

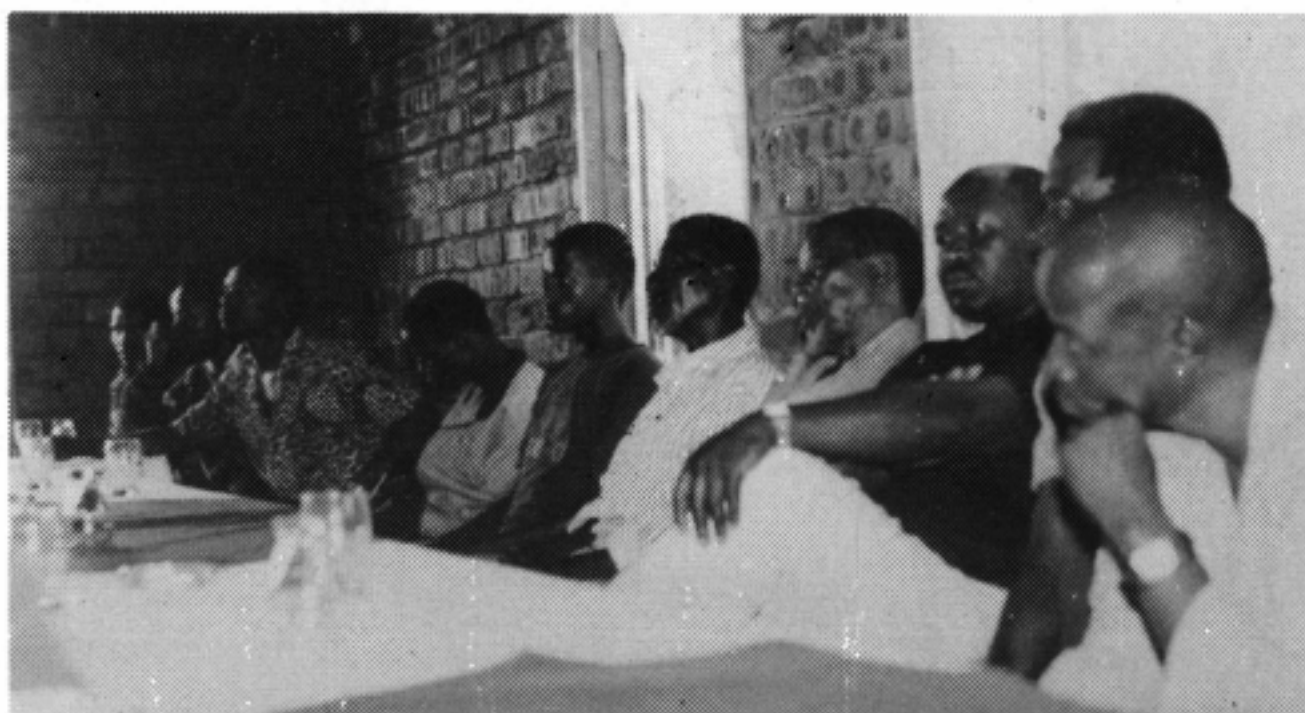
Natal farm labour tenants take steps to organise

CONTRARY to popular belief, farm labour tenants still exist and they intend making their presence felt more forcefully. Thirty-three farm labour tenants, from seven districts in the Natal midlands and north-western Natal agreed at a weekend meeting on March 13 and 14 that they would work towards forming a regional structure to coordinate activities around labour tenancy rights.

The meeting also undertook to send 12 representatives from labour tenant communities to a national meeting of land claiming communities on March 27 and 28. This is the first time that labour tenants and other land claimants will be meeting together at a national level.

A call for a moratorium around farm labour tenant and farmworker evictions made in March 1992 to the government appears to have fallen on deaf ears. The activities being planned now are aimed at reviving a campaign for this moratorium and also to gain more secure rights for farm labour tenants.

Representatives who attended the weekend meeting will be holding discussions on their farms about what kind of mass action is necessary to bring changes to the uncertain position which labour tenants currently find themselves in. Among the proposals which these local meetings will consider are solidarity activities between



Top: Natal farm labour tenants discuss how to strengthen their organisation at a meeting in March 1993.

Bottom: Farm labour tenants from Colenso march to the Colenso police station in August 1992. The tenants demanded an end to evictions.

different labour tenant communities who face eviction threats and a regional march in Pietermaritzburg.

In August 1992, labour tenants from the Colenso District staged a march to the local police station to demand an end to evictions in the area. Labour tenants from nine farms in the area have formed a district

committee to coordinate their activities.

Representatives from other districts who attended the weekend meeting are hoping to form similar structures in their areas.

- The 33 representatives came from Muden, Weenen, Colenso, Impendle, Greytown, Ladysmith and Ngotshe/Vryheid.