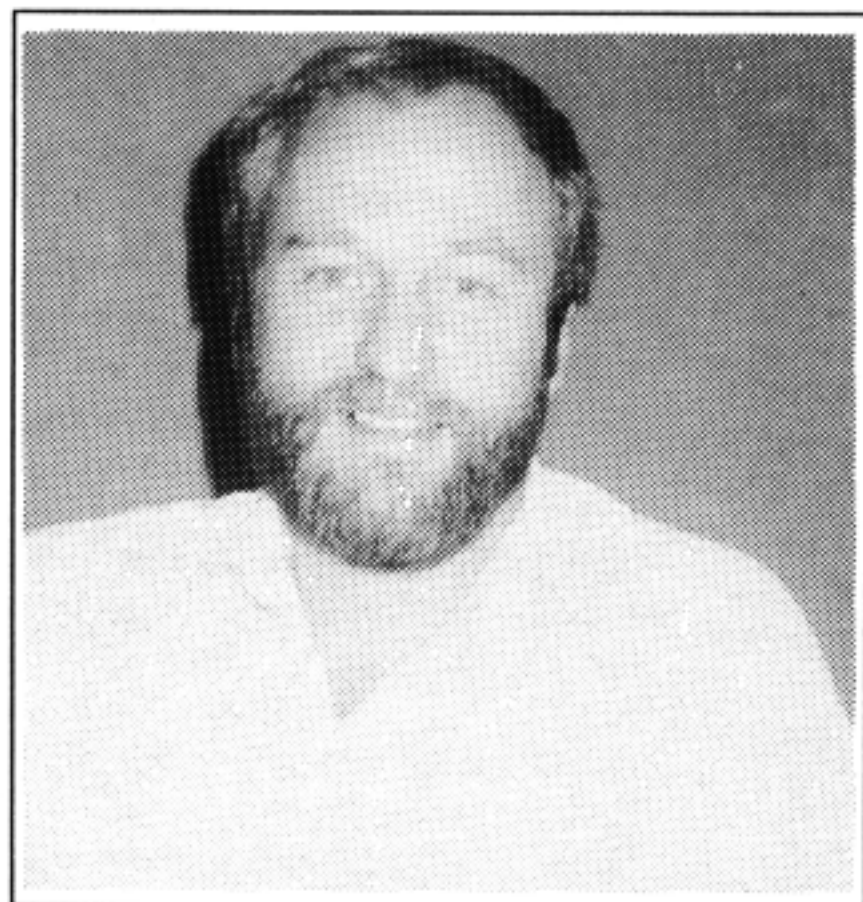


ANC's five year plan



Rural people have high expectations of a future government. Will their needs be met through the ANC's Reconstruction and Development Programme?



Derek Hanekom of the ANC's Land Desk.

The ANC has committed itself to redistribute 30% of agricultural land and to complete land restoration within five years after the April election, according to land reform proposals in the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP). Further discussion on the RDP has been planned for March 1994, when a wide range of civil society organisations are expected to be drawn in to give their views.

or land reform

A land reform programme, says the RDP, should be demand driven and supply residential and productive land to the poorest section of the rural population and aspirant farmers. As part of a rural development programme land reform should raise incomes and productivity. It should also ensure security of tenure, regardless of the landholding system, and remove all forms of discrimination in women's access to land.

The RDP identifies two aspects to land reform:

- redistribution of residential and productive land to those who need it but can't afford it
- restitution to those who lost land through apartheid laws

The land reform programme, including costing, mechanisms and training programmes, must aim to redistribute 30% of agricultural land within the first five years of the programme. And the land restoration leg of the programme must aim to complete its task of adjudication within five years.

Redistribution targets state land

The land redistribution programme should realise its objectives by strengthening existing property rights of

communities already living on land, combining market and non-market mechanisms to provide land and using vacant state land, among others. Specifically, says the RDP, the following should be done:

- The state must review and revise legal provisions which impede planning and affordability of land reform.
- The redistribution programme should use land that is already on sale, acquired through corrupt means or mortgaged.
- Land acquired through illegal means should be recovered.
- The state should, where it is applicable, expropriate land and pay compensation as set out in the constitution.
- The state must provide funding, but beneficiaries must also pay for redistribution.
- There should be a rural land tax - to free underused land, raise revenue for rural infrastructure and promote productive land use.
- Rural infrastructure, support services and training must be provided so that land can be used effectively. Rural water provision and basic health care are priorities and a rural water supply programme should start in first year of RDP.

- Various tenure forms should be recognised and new tenure forms, such as, community land trusts, should be supported.
- Women should be specifically targeted and institutions, practices and laws, in particular, tenure and matrimonial laws, should be revised.
- There should be services provided to beneficiaries of land reform, including support for local institution building, so that communities can plan fair ways to allocate and administer land.

Restitution to redress forced removal

The purpose of land restitution, according to the RDP, would be to redress the suffering caused by the forced removals policy. The democratic government must restore land to South Africans who were dispossessed of it by discriminatory laws since 1913. This will be done through a land claims court, which should be accessible to the poor and illiterate. The court should set up processes that will enable it to work speedily and there should be guaranteed constitutional rights to restitution.

Besides land reform, the RDP also deals with basic needs and has proposals for building the economy, democratising the state and society and developing human resources.