about nuclear collusion between Israel and South Africa. Earlier this year CIA chief William Webster made a series of speeches say-

ing nuclear weapons proliferation represented "new dangers to regional stability and to the interests of the US. Another disturbing development we have seen is the outright transfer of complete missile systems from one country to another," he said. The comments are said to have been aimed at the deal between South Africa and Israel.

US satellite photographs show the test site at Arniston to be identical to an Israeli launch range in the Negev desert. However, tests for long-range missiles in the Negev are constrained because there is no large expanse of sea nearby.

Armscor says the location of the Arniston range allows rockets to be fired for hundreds of miles into the Indian Ocean. **Eddie Koch**

ground for fishermen and rockets



"MY father and his father were born here. I was 10 years old when I began to work on the boats. At that time it was a little bit of school, a little bit of the sea, a little bit of school and so on," says Mike Engel.

In those days fishermen found the reefs by lining up rugged peaks on the mountains that form the backdrop to the village with landmarks such as a river mouth or high sand dune and passed these skills on to the younger generation.

There are three reefs off the Waenhuiskrans coast each at intervals of six, eight and 12 kilometres to sea. These can take up to two hours of sailing to reach. So on a typical day, the men of the village wake and make their way down to their little harbour long before the sun rises.

"I don't wake my wife when I get up at four in the morning ... just give her a kiss, look at the child and drink a quick cup of coffee," he says.

"Then I go out and join the other *manne* on the way to the harbour."

The village has a fleet of 10 primitive fishing vessels, called *skutte*. Each takes a team of eight men and a skipper to the reefs. Once the boats find a reef with big shoals, the skipper lets the diesel engine idle and the men each throw out two or three hand lines.

While the boats pitch and lurch in a relentless sea that towers above them even on a calm day, the fishermen spend the next eight hours baiting hooks, throwing in lines, wrestling with fish ... and cursing the ones that get away.

"We don't get a salary," he says. "Each man gets half of the fish he catches. The other half goes to the owner of the boat. We work in pairs and have no time to rest. The more fish we catch the more money we take home. If a man gets sick

and does not go out, no money. If he gets hurt he gets 'biggerall'. There is no rest on the boat. It's the only time we have to put food on the table."

Eight hours later the skipper starts up the engines and heads back to port, which they reach about 4pm. Then each man's catch has to be weighed and recorded in the fishing company's books so that he can be paid at the end of the week for his half of the catch.

The men keep one fish for supper and clean this at the docks before trudging home. "The boat owners used to give us two *eetvis* (eating fish) but now they take one to pay for the bait that they buy for us," he says.

At home he eats supper and watches a little television before going to sleep so that he can wake before dawn for the start of another cycle.

Eddie Koch

'We care about the fishermen'

ARMSCOR'S Overberg Test Range near Arniston has created some problems for the fishing community at Waenhuiskrans but it is not true that the firm does not care for the welfare of the community, says a representative for the corporation.

"The past winter has been a difficult one for the fishing community. The weather was very bad for long periods at a time and fish were scarce," said Armscor's manager of client and media relations, BR Retief.

"As a result of a busy test schedule at the range over a period of six months, various sea areas were closed for a total of 58 days. This did not make matters easier.

"The fishing boats were, however, never stopped from putting out to sea although certain fishing banks where

they do fish in winter were closed at times."

After becoming aware of the problems being experienced by the fishermen, Armscor had initiated talks with the Fishermen's Union of Waenhuiskrans, Retief said.

"These talks took place in a positive spirit and practical solutions were found which will ensure acceptable access to the fishermen's traditional winter fishing areas in future."

He added that jobs had been created for the local community at the test site and that development of the nearby town of Bredasdorp had increased the market for fish from the village.

"The impression created that Armscor is not involved with and does not care for the people of Waenhuiskrans is therefore devoid of all truth."

4

15-20/12/89