

# Widespread opposition

**A** RANGE of players in Natal have come out in opposition to the government's plan to transfer some 1.2 million hectares of state land to homeland administration.

The Democratic Party (DP) rejected the plan and the DP's Mr Wessel Nel said in a statement in August that: "It is incumbent upon the government to consider first any recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation, submissions by the affected communities and rural development needs and then to negotiate an acceptable practical solution".

Also in August, the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) said it opposed the planned transfer and that it believed no state land should be given away until land restitution arising from claims by people dispossessed of land under apartheid laws had been dealt with satisfactorily. Mr Hans van der Merwe, the deputy director of commodity services at the SAAU said, "the state has ample land available for restitution purposes. We believe this should not be disposed of before the legal claims have been answered adequately." The president of the SAAU, Mr JJ Fourie said his

union hoped the government would consult widely on the issue before making a final decision. He said he believed the issues of land, land use and allocation of state land should be handled in a way which would solve short-term problems and also contribute towards general long-term satisfaction.

The Daily News, in an editorial in September, slated the proposed transfer as making little sense when a new constitution was being negotiated. Referring to the possibility of Clermont, which previously resisted transfer to KwaZulu, now being transferred to KwaZulu administration, the Daily News said: "If bureaucracy has produced a plan for the incorporation of Clermont, to complete the apartheid blueprint, somebody in authority needs to publicly remind the bureaucrats that the blueprint is no more. If no such plan exists, this has to be made abundantly clear. South Africa has more than enough potential flashpoints."

The Southern Natal Region of the ANC has also begun to put pressure on the government to halt its transfer plan. On September 9, a delegation from the region presented a

N/MERCURY 16.9.1992  
Report by the Association for Rural Development

## Land transfer bargaining chip for KwaZulu in negotiations

**T**HE government's recently exposed plan to transfer about 600 000 hectares of state land in Natal to KwaZulu administration seems to have become a bargaining chip in the game of negotiations for a winning support for the new constitution.

CLERMONT, south of Durban, may soon be handed over to KwaZulu — which warns the ANC will result in the biggest bloodbath ever witnessed in Natal.

And, says the ANC, this "unilateral handing over of land" one of the most emotive issues in the current negotiations, could be the final nail in Codesa's coffin.

The government has already announced that at least 1.2 million hectares of land administered by the SA Development Trust is to be handed over to the six homeland administrations.

But Clermont, a staunch ANC stronghold for the past two decades, is likely to be the biggest flashpoint. Chairman of the Southern Natal ANC branch, Jeff Radebe, has said that if this happened, there would be blood in the streets.

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**SUNDAY TRIBUNE LET**  
**Hands of we can**  
THE government plans to transfer 1.2 million hectares of state land to KwaZulu administration. No one, outside of the government and the benefiting beneficiaries, has been consulted, let alone the inhabitants of the land.  
The National Land Commission (NLC) and the African National Congress (ANC) have called on the government to abandon its plans on the grounds that it is unfair to incorporate people into its own underdevelopment.

**ANC march against incorporation**  
ABOUT 5 000 ANC supporters marched yesterday to the KwaZulu police station to protest against the planned transfer of the township to KwaZulu.  
A spokesman for the Department and Regional Land Affairs said Deputy Minister of Land Affairs Johann Schreppers was continuing his discussions on the planned transfer of 600 000 hectares to KwaZulu.

## ANC warns of bloodbath if KwaZulu gets Clermont

**Graham Spence**  
CLERMONT, south of Durban, may soon be handed over to KwaZulu — which warns the ANC will result in the biggest bloodbath ever witnessed in Natal.

**Attack on Afra**  
by NOMUSA CEMBI  
A DURBAN BASED Zulu newspaper has launched a stinging attack on the Association for Rural Advancement (Afra) accusing the organisation of dividing the Zulu nation.

# to land transfer plan

## crecy and the land issue

Recently exposed 6000 hectares to KwaZulu by more than latter. Land major bar of negotia- for a fed- Africa. Quite

Racially Based Land Measures Act was passed, providing for the establish- ment of Acla, with the brief to advise the state president about alloca- tion of undeveloped state land.

Then in March this year government scrapped the discredited Department of Development Aid (DDA) and the South African Development Trust (SADT), and put the land formerly held by these departments under the

Again, these undertakings have not stopped further attempts to get rid of land being claimed. Recently, a gov- ernment department hurriedly sold off some 8 000 hectares of land in the northern Cape which is being claimed by the Majeng community.

Despite undertakings in the 1991 White Paper that homeland consolida- tion would end, in March this year some three million hectares of land was handed to the six homelands. This followed the dissolution of the DDA and the SADT.

memorandum calling for the "immediate termination of any intention of the South African government to transfer land to KwaZulu and other bantustans". And on September 12, about 5 000 Clermont residents marched to the local police station to protest against the planned transfer.

conflicts that enable them to further their nefarious plans for an undemocratic one-party state". In a later edition, Ilanga launched a pointed attack on other organisations who have expressed concern about the transfer. The newspaper claimed that opposition to the transfer was an ANC/SACP/COSATU plot to stop KwaZulu gaining control over land that was due to it. The newspaper further claimed that the 600 000 hectares of land was being returned to KwaZulu in terms of a 1988 ruling.

## LETTERS

### off the land on which to build a better future

20. 9. 1992

and land into the homelands at a time when the establishment of an interim government and the disbanding of these territories is imminent. This action will not only have detri- mental consequences for the commu- nities concerned, but will pre-empt the possibility of establishing a coherent land and development policy for the future. Also, a hand-over of adminis- trative control has severe practical consequences for the people con- cerned - it could affect their access

under- rithed scarp- cess to and to

of apartheid sold. And the minister of land affairs, Dr Jacob de Villiers pledged that black communities their land by past policies. Racially Based Land Measures Act is passed, providing for the estab- lishment of Acla, with the brief to advise the state president about alloca- tion of undeveloped state land.

Then in March this year government scrapped the discredited Department of Development Aid (DDA) and the South African Development Trust (SADT), and put the land formerly held by these departments under the Department of Regional Affairs and Public Administration.

Despite these measures appeared to be moving away from apartheid policies of the past, movement to genuine settle- ment of the land issue. Establishing a not stop government attempts to sell off land being claimed by rural communities. The govern- ment on two occasions to sell off farms in the Eastcourt district were being claimed by the Amahlubi tribe. In both occasions protest over the intended sale led to the halting of the sale. The chairman of Acla, Judge van der Merwe, called on the government to sell off all land that was the subject of dispute. In May this year the minister of agriculture, Kraai, also undertook that land

## Over land

winning back their land like in Cornfields, Tembhalibie, Mat- wane's Kop, Stoffelton and Sreen- kopspruit. Others are putting their land claims before the gov- ernment's Advisory Commission on Land Allocation. Among the latter communities are Roosboom, Char- lestown and Amahlubi," says the statement.

ADA said the articles confirm its worst fears - "The issue of land is now being given a potentially explosive political character". The government has denied it intends to hand over land to self-governing territories.

"No decision has been taken by government regarding this matter and media speculation that this land will be handed over to the IFP or that it will be totally handed under their administrative control is untrue," said deputy minister for land affairs Johan

## Land for KwaZulu starts row

15. 9. 92

A CAMPAIGN to prevent the transfer of 600 000 hectares of land to the KwaZulu government is gaining momentum as fears grow that violent confronta- tion could result from such a move.

This week the African National Congress said in a memorandum presented to the Depart- ment of Home Affairs that such a move was provocative and was interpreted "as a man- oeuvre by the South African authorities to consolidate support for its war against the ANC".

At least eight areas in Natal could fall into KwaZulu hands if the transfer is affected. The land in dispute was previously under the now disbanded South African Development Trust.

The ANC described the move as "further evidence of complicity" between the Inkatha Free- dom Party and the government.

Last month the Association for Rural Advancement (Afra) said that in Natal particularly, communities had negative expe- riences of KwaZulu.

Deputy Minister of Land Af- fairs, Mr Johan Schreepes said the Government had not taken a decision on the future of the land. He said the Department of Regional and Land Affairs had considered numerous possibili- ties.

The Human Rights Commis- sion also signalled a warning that the possibility of land being transferred to KwaZulu could lead to an escalation of violence in this region, repeating Afra's concerns that the communities under threat would resist such a move.

to pensions, health and social services, as well as the land itself.

There is no doubt that the planned land transfer is calculated to prevent a new government from allocating state land. How can a government, which claims to be negotiating in good faith, continue to take unilateral deci- sions affecting the lives of thousands of people?

and commu- the Association for Rural Advancement (Afra). Jean du Plessis is land programme co-ordinator

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Reports from OXFAM, a British-based development organisation with whom AFRA has fraternal relations, indicate that the British government seems to be concerned about the transfer plan. In a letter to OXFAM, Baroness Linda Chalker, Minister responsible for sub-Saharan Africa, said she had raised the issue with the South African Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Renier Schoeman on her recent visit to South Africa. She had been led to believe that no firm decisions had been taken. She added that the British embassy in South Africa was monitoring developments closely.

Opposition to the planned transfer drew sharp response from the IFP-owned Ilanga newspaper. In an article entitled "Watch out for the land wolf", the newspaper warned that: "people must beware of those who merely wish to use the sacred issue of land as an instrument to divide people and create