

AFRA



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Homeland consolidation behind land transfer plan?

THE government is planning to transfer about 600 000 hectares of state land in Natal to KwaZulu administration. Nationally, the government wants to put about 1.2 million hectares under homeland administration.

Government claims that the reason for considering administrative transfer was pressure from the homelands for more land. This gives AFRA and the communities little comfort. Transfer of administration will amount to control over land settlement and use.

It was repeatedly pointed out that such a transfer contradicts government undertakings in its White Paper as well as agreements struck at CODESA. Communities affected also reject the transfer plans.

A great deal of secrecy surrounds the transfer plan. Only homeland leaders have been consulted, not the communities affected.



Transfer of administration to homelands will mean control over land settlement and use and will make land reform more complicated.

We can only conclude that the government is using the sensitive issue of land as a bargaining chip to buy support from the homelands and to bolster the power of these leaders in negotiations.

The planned transfer again shows how government wants to shirk its rural development responsibilities. It is

pursuing short term political gains at the expense of a coherent development strategy.

The deputy Minister of Land Affairs' actions also appear to make a mockery of attempts to resolve the land question through the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation (ACLA).

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Background to transfer

WHEN the SADT was abolished in April 1992, 1.2 million hectares of the land it held was transferred to the Ministry of Land and Regional Affairs. Now the government wants to transfer this 1.2 million hectares to the homelands' administration. Whether there will be joint administration between the government and homelands or sole administration by the homelands, is still unclear.

What does the planned transfer mean for Natal?

In Natal, about 600 000 hectares of this 1.2 million hectares will go to KwaZulu. Much of the land in question currently has white leaseholders, whose leases ends on December 31 1992. Much of this land is also the subject of land claims among rural communities with whom AFRA works.

Previous transfers

On October 16 1991, Mr De Klerk announced that the DDA and SADT would be abolished on April 1 1992.

On March 30 1992 the SADT still held 4.2 million hectares of land.

Ownership of 3 million hectares passed to the six homeland governments in May 1992. Developments on this land had been run by the homelands since 1985. The SADT had already transferred 4 million hectares to the six homelands and 10 million hectares to the TBVC states. The cost of land buying in the name of consolidating apartheid states was said to be R1 364 896 789. This figure was revealed in parliament in March 1992.

Another 1.2 million hectares outside the homelands was passed to the Departments of Public Works and Regional and Land Affairs.

What does the government say?

The government says homeland governments are putting pressure on it for more land. Yet, in its White Paper on Land Reform, the government said it would not incorporate further land into the homelands. The homeland governments said in CODESA that they were happy to support a moratorium on further land transfers to TBVC states. They said they supported such a moratorium on the acceptance that the homelands would be reincorporated into South Africa.

At the time of going to press, it was not clear when a decision would be made about the proposed transfer.

Where is the land?

THE government has refused to release details about the exact location of this land. AFRA's own research shows that it involves the following:

- Nongoma
- Impendle
- Ingwavuma
- Joelridge
- Mahlabatini
- Qudeni
- Wilgefontein
- Newcastle
- Driefontein (Ladysmith)
- Bergville
- Estcourt
- Franklands (Port Shepstone)
- Ekuvukeni
- Mount Currie
- Matatiele
- Vryheid
- Utrecht
- Charlotte Dale
- Ntambanana (near Empangeni)
- Nondweni
- Babanangolsipingo
- Umzinto
- Clermont Extension 4
- KwaDabeka
- Kloof
- High Flats
- Dennisfield
- Nondweni
- Nqutu (farms & townlands)
- Nkandla
- Edendale Ext 3 & 4
- Landauville
- Somkele
- Edgley
- Pomeroy
- Duff's Road