

☞ from page 1

groups.

Despite this, the government has gone ahead with its first phase of the plan.

It is clear that genuine negotiation remains a foreign concept to the government, and one which it is reluctant to engage in. Continuation of this approach can only lead to more conflict, especially in Natal, where some communities have made it clear that they find the transfer plan unacceptable.

The suggestion from the governments of South Africa and Lebowa that the proposal has been put to the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation (ACLA), and that the public may approach ACLA over the issue, is cynical.

ACLA was set up as an advisory body by the government and is answerable to the state president. Now the government itself has put a proposal to ACLA.

Are we expected to believe that ACLA's advice to the state president about what should happen to this land will be in favour of communities? And if it is, why would the same government, that is now ignoring public opposition, listen?

Land Briefs



Farmer's Weekly calls for land claims court

STATE land must be allocated to meet claims resulting from racial laws of the past and to establish more commercial farmers regardless of race, says the Farmer's Weekly in its editorial of September 11 1992. "The problem is that the state does not have a body which can handle the most urgent part, the land claims, with total impartiality and free from political pressure or interference. The only solution is to set up a judicial structure; what the SA Agricultural Union terms an accountable legal process and what the ANC more properly calls a land claims court." Referring to the government's 1991 White Paper statement that restoration of land would not be feasible, the Farmer's Weekly said: "The statement itself caused so much conflict the government was forced to backtrack. It now has a committee to advise it on land allocation. But the final word must come from the cabinet or a minister, and land claimants have little reason to respect what

they see as political decisions. Only a court composed of legal experts from all population groups can earn that respect."

(Farmer's Weekly: editorial September 11 1992)

Babanango indunas challenge KwaZulu government

INDUNAS from Babanango in northern Natal have applied to the Durban Supreme Court to stop the KwaZulu administration from installing four chiefs in the area. The indunas say they were not consulted about the plan and described the action by Chief Minister of KwaZulu, Mangosuthu Buthelezi as "illegal and designed to reduce the authority of His Majesty, the King Zwelithini Goodwill kaBhekuzulu". Babanango traditionally falls under King Goodwill Zwelithini, who appointed his brother, Prince Clement, to assume responsibility.

In their reply to the court action brought by the Babanango indunas, the KwaZulu government said it saw no reason to consult with the Babanango community before dividing the land into four sections and installing chiefs from outside the area. Carel Marthinus Vos, Deputy Secretary in the KwaZulu Chief Minister's department, said the land was not lawfully occupied as communal/tribal land. People living there were doing so illegally, he said.

☞ see pages 6 & 7 for more on the land transfer issue