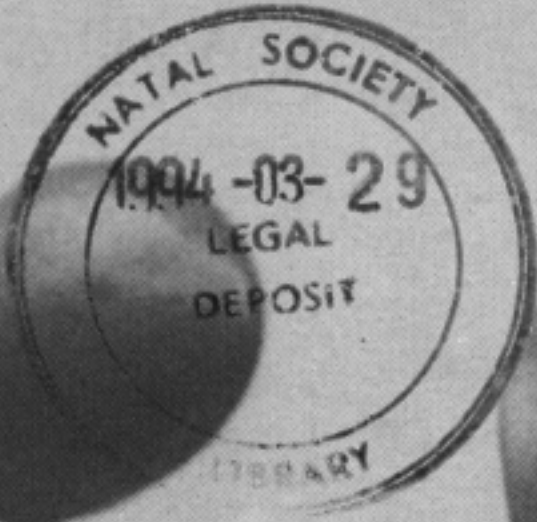


AFRA News

Newsletter of the Association For Rural Advancement

Number 26 January/February 1994

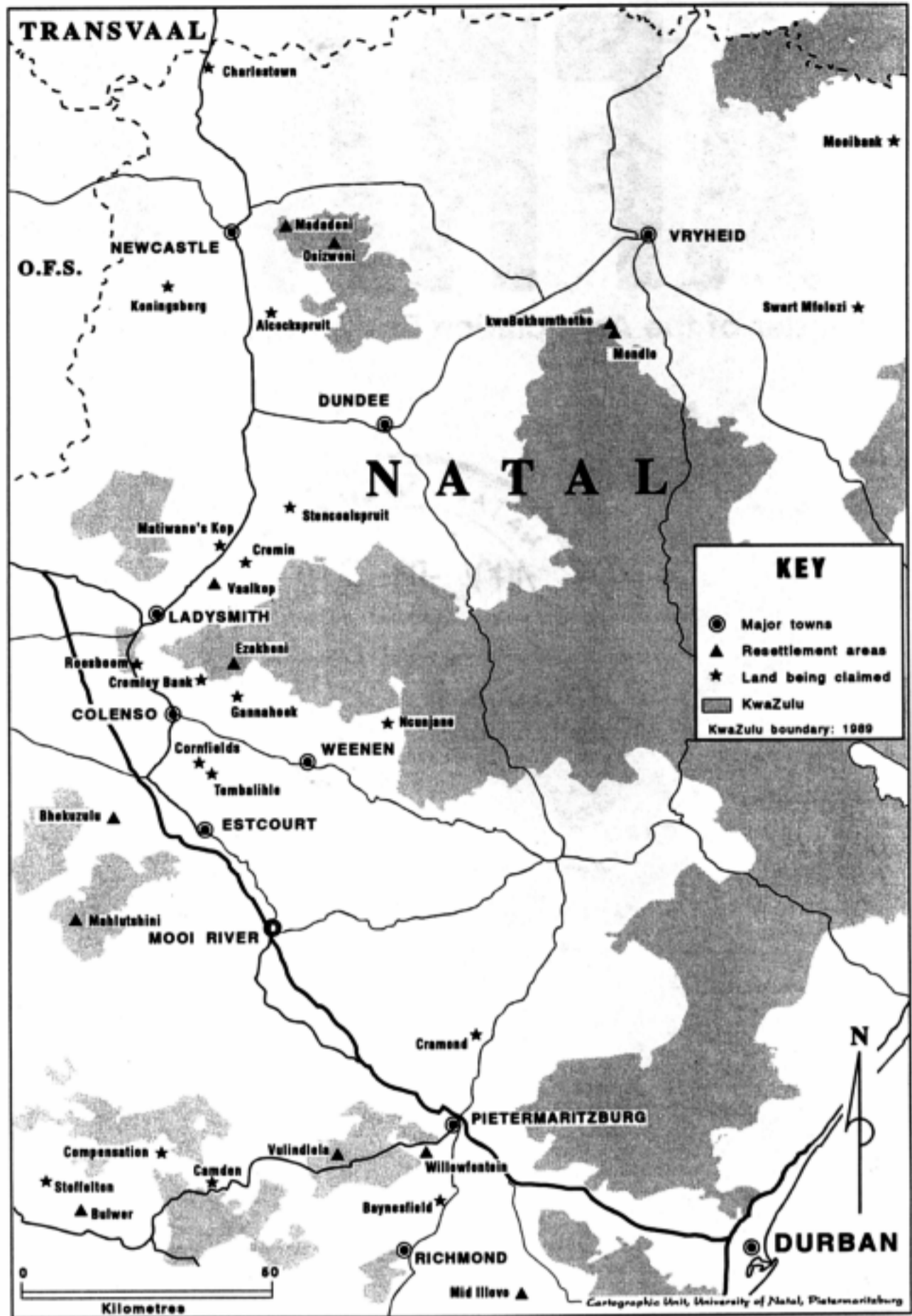




Cover: a delegate at the National Community Land Conference, held in Bloemfontein in February 1994.

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AFRA is an independent, non-government organisation committed to assisting rural people in the midlands and north-western region of Natal/KwaZulu in their struggle for land rights, a just land dispensation and sustainable development. In general, AFRA aims to promote the building and strengthening of community organisations, particularly those committed to broadening representation and participation of women, youth and other marginalised groups. We also make information on land and related issues accessible to rural communities and the broader public.

AFRA is affiliated to the National Land Committee (NLC), an independent umbrella body which coordinates the activities of nine regional land and development organisations.

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Alcockspruit to get back their land - at a price



The Alcockspruit church, built by the community before their removal in 1969.

A MEETING of about 200 former residents of the Alcockspruit community, near Newcastle, heard on December 7 1993 that their land would be restored. But landowners who were forcibly removed and who were compensated at the time, will have to repay this money to the government.

Mr Nico van Rensburg from the Department of Regional and Land Affairs, told the community that ownership of the Alcockspruit land would be restored to previous owners, who were forcibly removed in 1969. A further decision was that owners who were compensated would have to

repay this money to the government.

Mr Horatius Mabaso, chairperson of the Alcockspruit Committee, said the community was grateful that their land would be restored but he questioned the basis upon which this was to be done, in particular the government's demand for compensation to be repaid.

"It is horrifying that the government can even mention a return of this money. The compensation that was given to landowners can never be compared to the suffering endured by the people," he said.

Mr Mabaso suggested that the Commission had not properly considered the community's submission, where the issue of compensation was dealt with, and if that was the case, he said they should reread it and reconsider their decision.

In their submission to the government-appointed Commission on Land Allocation in February 1993, the community said they expected:

- their land to be returned
- restoration of all facilities which were destroyed as a result of the forced removal

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- 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:

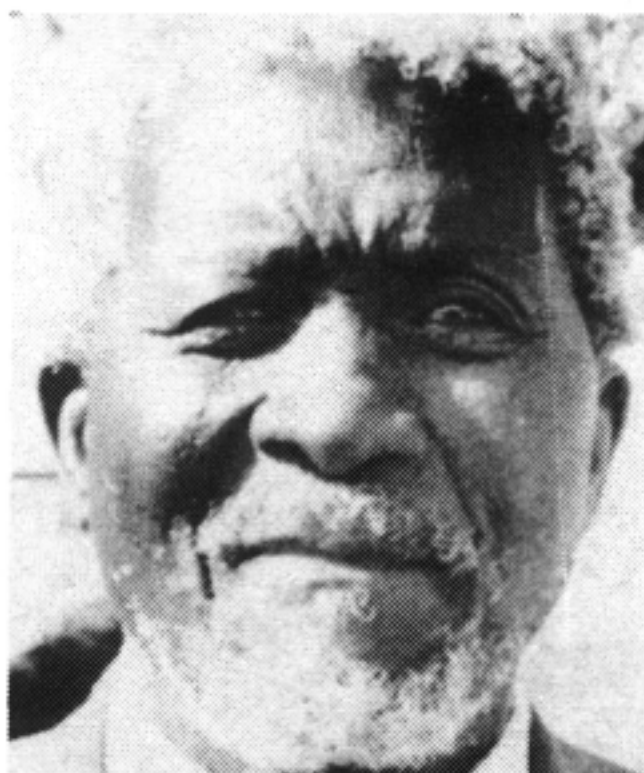
- For many labour tenants, the process of building a "new South Africa" is remote as there are no mechanisms to restrain farmers from harassing and evicting people who live on their land, even if such people have long historical connections to that land. Since labour tenants have no legal protection 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.

Court says no to Crimen land claim

A PIETERMARITZBURG Supreme Court judge dismissed, with costs, 84 year old Mr Andries Radebe's application to have his land returned. Mr Radebe brought the court application in August 1993, almost 16 years after his forced removal from Crimen.

In a reserved judgement handed down on February 10 1994, Mr Justice Booysen said Mr Radebe could have brought court proceedings years ago, since he had consulted a lawyer soon after his removal, although Mr Radebe said he was dissatisfied with the lawyer's advice that the expropriation was valid. Mr Radebe's statement that he had always maintained the land was stolen from him and that he was determined to get it back, showed that he believed from the outset that the removal was unlawful. His failure to find out the correct legal position was failure on his part to exercise reasonable care, the judge said. Mr Justice Booysen also said there were improbabilities in Mr Radebe's statement. Mr Radebe had accepted the compensation paid and had also claimed to be entitled to more and had received legal advice that the expropriation was valid.

"We felt very upset because in the first place it took such a long time to get judgement and now having waited so long it very bad to hear that the judge did not decide in Mr Radebe's favour," said



Mr Andries Radebe, former landowner of Crimen, intends taking his case further.

Mr Absolome Shabalala of the Crimen Committee. "Although Mr Radebe did plan to take the case on appeal if the judge decided against his claim, it was a great shock to him when he heard the outcome," he said

Lawyers who have been acting for Mr Radebe have started appeal proceedings to the Bloemfontein Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. Getting a court date could take as long as two years, and Mr Radebe is also considering the option of taking his land claim to a future land claims court. The ANC Land Desk's Derek Hanekom said recently that legislation to set up such a court was likely to be passed this year.

About Mr Radebe's removal

In 1977 Mr Andries Radebe and 99 other title holders of Crimen were forcibly removed to Ezakheni, a KwaZulu township near Ladysmith in Natal. In his application to the court, Mr Radebe said that the correct procedures were not followed in his expropriation and that the government therefore never got title to his land.

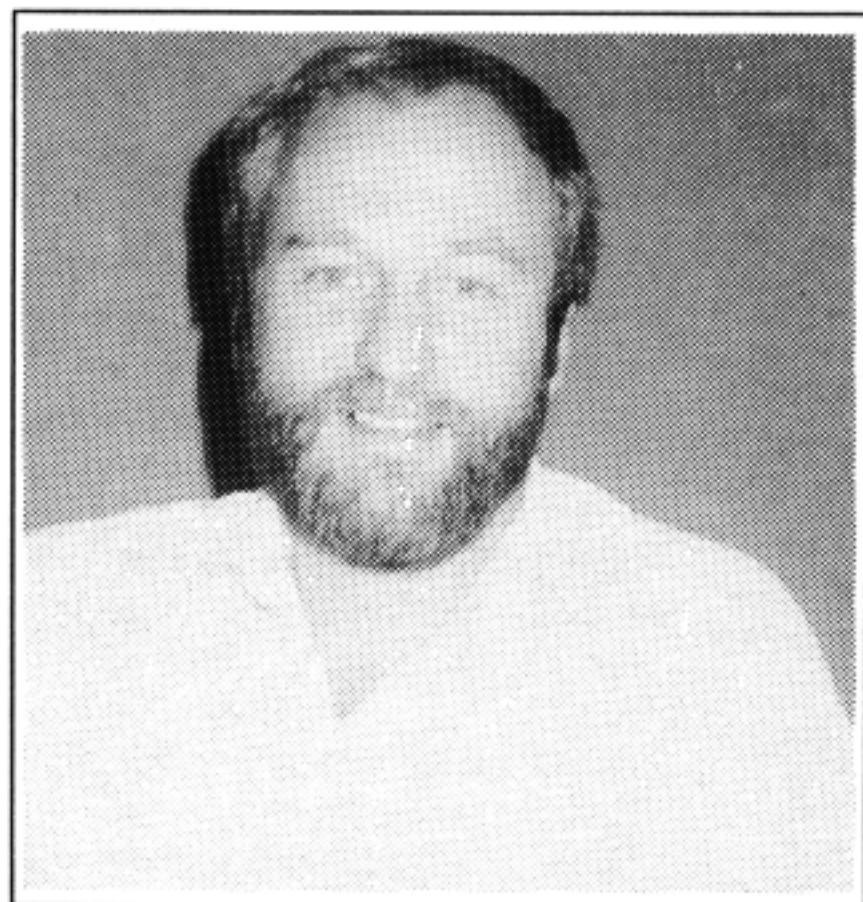
In papers to the court, Mr Radebe explained why it had taken him almost 16 years to bring the case. Although he never accepted his removal as valid, a lawyer whom he consulted soon after the removal advised him that the expropriation was legal. Mr Radebe did not have money for a second legal opinion, after losing his land. The declarations of successive states of emergency soon after the Crimen forced removal made Mr Radebe fearful of continuing to organise community resistance to the removal.

The expropriation of Crimen landowners was part of the government's policy of "black spot" removal. Almost 3 000 people were removed from Crimen between 1977 and 1978 and relocated at Ezakheni. The expropriated land was left to lie unused for 11 years after the community's expropriation. It was then sold to a Mr Derek Dreyer, who has since died.

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.

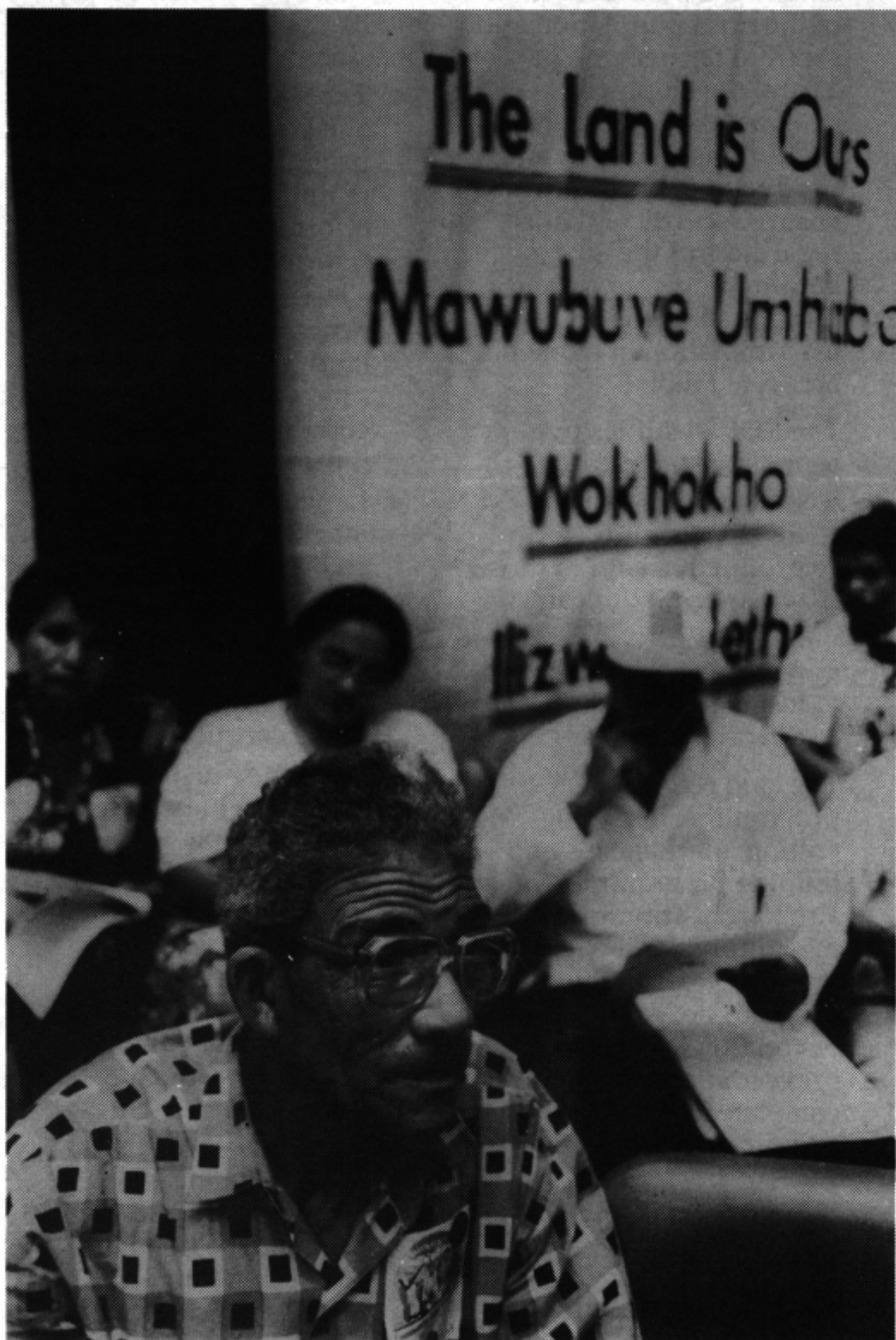
Rural people unite around land rights

MORE than 700 rural and landless community delegates met in February to discuss what they want on land and development. Organised by the National Land Committee (NLC) and its affiliates, the conference allowed what was possibly the broadest range of rural communities to specifically voice their land and development needs for the first time.

"We look forward to the birth of a new South Africa. But for us there will be nothing new until there is land and services and growth. These are the biggest difficulties facing our country in the future. We will not sit back and watch as the wealth builds up in the cities, while on the edges of the cities, in the small towns and in the countryside, we continue to suffer and starve," they said.

Some of the demands adopted by the conference are more radical than current land reform proposals now being debated. If stuck to vigorously, there is the promise of a head-on clash with current landowners and a future government.

While the ANC's Reconstruction and Development Programme



More than 700 delegates from 353 rural and landless communities gathered in Bloemfontein on February 12 and 13 to draw up a charter of land and development demands.

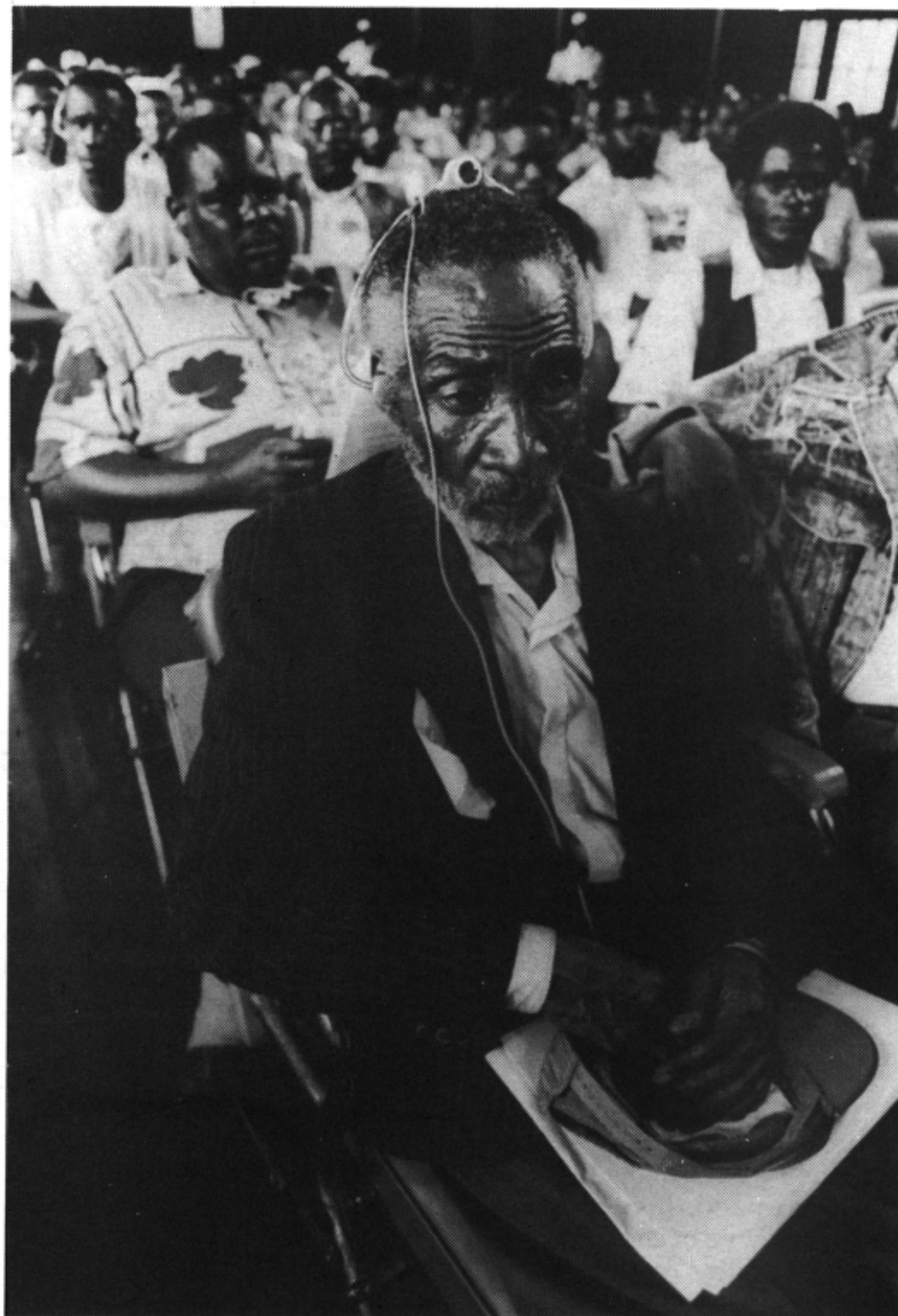
(RDP) and World Bank proposals favour a market-assisted land redistribution and have pegged 1913 as a cut-off date for land restitution claims, the Community Land Conference has demanded that the cut-off date be 1652. The conference also called for the scrapping of the property rights and restitution clauses in the interim constitution. And there were ambitious demands for farmworker and labour tenant rights.

At the conference, some community delegates were concerned that the demand for land claims to date back to 1652 could be problematic. "Is there potential for conflict? If we claimed back land as far back as this, what would it mean?" asked a delegate. In reply another delegate said that the demand did not mean people should be forced off the land they were living on. With this as a motivation, the conference accepted the demand.

Commenting on the event afterwards, delegates from Crimen and Charlestown in Natal said the conference had reaffirmed their commitment to struggle for land rights.

"It was a historic moment," said Mrs Anna Ntanzi a delegate from Charlestown. "Things I have thought about for a long time were tabled and discussed. The discussion made me feel good. I particularly liked the question of equal rights for women."

The Charlestown community got back its land at the end of 1992, but, said Mrs Ntanzi, "there are still many things we do not have. We hope that by coming together and speaking with one voice we will get



Some of the demands adopted by the conference are more radical than current land reform proposals and could lead to a clash with the new government.

somewhere. There are many other people who do not have land and we must struggle together. Whoever takes over from this government must also know what we want."

"The conference made us feel that we should carry on and should put more effort into our struggle," said Mrs Hemmie Hlubi from the Crimen community.

"I will be going back to my community to report on what happened. I think it will make our struggle stronger if different communities visit one another."

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The National Party and the South African Agricultural Union have condemned the demands as unrealistic and part of an attempt to give a future ANC-led government to embark on a radical, socialist-oriented land reform programme.

The ANC Land Desk's Derek Hanekom dismissed these sentiments as an overreaction and said the demands should be seen as a response to the current plight of rural people. "I think it's fine that people have expressed these demands," he said.

"An ANC government will be sympathetic to the plight of rural and landless people, but will not accede to their demand that land claims dating from 1652 be considered." - Derek Hanekom of the ANC's Land Desk.

"It's understandable that they would make the kinds of demands they have made, as they've been deprived of basic rights for decades."

He said that although the ANC would be sympathetic to the plight of rural and landless people, it would not accede to their demand that land claims dating from 1652 be considered by a future land claims court.

An estimated 3 million people were forcibly removed through apartheid land policies between 1960 and 1982 alone.

"We believe a land claims court must be effective and for this to happen, it has to deal with very specific claims. We believe that 1913 is an acceptable cut-off date for claims which could be

brought to a land claims court process," he said.

He said it was also unlikely that the property rights and restitution clauses in the interim constitution would be scrapped.

"It would be possible for parliament to consider amendments to the property rights and restitution clauses if these proved to be hindrances to a land restoration programme," he said, "but we don't believe that these would inhibit a future government from expropriating land for restitution."

He said that land for redistribution would not be expropriated. Instead, the ANC proposed using market and state assisted processes for redistribution. "We don't need a constitutional guarantee for this," Mr Hanekom said.

He said he believed it would be counterproductive for people to now fight to change the constitution. "The interim constitution is a compromise document and people have to come to terms with that," he said.

Brendan Pearce, the NLC's national advocacy officer, explained that the demand for 1652 as a cut-off date for land claims arose because some communities at the conference had land claims predating 1913.

Mr Pearce said it was unclear at this stage how open communities would be to compromise on their demands, but he believed the realities of the situation would force communities to realise that 1652 was problematic.

Mr Pearce said he believed that communities were determined to see the property rights and restitution clauses scrapped

because they believed these prejudiced the resolution of land claims, even from 1913.

"They have threatened to occupy land, if necessary. There is likely to be a lot of conflict around the issue, but I think a new government will be forced to amend the clauses to accommodate communities' concerns," he said.

"I think a new government will be forced to accommodate communities' concerns." - the National Land Committee's Brendan Pearce.

Communities had not set a time limit on the scrapping of the clauses, he said. But they would raise the matter with the Transitional Executive Council.

Community delegates from the different regions who had attended the conference will meet towards the end of February to thrash out a plan of action around the demands.

Land Charter

This document is compiled from demands that were agreed to by 353 communities at the Community Land Conference on 12 February 1994 in the Bloemfontein City Hall.



"We need land."

1. We need our land to live on, for grazing, farming and community facilities.
2. Our rights to land must be guaranteed.
3. Land must be shared between blacks and whites. We say, "One farm, one farmer!" Land must be available for redistribution and it must be distributed in a democratic way.

We therefore call for:

- state land to be redistributed to people without land;
- the land that is chosen for redistribution must be

fertile and we must be able to use it productively;

- South African Defence Force (SADF) land to be used for redistribution;
- land owned by absentee landlords to be redistributed;
- forestry land to be considered for redistribution;
- the government to make its state land holdings known;

4. People who have been evicted from their land, tenant farmers and other landless people should be given top priority in a future land reform programme.

5. Communities need land for different purposes and these needs must be provided for in any government resettlement programme.

6. Game reserves should not enjoy priority over people. Game parks can only be erected with the permission of the people. Only if communities can have some benefit from that and have some say in the management of that.

7. The present system of land title deeds should be reviewed. Any changes to the tenure system must be made with full consultation with communities. A new tenure system should offer

communities different options of secure tenure.

8. Any decision by a future government to expropriate rural land must be taken in consultation with the communities concerned. Communities must be paid compensation if they are affected by the expropriation.

9. Communities living on trust land or government land must be given the title deeds to the land.

"The land that was stolen from us must be returned."

1. The land from which people were forcibly removed should be returned

(with mineral rights) immediately and unconditionally at no cost to the community concerned. People who had title deeds should have them returned or updated.

2. Privately owned land near to land claiming communities must be considered for allocation.

3. Communities should be compensated for damages and losses suffered due to their forced removal.

4. The government should make restoration a priority and should allocate at least 10 percent of its annual budget to land reform. Not all of the money should be spent on compensation.

5. There must be a just process for dealing with land claims: a representative land claims court must replace the Commission on Land Allocation (CLA).

6. Where private owners or the SADF are occupying land that previously belonged to communities, the government must ensure that the land is vacated.

Compensation can be considered, but it should not prevent land restoration.

7. Indigenous peoples' right to the land must be recognised. And, communities must be able to make claims to land that was taken from them as far back as 1652.

8. When land is restored to a community, it must be shared fairly within a community. There must be no discrimination as to who has access to land - especially not against women.

"Farmworkers and labour tenants, demand access to land and security of tenure. Laws which victimise us must be scrapped."

1. We demand a halt to all evictions of labour tenants and farm workers. We want the Prevention of Illegal Squatting and Trespass Acts to be scrapped. We want legal protection and security of tenure.

2. We want to be given ownership of our homes.

3. We should not lose our homes if we do not continue working on the farm, or if we are disabled or pensioned. The wives or widows of farmworkers must not be thrown off the land because of the circumstances of their husbands.



4. Farmworkers and tenants must be given secure rights to graze their cattle and plough. People's rights should be protected when farm ownership changes hands.

5. Laws must be passed to protect people working on farms. These laws must set down conditions of employment and minimum wages. Firm steps must be taken to oversee that labour laws on farms are implemented. And, farmworkers must be informed of their new rights. Farmworkers should also be involved in making laws. Farmworkers should be paid the same rates as other workers in towns because they work equally hard.

6. Farm evictees, tenants and other landless people should be given top priority in any land reform programme.

7. The government should set aside land on farms for the people living on the farms to use.

8. We want an end to child labour on farms. People breaking this law must be monitored and severely punished.

9. Groups who can service and assist farm dwellers should have free access to the farms. Farmworker unions should be legally entitled to organise workers on farms.

10. Women and widows should not be evicted when their husbands die or are dismissed. Farmers must be responsible for supporting orphaned children of deceased workers.

11. Farmworkers must be provided with safe transportation to and from towns.

"Women must be able to own land, and have equal rights in all areas of their lives."

1. Women should be able to own land whether they are married or single. And married couples should have their houses registered in the names of both spouses.

Women and men should have the same rights to land.

2. Women should have equal representation with men on local government.

3. There should be no discrimination against women in inheritance rights.

4. Women should benefit from development programmes and be targeted for training. There should be special training centres and adult education courses geared for women. There should be regional or local health care workers.

5. Women living on farms must have secure places to live.

6. There should be special housing subsidies for women who cannot afford to buy or rent houses or pay rent. Housing subsidies to assist women who are single parents must be introduced.

7. A ministry of women's affairs should have offices in every local government office and regional level to ensure that women's rights are protected.

8. Land should be set aside for community facilities which benefit women, such as creches, community gardens and women's training centres.

9. Women want there to be sufficient schools in all areas. There must be free and

compulsory education for our children, and sufficient sports fields.

10. Women want places to go if us or our children are abused.

"There must be democratic, non-racial, non-sexist local government."

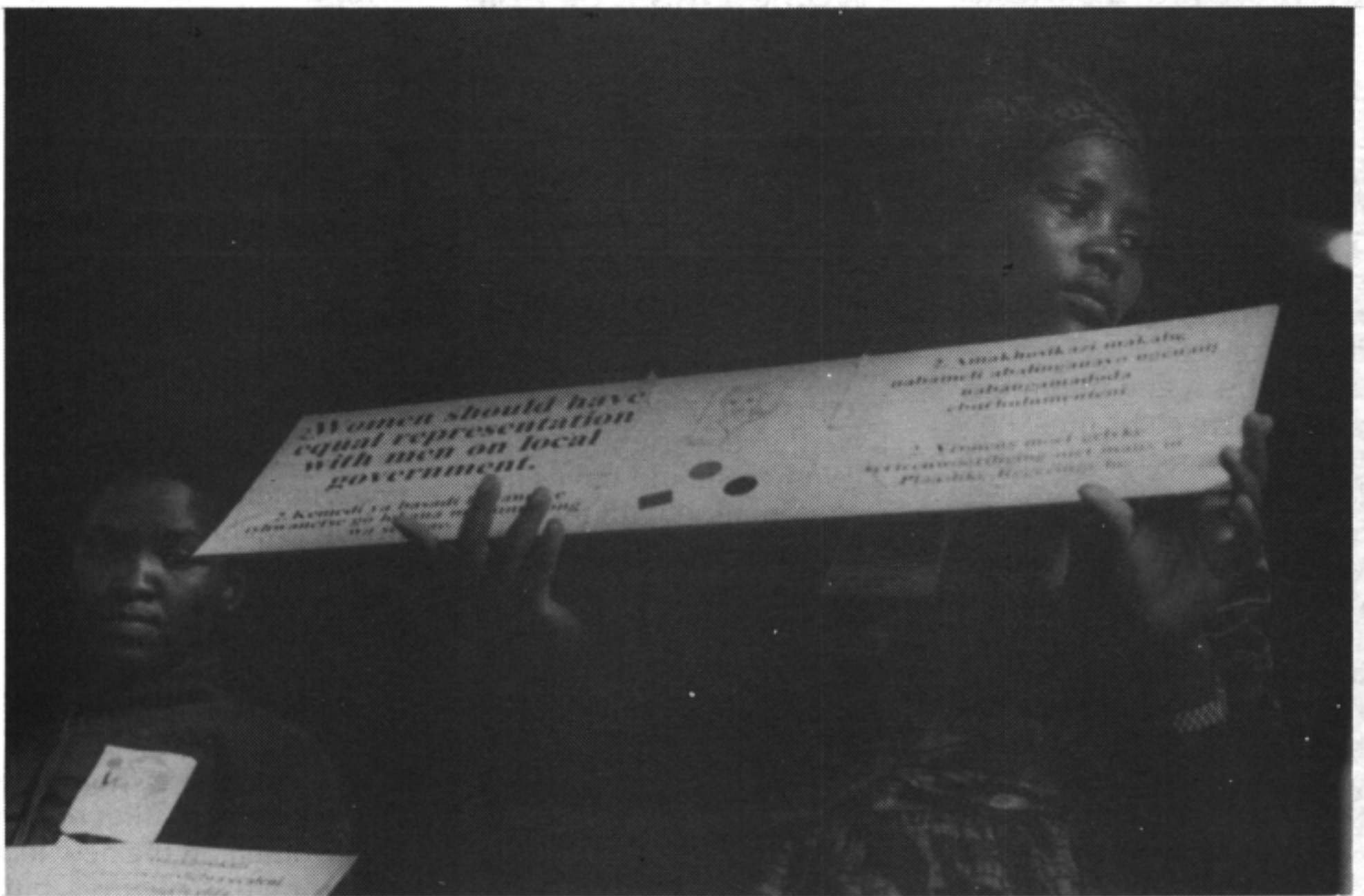
1. Communities must be able to take part in local government and development decision-making, especially where land issues are concerned and especially in the rural areas.

2. A new local government must be non-racial and non-sexist. There should be a 50/50 representation of men and women on the new local government structures, but ensure that those we elect are active in the community and can do the job.

3. Farmworkers should be included in any new local government structure. Farmworkers must be educated about their rights and given training to participate in local government. Laws must be passed to stop farmworkers involved in local government from being victimised by their employers.

4. There should be a land court to intervene on land allocation disputes with local government.

5. District councils must help out where local authorities cannot afford to provide basic services.



"There must be affordable houses."

1. The government must provide financial assistance to residents, including farm workers, for housing. There should be subsidies and services for people living in informal settlements.
2. Rent arrears should be set aside. People who have been evicted because they have been unable to pay rental or service charges should be provided with alternative, state subsidised accommodation.
3. People living in informal settlements want surveyed and upgraded plots on which to build houses. Land and affordable housing for settlement should be made available close to town.
4. People staying in council houses shouldn't have to pay transfer costs because they have been staying there for long enough.
5. Hostels must either be upgraded into family units or they should be scrapped if this is not possible.

6. Hostels should be structured on a short term basis and local government must be responsible for services to the hostels for this period.

"There must be affordable, good resources and services."

1. Rural communities demand the provision of basic, affordable services and infrastructure. These should include:
 - a clean water supply;
 - adequate and accessible health care;
 - schools and creches;
 - electricity and telephones;
 - roads;
 - proper sanitation;
 - sport and recreational facilities; and
 - agricultural extension services.
2. Development programmes must include job creation, capacity building and skills training

which can help relieve poverty. Local resources should be used to develop rural areas.

3. The government must provide financial assistance to farmers, such as subsidies, loans and disaster relief funds. A percentage of the national development budget must be earmarked for rural development.
4. The government must provide basic services to land that has been restored and to private land occupied by farm workers and labour tenants.
5. A national public works programme should give priority to employing people who have been oppressed.
6. New, small and communal farmers should enjoy tax concessions and subsidies for the first five years.
7. We will not be able to develop a hungry nation - basic foodstuffs should not have VAT added on.

"There must be equal political rights for all."

1. The Transitional Executive Council must have the power to deal with land and should immediately order that the sale and transfer of state land to bantustans, private individuals or companies be stopped. CLA or any other structure established to administer or allocate land must report to the TEC and directly to affected communities not only to the State President.
2. We are not happy with the property rights and restitution clauses in the interim constitution. The property rights clause must be scrapped because it makes the expropriation of land for community purposes too expensive. The property rights clause will make the lives of those who have been dispossessed worse than before. The restitution clause sets the cut-off date for land claims at 1913 which excludes indigenous people's land claims. We demand the constitutional right to restitution.
3. All apartheid land laws must be abolished and new laws formulated.
4. Chiefs must become accountable to the people - we do not want chiefs imposed on us. Chiefs must not impose levies on the land unless the community agrees. Chiefs should not have control of land allocation. Committees must be elected by people in the community to administer to control land affairs.
5. We must be protected from intimidation and harassment by the police,

white farmers and the right wing who impound and kill our cattle and want to drive us from our land. People who protect communities from intimidation must be known by communities, controlled by communities and paid by the government. Once apartheid laws are gone, all people must be treated equally under the law. If anyone commits a crime or intimidates other, he/she must be punished no matter who they are.

6. All apartheid structures must go. The House of Representatives and the homelands should be scrapped and the land that their authorities have controlled should be freed. In particular, we demand the immediate reincorporation of Bophuthatswana.
7. There should be no favouritism to family or friends in administration and land allocation.

"Landless and rural people must organise or starve."

1. The victims of forced removals and those with land problems must get organised! Build unity in our communities which will strengthen us in negotiations. Set up community forums which can speak on behalf of rural people when negotiating with government. Farmworkers must be organised.
2. The Community Land Conference should send a memorandum to the Transitional Executive Council (TEC) to request a

formal meeting where we can present our demands. The TEC must tell us the time by when our demands will be met.

3. A memorandum must also be sent from this conference to the African National Congress (ANC) and the present government to make sure they know what our demands are before the election.
4. We must organise local and regional actions to support our demands.
5. If our demands are not met, we will launch a campaign to occupy vacant land and state land, and return to our land.
6. Build women's forums in our regions to discuss land, and organise women at a local and regional level to make sure that women's concerns are addressed.
7. Political parties and our own restoration forums should promote women leaders and ensure that women's issues are highlighted in the media.
8. We call for the formation of a national body to represent the interests of all small farmers.
9. We call on all rural people to vote for a government that will fulfil our demands and to elect leaders who will listen to our needs and visit our areas.
10. All communities should form local structures to take forward their demands.
11. We call upon the Independent Electoral Commission, National Peace Accord and International observers to ensure that voter education can occur in rural areas and on farms.



Government proposal to encourage black farmers

A GOVERNMENT appointed committee to evaluate agricultural policy recommended that the agricultural sector be deregulated to encourage black farmers but still adhere to GATT guidelines.

The committee said there should be one marketing policy to cater for the needs of commercial and developing agriculture. They also proposed that there be minimum government intervention. The national marketing council should be restructured to include representatives from consumers, developing agriculture, commerce and industry, producers and the state. Although subsistence and marginal farmers accounted for only 10% of marketable products, they created considerable levels of employment and non-marketable produce. Imbalances between commercial and developing farming should be rectified through development support and using the infrastructure and know-how available to commercial farming to support developing farmers. *(Business Day: January 25 1994)*

Election attitudes

RURAL people in Natal are considerably more fearful of violence during the election, than their urban counterparts, according to a Human Sciences Research Council survey conducted towards the end of 1993. More than 50% of the rural respondents said that their chief would influence their vote. *(Natal Mercury: January 11 1994)*

UK gives R6,5 million for rural health

THE British government has granted R6,5 million to the Rural Foundation for basic primary health care and training projects in the rural areas of Natal and the eastern and northern Cape. The health programmes would be implemented over four years and would help to meet the basic needs of about 31 000 farmworkers and their families on 400 farms. The Rural Foundation said it expected to help about 350 000 individuals. *(Natal Mercury: December 1 1993)*

Farm prices may drop

RURAL land prices could decrease over the next 12 months, predicted the former president of the SA Institute of Valuers. Farmers could expect large scale affirmative action in rural areas in the short term, he said. Such affirmative action would include areas being specifically set aside for small scale farming, financial, training and support programmes. "Such a programme would probably see a marked expansion of tenant farming practices, with special

legislation guarding the rights of tenant farmers," he said. Some farmers in areas which underwent major changes would probably want to relocate and would be prepared to sell at depressed prices. He said that the real average national selling price of agricultural land had dropped in 1991, if compared with 1981 prices. The 1991 average price was three times that of 1981, whereas a real price increase would have meant the 1991 average price should have been about four times the 1981 level. *(Business Day: February 2 1994)*

Cato Manor residents land claim opposed

MORE than 100 land claims from former Cato Manor residents, evicted from the area in terms of the Group Areas Act about 30 years ago, were turned down because the area was being developed. The claims were lodged with the Commission on Land Allocation, but a House of Delegates housing spokesman said the land fell outside the Commission's brief. He said the House of Delegates was developing part of Cato Manor and another part was taken over by the Cato Manor Development Association for a R200 million development project. A possibility for former residents with land claims was to give them alternate sites or monetary compensation, the spokesman said. *(Daily News: January 26 1994)*