

- further help from the government to develop the area.

In reply, Mr van Rensburg said that when the government spoke about restitution, this meant that what the government took away it would give back and what it gave, should be repaid. "If a person was paid R10 in compensation at the time of removal, then that R10 should be returned at present value," he said.

He suggested that a technical committee look at the issue of compensation and how to restore ownership to landowners. He also suggested a separate committee be formed to address resettlement and development of the community.

The community agreed to consider these proposals.

The government's demand that compensation money be repaid is likely to cause further unnecessary delays in full restoration of the community's land. If there are such delays, there is a real danger that Alcockspruit could be occupied in an uncontrolled way by landless people from the area.

- The Alcockspruit community was forcibly removed in 1969 from land which they had bought in 1894 and relocated to the KwaZulu townships of Madadeni and Osizweni. Before the removal Alcockspruit was a thriving community of small agriculturalists. Structures on the land, such as churches, community halls and schools were built by the community.

## Labour tenants call for TEC protection

THE Transitional Executive Authority (TEC) has set up a subcommittee to investigate the problems facing labour tenants in the eastern Transvaal and Natal midlands. At its second meeting, on February 25, the subcommittee resolved to forward corroborated cases of alleged police involvement in labour tenant harassment to the Subcouncil on Law and Order. It also resolved to ask the Peace Secretariat to monitor the areas affected. Lawyers involved in the subcommittee were asked to come up with suggestions by March 3 about how the Independent Electoral Commission could ensure that labour tenants have free access to voter education and the general election process. The lawyers were also asked to report on how a period of grace could be implemented to prevent eviction of labour tenants. Representatives of the South African Agricultural Union indicated that they would entertain discussion on a period of grace regarding evictions.

The subcommittee on labour tenants is part of the TEC's Subcouncil on Regional and Local Government and Traditional Authorities and its formation follows the submission to the TEC management committee of a memorandum calling for a moratorium to be placed on farm evictions. The memorandum was submitted in December 1993 by a delegation representing labour tenants and non-government organisations who work with them, including AFRA.

The memorandum called for the TEC to declare an immediate moratorium on farm evictions for the following reasons:

- For many labour tenants, the process of building a "new South Africa" is remote as there are no mechanisms to restrain farmers from harassing and evicting people who live on their land, even if such people have long historical connections to that land. Since labour tenants have no legal protection against evictions they may feel they should take drastic action to protect their limited land rights by whatever means at their disposal. At a meeting in the Transvaal in November, labour tenants resolved to fight back if necessary and to die for what they called "the basic human rights denied to them over a long period by apartheid policies".
- The constant threat of eviction has made it difficult for labour tenants to prepare themselves for the forthcoming elections. There have also been reports of farmers removing labour tenants' identity documents without explanation
- Continued eviction of relatively prosperous rural dwellers will turn them into squatters on the fringes of rural towns and will exacerbate the national problems of homelessness, unemployment and poverty.