

TRAC



Transvaal Rural Action Committee Newsletter No.26 November 1993

109 community delegates from 23 Transvaal communities attended a workshop on 29th and 30th October to draw together their demands around land. The workshop is part of the preparations for a National Community Land Conference (CLC), to be held in

Bloemfontein on 12 - 13 February 1994. The CLC will be a major milestone in putting the demands of rural people on the political map. The CLC is also increasingly being seen as the possible beginning of a rural social movement.

TRANSVAAL COMMUNITIES GET READY

COMMUNITY LAND CONFERENCE

The meeting at the Lutheran Diocesan Centre in Soweto was facilitated by TRAC. Three community-based organisations, the Rural Women's Movement, the Transvaal Land Restoration Committee, and the Drakensberg Farmers Union, were also represented in the meeting.

What is the CLC?

Andries Buffel, a TRAC fieldworker, asked the meeting what people understand by the "CLC"? Community members' viewpoints on the CLC are reflected in these answers from the floor:

- All victims of forced removals should meet, and talk with one voice.



Women come up with their demands at the Transvaal CLC. *Pic: TRAC*

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- When we go back to the land, we should know how to develop it.
- The conference is going to give us a chance to meet on our demands.
- This conference is the voice of all people of Transvaal to let the government know we are united.
- "CLC" means Community Land -- Comittee?? no, Commission ? no, Conference !!
- The conference is faced with the problem of the Bantustans.
- This conference is a preparation for a big conference we are going to have next year in Bloemfontein. It is not going to be the Transvaal alone, it will be the whole South Africa.

Sectoral Demands

The Transvaal demands were generated in groups. The meeting broke into 5 sectoral groups -- land-owners, tenants, youth, women and farmers. Each group discussed their demands, then chose the five most important ones, and

ranked them No. 1 to No.5. The demands were then written each onto a separate sheet of newsprint (to facilitate collation later), and the group also tried to represent the demand in a picture. Each group reported its top five demands (from No. 5 to No. 1). Five group members each held up a piece of paper with one demand, and presented it briefly in ascending order.

> **The sectoral demands are listed on page 6.**

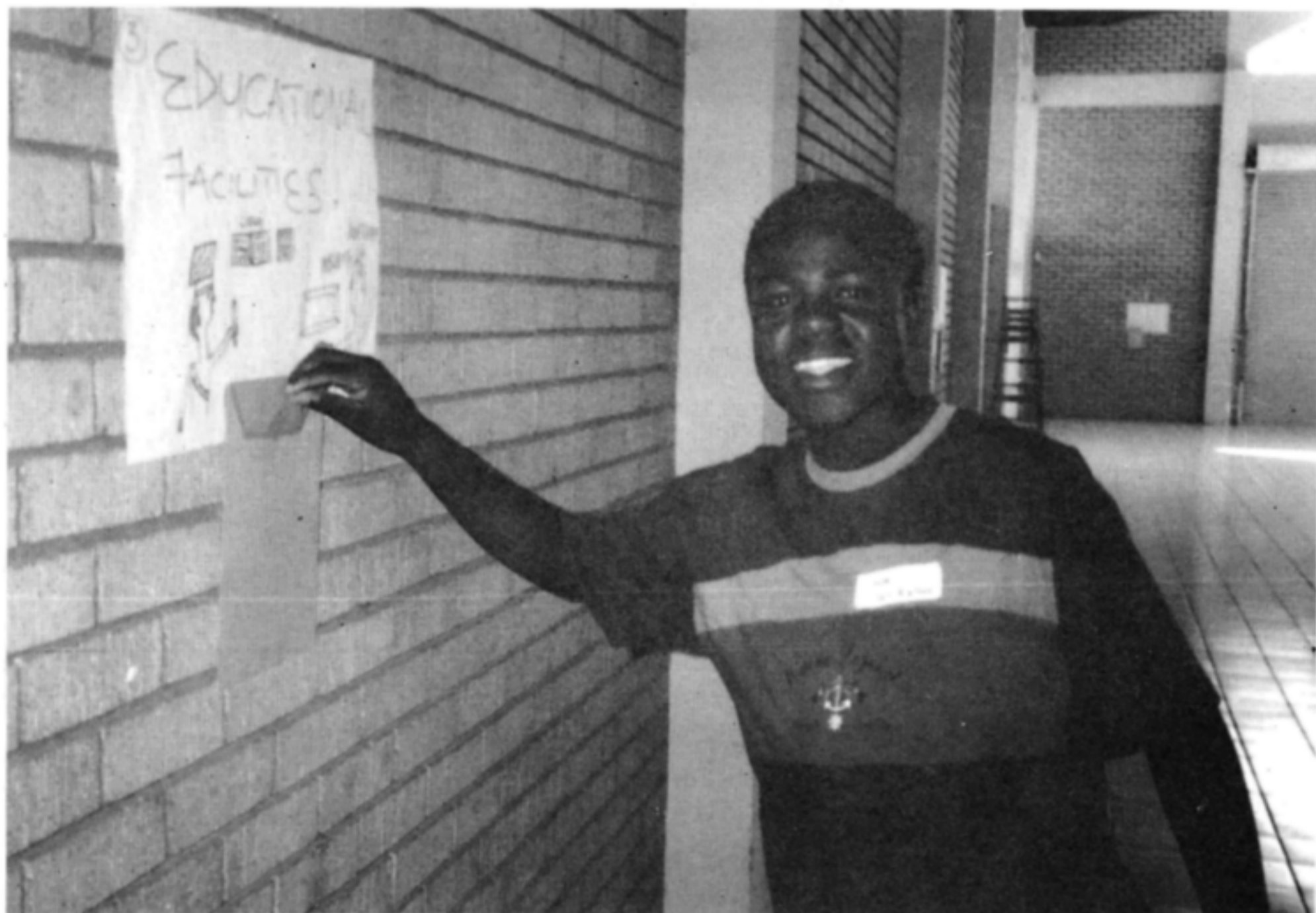


It wasn't all serious, as the faces of TRAC fieldworkers (left to right) Andries Buffel, Star Motswege, Janet Small and Matlakala Mariha show.

Pic.: TRAC



Community Land Conference



Sam Masuku from Piet Retief casts his vote for additional Transvaal demands

Pic: TRAC

There was a question from the floor:

"Why are we focusing on demands again? We've done this before, and we know our demands. What will be different this time?"

Several speakers did see some difference:

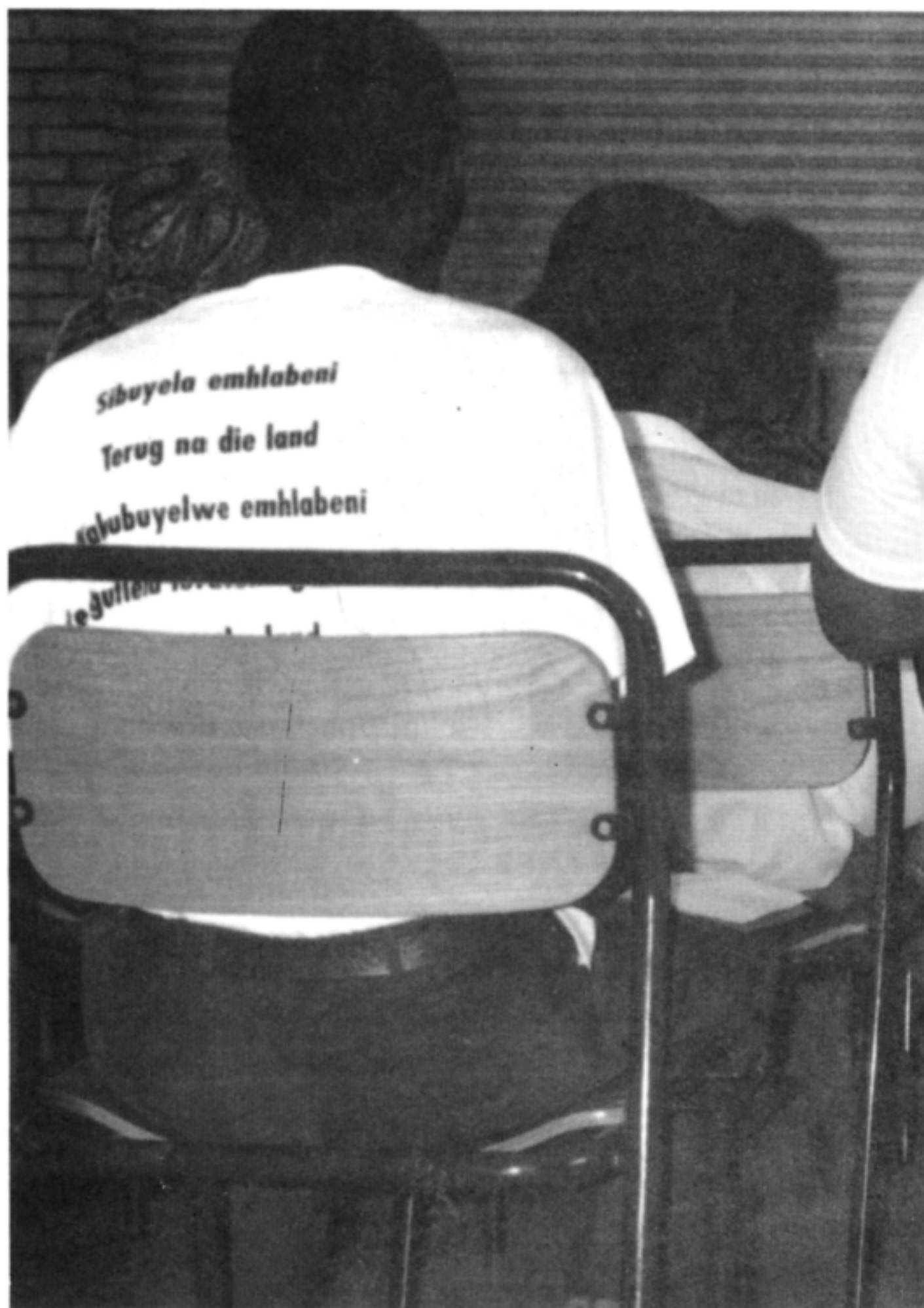
"At Bloemfontein [the national conference and rally], things will be taken forward at a national level, stronger than before."

"The Back to Land Campaign has collected some of these demands before, but it is focusing only on restoration. This CLC is broader, it looks at all land issues."

Putting together Transvaal demands

The No. 1 demand of each group was accepted as a Transvaal demand.

There was some discussion again, as to whether the first demands of the women and the tenants could not be put together. Women were saying they demand the right to land ownership, whether single or married; while tenants said they want to own their own property/places. One dele-



Delegates to the Transvaal CLC meeting show their determination to return to their land in no uncertain terms.

gate suggested that they could be combined under a general "right to own property, irrespective of race and sex".

Nenkie Motlhare from the Rural Women's Movement delegation opposed this quite firmly, saying that such a general demand

would not cover the women's demand properly. Rural women have been denied access to land for too long, and now they want it -- explicitly.

It was agreed that we would find another 5 to 10 demands from the remainder, to make a total to 10 to 15



Pic: TRAC

Transvaal demands to take to the national CLC in February 1994.

On the basis of "one person one vote", community participants voted for one additional demand, which they wanted to go forward.

> **The list of final Transvaal demands can be found on the back page 8.**

Before the concluding session, the chairperson of the Transvaal Land Restoration Committee (TLRC), Rev. Phasha, was given some time to report on recent

meetings with the government. This was felt to be important, so that delegates should understand clearly what the Restoration Campaign was all about, and how it differs from the Community Land Conference.

Concluding Session

Each community delegation was given some time to elect their two delegates to the National Conference, the first day of the CLC. Communities were encouraged to elect one man and one woman.

> **See page 7 for a full list of the elected delegates.**

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

WAY FORWARD

The delegates elected at the Transvaal meeting will present the Transvaal demands to the **National Conference on the 12th February 1994**, in Bloemfontein. In the meantime, communities are making preparations for as many people as possible to attend the **RALLY, on Sunday the 13th February 1994**.

SECTORAL DEMANDS

Women

1. **Women should have the right to land ownership, whether single or married.**
2. **Female land surveyors should be trained and given the opportunity to practise their skills.**
3. **Equal rights between men and women.**
4. **We do not want chiefs any more.**
5. **We do not want polygamy any more.**

Farmers

1. **Equal distribution of land -- one farm, one farmer, and avoiding a monopoly of production and marketing.**
2. **Title deeds should ensure full/complete ownership of land, both the surface and the underground. Government should not elect trustees in case of a trust deed, but the community concerned should.**
3. **We demand the right to government subsidies and loans.**
4. **Training for farming skills and subsidised test farms.**
5. **Relief funding in cases of disaster.**

Tenants

1. **We want to own or have our own property/places.**
2. **We must all live together and share equal rights.**
3. **Development in our places.**
4. **Equal education in black and white schools.**
5. **Farming problems: people will still have cattle and no place for grazing.**

Youth

1. **Enough land for future expansion, housing, institutions; unused land to be given as additional land to communities.**
2. **There should be a health centre/proper sanitation in each village**
3. **Educational facilities should be localised for parents to afford tertiary studies.**
4. **Job creation projects, e.g. factories.**
5. **Sport and recreational facilities.**

Landowners

1. **Immediate and unconditional return of our land by the present government before the next government.**
2. **Compensation for damages incurred during forced removals.**
3. **Infrastructure, e.g. tarred roads, electricity, clinics, telecommunications and other development.**
4. **Development aid -- relief fund during disaster.**
5. **Redistribution of land, e.g. grazing land, residential land, farms. Socialism is the solution.**

THE DELEGATES

KwaNgema: Poppy Ngema, Elizabeth Ngema

Daggakraal: Simon Ngwenya, Zanele Sibaya

Driefontein: Jabulani Msibi, Busisiwe Manana

Ruisplaas (Piet Retief): German Nkonyana, Sithembile Shabangu

Itswepe: Grace Nkosi, Kathrina Gama

Doornkop: Othniel Phasha, Solphina Makgathe

Boomplaas/Dinkwanyane: Samuel Modipa, Michael Mashupye

Makgane: Michael Ratau, Monica Ratau

Botshabelo: Louisa Rantlha, Brian Msiza

Hartebeesfontein: Roepsie Makune, Elizabeth Sebako

Modderspruit: Yvonne Padi, Simon Moatshe

Mogopa: Isaac Moretlwa, Dorphine Tlhapi

Magogoane: Herbert Kgokong, Fransina Diale

Bakubung ba Ratheo: Solomon Moloko, Arthur Monnagotla

Baphiring: Mokgadi Phoshoko, Godfrey Mabalane

Welverdiend: John Ntetha, Gladys Jonas

Koster: Reuben Ditsele, Betho Modisane

Barolong: Alfred Mekgoro, Ezekiel Nyokong

Ajax: Mary Thwala, Juliet Ndebele

Braklaagte/ Lekubung: Puspsey Sebogodi, Sebati Setshotlhe

Pilgrim's Rest: Bright Mashego, Mashile Segopelo

Leeufontein/Mokgola: Nkgokolwane Majafa, MamLydia Semara



Women present their demands in words and pictures.

Pic: TRAC

FINAL LIST OF TRANSVAAL DEMANDS

- * **We need enough land for future expansion, housing and institutions, unused land to be given as additional land to communities**
- * **We demand the immediate and unconditional return of land by the government before the next government**
- * **As tenants, we want our own property/places**
- * **Women should have the right to land ownership, whether married or unmarried**
- * **There should be equal distribution of land between blacks and whites -- one farm, one farmer**
- * **We demand the redistribution of land, e.g. grazing land, residential land, and farms -- socialism is the solution**
- * **We demand the compensation for losses caused by forced removals**
- * **We need infrastructure and development, e.g. tarred roads, electricity, clinics, telecommunications -- in short, development in our places**
- * **There must be sport and recreational facilities in our communities**
- * **Projects for job creation must be established in our communities**
- * **We do not want polygamy any more**
- * **We must all live together and share equal rights**
- * **We need access to government subsidies, loans and disaster relief**
- * **As tenants we still need a place to graze our cattle**