

Land Rights Update

known as home. It is, however, unclear how the purchase price for the farm will be determined, given the history of the farm and the community's existing occupation and use rights.

AFRA has commissioned a consultant to try to establish a reasonable purchase price. AFRA also intends approaching the government for assistance in this difficult matter.

AFRA believes that the government should acknowledge their own role and responsibility regarding the plight of farm labour tenants in South Africa. This could happen at legislative, administrative policy and financial aid levels. How this will happen, in a broader

the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation (ACLA) on April 21 1993. The claim, which amounts to about 100 000 soccer fields placed side by side, is the single largest land claim from a dispossessed community in Natal.

Gannahoek labour tenants get option to buy farm

AFTER agreeing to postpone court proceedings and to reopen negotiations, labour tenants on Gannahoek farm in the Colenso District have been given the option to buy the farm by the current owners, Shonalanga Safari



Langalibalele, Hlubi chief who died in 1889.



Gannahoek labour tenants discuss their future.

Lodge (Pty) Ltd.

The offer to buy the whole farm is a departure from the company's previous position which was to consider selling off to the tenants only a portion of the farm. The company had intended to develop the farm as a game reserve.

The tenants have welcomed the resumption of negotiations and are presently investigating the feasibility of purchasing the land they have always

sense, will depend on government consultation with various stakeholders. A useful start in the right direction can be made in the specific case of Gannahoek.

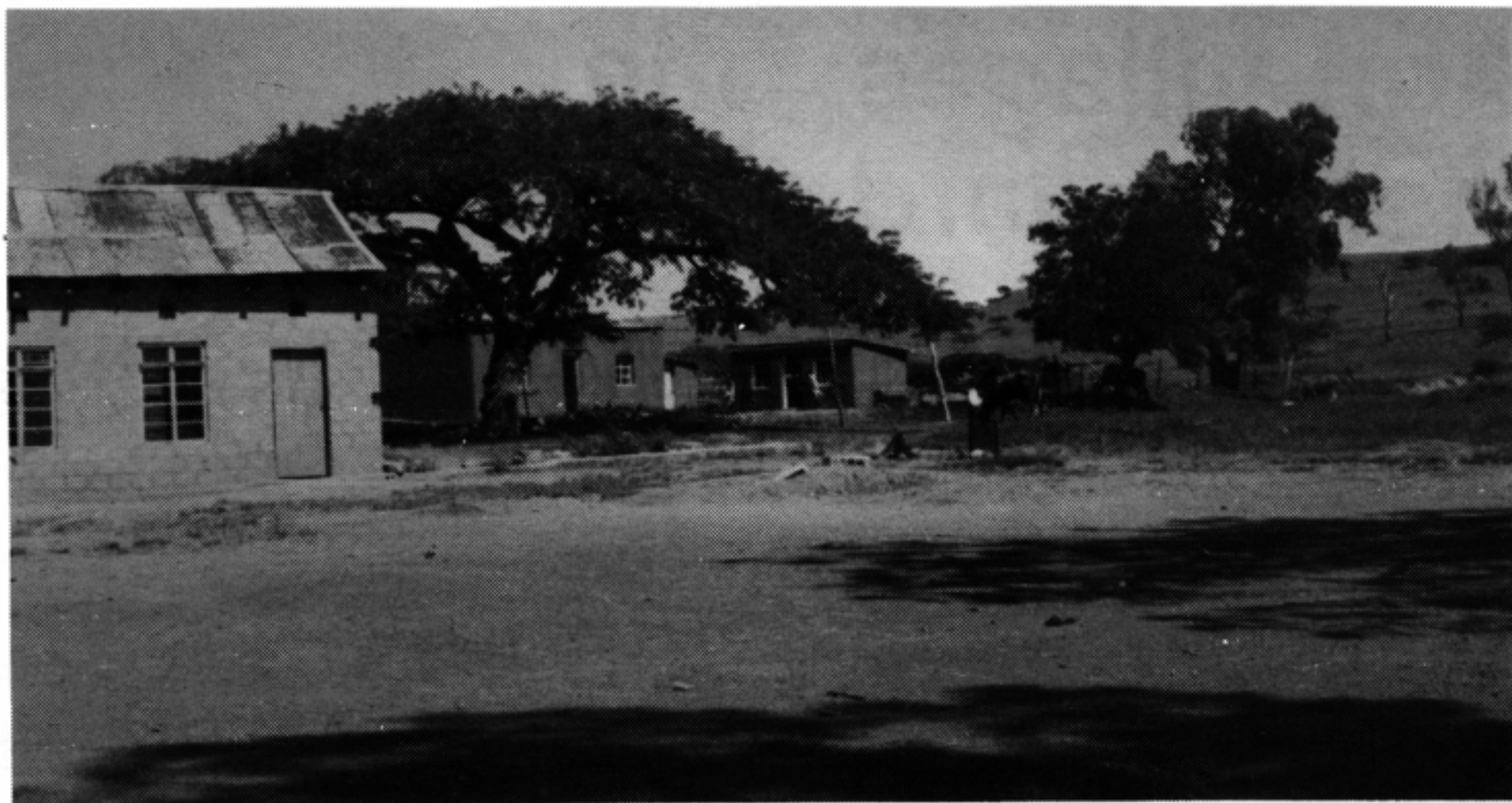
ACLA to hear single largest claim in Natal

THE AmaHlubi community's land claim of some 90 000 hectares in Estcourt will be submitted at a public hearing called by

The AmaHlubi claim dates back to 1873 when the Hlubi chief, Langalibalele clashed with the British government, then ruling Natal. The clash was allegedly over Langalibalele's refusal to register a firearm, brought back from the diamond mine where a member of the Hlubi worked. It was common then for diamond mineworkers in the Transvaal to get firearms as part payment for their wages.

Langalibalele was eventually arrested in 1873 and later imprisoned on Robben Island. After his arrest, the Hlubi land was confiscated and the community then moved to Draycott in the Estcourt District.

In 1991 the government tried to sell off some of the land being claimed by the AmaHlubi. However, public protest over the planned sale managed to halt it. Despite this, the government again tried to auction some of the land in March 1992. Again, public protest stopped the sale. The then Minister of Land Affairs, Jacob de



Roosboom, near Ladysmith, has been returned to the community, but now they are struggling to get back their title deeds.

Villiers, instructed the planned auction to be stopped, after this was recommended by ACLA.

Roosboom told to pay back compensation for removal

THE Roosboom community in Ladysmith and the Charlestown community near Newcastle were the only two dispossessed communities who had their land restored by the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation (ACLA) in 1992. Now landowners in the community have been told to repay the compensation which the government gave them when they were forcibly removed before they get back their title deeds. Mr Mazibuko, the chairperson of the Roosboom Board of Overseers (the body which coordinated the community's struggle to get back their land), said he felt the government should simply return people's title deeds.

He said very small amounts of money had been paid as compensation when landowners were forcibly removed.

It was unfair for the government to demand this money back when people had suffered years of hardship in resettlement areas to which they were forcibly removed. In addition, the government had leased out the confiscated land to white farmers for many years before the communities had their land restored at the end of 1992.

Nazareth community plans reoccupation

A COMMUNITY of about 35 families who formerly lived at the Nazareth mission station in the Dundee District are planning to reoccupy their land on April 6 1993.

The families were removed from Nazareth in 1968 and since then have made several attempts to regain their land. None of these

attempts resulted in the community regaining their land.

At one stage, five of the removed families returned to the land, but they left again when they were harassed.

The land in question is made up of three farms, which the families used for grazing and cultivating crops. These farms were apparently sold to white farmers after the families were removed.

The Lutheran Church owns pockets of land in between the three farms and have a church in the area. After their removal, the families were relocated in Vaalkop, near Ladysmith.

Nazareth is in the Dundee District, close to the Nqutu and Msinga District borders. The nearest relatively large town is Pomeroy.