



KwaZulu leans on IDT

THE IDT is encountering serious problems in KwaZulu, which insiders blame on the homeland administration's belief that it should be the only channel for development. Severe tensions have arisen between KwaZulu officials and community structures, such as civics, resulting in projects being held back in many areas. Ironically, the IDT's Finance Corporation continues to lend millions of rands to the parastatal KwaZulu Finance Corporation despite the problems. The major stumbling block appears to be KwaZulu's insistence that local councillors and tribal authorities alone should control the development process. This goes against the IDT's requirement for community participation in projects. In some cases, local representatives of KwaZulu have reached agreement with community structures about the development process only to go back on their word after being pulled into line by Ulundi.

KwaZulu's Interior Minister, Stephen Sithebe, has made it clear that his administration will not recognise civic organisations, let alone work with them.

(Work In Progress, Reconstruct Supplement: February 1993)

Local government forum gets going

ALL parties to the local government negotiating forum have accepted its proposed structure. The government and civic organisations agreed in January this year to set up the forum. The forum will discuss local government issues and take proposals on these to the national negotiating forum. It is made up of statutory and non-statutory bodies. Speaking for the statutory bodies, Local Government Minister, Tertius Delport said the government was taking steps to rationalise administration. From April 1, local government would be administered by a single central government department with devolution of functions to provincial administrations. South African National Civics Organisation president, Moses Mayekiso, speaking for the non-statutory bodies, said civics were concerned about the extent to which unilateral restructuring had already occurred. He said the forum had to address, among others, service delivery and payment. The forum should also provide measures to bring "conservative white local authorities and certain homeland authorities" into the negotiation process.

(Business Day: March 23 1993)

ACLA's scope may be widened

THE Advisory Commission on Land Affairs (ACLA) may have its terms of reference extended to urban areas and may also deal with claims from people whose land was confiscated in terms of apartheid laws. The Land and Regional Affairs said this in parliament, when

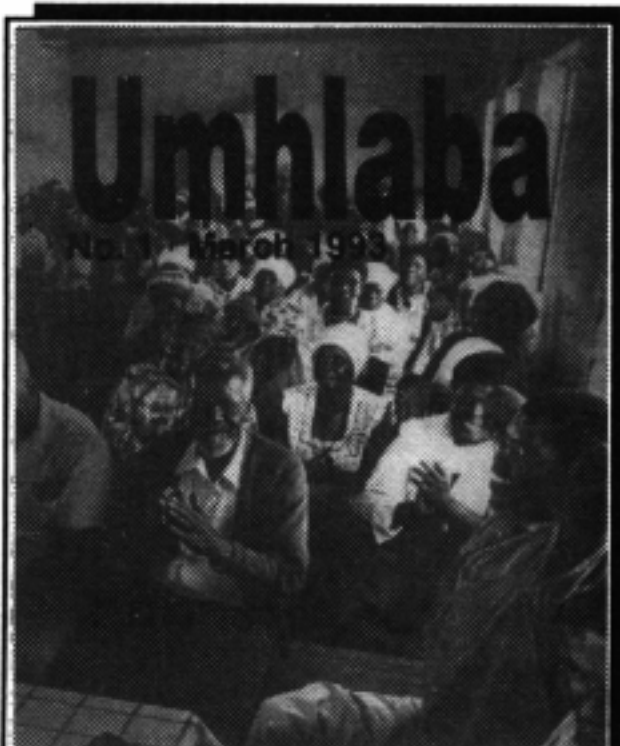
he responded to a question from the House of Delegates about the future of Durban's Block AK. He said that "there may be amendments" to the Act governing the commission's activities.

(Natal Mercury: March 4 1993)

Homelands got more than 2 million ha from SADT

THE homelands got more than 2 million hectares of land owned by the South African Development Trust (SADT) when the SADT was scrapped. At the time of its abolition, the SADT held 1,2 million hectares of land in South Africa and 2 033 956 hectares in the homelands. Of this, 1,2 million was transferred to the Department of Regional and Land Affairs and the remaining 2 033 956 was divided between the six homelands. KwaZulu got 1 013 487 hectares, Lebowa 506 325 hectares, Gazankulu 304 086 hectares, KaNgwane 146 821 hectares, KwaNdebele 16 738 hectares and Qwa Qwa 46 499 hectares.

(Citizen: March 19 1993)



UMHLABA aims to give a voice to rural communities to talk about their land and related struggles. If you or your organisation would like copies of *Umhlaba*, please contact AFRA at (0331) 457607.



World Bank criticises SA farming policy

A CONFIDENTIAL World Bank draft discussion paper has criticised SA's agricultural policy which favours capital-intensive white farming. The paper called for a shift to small scale agricultural production. It said that the agricultural policy had encouraged large-scale farms which were more inefficient than small-scale farms. The creation of a small-scale commercial farm sector would generate substantial new rural income, employment and exports, the paper said. Studies had found that the most profitable and productive farms had the least amount of real investment in machinery and equipment per hectare. The Bank said a substitution of labour for capital would improve output and efficiency.

(Business Day: March 3 1993)

New organisation for chiefs

THE Federated Council for Traditional Leaders was launched at the end of February. KwaZulu Works Minister, Simon Gumede was elected chairperson of the Federation. Gumede said the organisation had been formed because chiefs felt the Congress of Traditional

leaders (CONTRALESA) did not represent their interests. CONTRALESA stood for a unitary state, while the new Federation favoured federalism.

(Natal Witness: March 5 1993)

New laws to pave way to federalism

PLANNED new laws enabling self-governing territories and provincial administrations to reach agreement will be an interim step towards federalism, believes IFP chairperson and KwaZulu cabinet minister, Frank Mdlalose. At a meeting in Cape Town in February homeland governments and provincial administrations agreed on integrating administrations to help advance regional cooperation. Dr Mdlalose is also chairperson of the Natal/KwaZulu Joint Executive Authority (JEA), which already administers the affairs of Natal and KwaZulu. The impending new laws would enable the JEA to have greater and more effective decision-making power over issues affecting Natal/KwaZulu.

(Citizen: February 12 1993)

PAC position on land

EXISTING property laws will be repealed and private ownership of land will be abolished, if the PAC came to power, the organisation said in a policy document released at the end of February 1993. Land reform would have to start with the socialisation of land and a limit on the size of land an individual could hold. The PAC said that individuals would be able to hold up to a general limit of 300 hectares. Abolishing private land ownership would make it easier for the masses to gain access to land.

Redistribution of land would involve the scrapping of the bantustans and the reversion of this land to local authority administration. Where land was expropriated, no compensation would be paid for the land itself. A PAC government would only pay compensation for developments on the land. The prime beneficiaries of land redistribution would be families currently living in the homelands and in new squatter areas, most of whom are recently-arrived migrants from the homelands. Land lost through forced removal would be returned to original communities who lived on the land.

(New Nation: February 19 - 25 1993, Business Day: March 3 1993)

White farming gets big handouts

JUST less than 40% of the Agricultural Development Department's 1991/1992 expenditure went to subsidies for white agriculture. Agricultural financing was the largest expenditure of the Department's R771,7 million allocation. Of the 40,3% which went to agricultural financing, almost all went to subsidies and loans. Aid for debt consolidation came to R98,7 million, crop production loans were R157,1 million and costs for land bought came to R10 million. Subsidies paid amounted to R305,3 million, of which R112,6 million was carryover debt and new production credit. Drought aid to stock farmers was R50,3 million and farm labourer housing got R16,5 million.

(Business Day: March 17 1993)