

Development of R26m black Glenmore township to begin

31/7/78
GPH

TOMORROW the South African Development Corporation becomes the official owner of the 1 000-hectare farm Glenmore—and an almost immediate start will be made on the preparatory work for a brand new African township which will cost R26 million over a five-year period.

In the next year the SADC, formerly the South African Bantu Trust, will spend R6,1 million on a satellite township to be built in the Ciskei in a horseshoe bend of the Great Fish River, about 40 kilometres from Grahamstown.

Land surveying has already progressed to an advanced stage and the Administration Board of the Cape Midlands (ABCM) which has undertaken to develop the township, hopes to begin installing services by March, 1979.

A big work force, mainly unemployed squatters from areas like Port Alfred, will be moved in within about a month to build 500 temporary wood and asbestos houses which will house the labourers employed in the building of Glenmore.

The first batch of materials for the 500 temporary houses has already arrived on the farm and the land on which they will be built has been cleared.

Tour

"We are ready to go," said Mr L. C. Koch, Chief Director of the ABCM, when he took members of the Press and Mr Jaap Oickers, MP, and Mrs Oickers, on a tour of the farm last week.

A study of the detailed plans of the township, which will comprise 5 000 houses, suggests that Glenmore could become an impressive township.

Phase 1 of the five year programme provides for spending R1,5 million on housing, R94 000 on schools, R5 000 on clinics, R1,4 million on roads and drainage, R1,2 million on water reticulation, R940 000 on sanitation, R800 000 on electricity and R170 000 on workshops, machinery and implements.

Land has been set aside in the phase 1 development for an elite suburb where plots will be made available to owners on 99 year leases and where they may build houses of their choice.

house will be linked to the system.

About 700 hectares of the 1 000 hectare farm will be used for housing. Roughly 200 hectares will be reserved for agriculture and 100 hectare is too rugged for development or cultivation.

Housing

Over the five year development period some R8,4 million will be spent on housing, R255 000 on schools, R16 500 on clinics, R225 000 on community centres, R45 000 on a police station, due to be built in 1980, and R20 000 on sports facilities.

During the period R7 million will be spent on roads and drainage, R4,5 million on water reticulation, R3,2 million on sanitation, R2,8 million on electricity and R170 000 on plant and equipment.

Mr Koch said that contrary to speculation Glenmore was not designed to take over the African population of Grahamstown.

"This was never the intention. Glenmore will house people from all over the Eastern Cape. I believe that many families will go there voluntarily. In some cases unemployed squatter families from the area will be moved there."

There was little hope of a rail link being provided.

The ABCM is still considering whether to offer big contracts for the development of the township, or whether to offer small contracts which would bring valuable work within the scope of black construction firms in the Ciskei.

Lighting

Electricity will be drawn from the Electricity Supply Commission (Escom) and street lighting will be provided. All houses in the township will be built ready to take wiring but will not be linked to the reticulation system initially.

The ABCM plans to sink several boreholes in the farm from which it hopes to draw enough water to meet the needs of the township.

"But there is a place on the Fish River not far from here suitable for damming if that becomes necessary," said Mr Koch.

Water borne sanitation will be provided and every