



### Riemvasmaak community returns to land after 20 years

IN June the Riemvasmaak community of the northern Cape went back to the land from which they were forcibly removed 20 years ago. Their return followed a recommendation from the Commission on Land Allocation in February this year to restore their land rights. The Commission also recommended that the community be given agricultural assistance.

After their removal, the people were dumped in the Ciskei and Damaraland in Namibia.

The Defence Force later took control of the land and used it as a testing site. The army has undertaken to clear the area of all remaining unexploded bombs and mines by the end of 1994.

The land is on the banks of the Orange River and the community intends developing it for farming and tourism.

The Minister of Land Affairs, Mr Derek Hanekom, attended the community's celebration when they returned to their land. (*Land Update: May/June 1994*)

### Farmworkers get stake in commercial farms

FIVE pilot projects are underway where farmworkers take ownership of land and have equity in the farming business. The projects are backed by the Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA), the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and the Standard Bank. The DBSA provides a loan at a concessional rate of 8%, the IDC loan was interest free and the Standard Bank was financing the balance at a negotiated rate.

The DBSA's Craig McKenzie said these projects were the first of their kind to be established. The projects involve a fruit farm in the Grabouw valley in the Western Cape, a cattle farm in Northern Transvaal, a citrus farm and timber plantation in the Eastern Transvaal and a vineyard on the Orange River in the Northern Cape.

(*Farmer's Weekly: June 24 1994*)

### Farmers get substantial payout in Mfengu case

FARMERS who took over ownership of land from which the Mfengu community were forcibly removed will get R35,72 million for the land. An out of court settlement saw the Mfengu regain the 19 farms in the Tsitsikama area in the Eastern Cape. In terms of the settlement, the Mfengu have agreed to participate in a development trust to administer the 19 highly productive dairy farms. The community undertook to return to the land in a manner which ensures the continued

productivity and development of the farms. (*Land Update: May/June 1994*)

### Land departments unlikely to get RDP allocations

THE government is unlikely to allocate funds from the reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) to land redistribution or establishing new farmers in the first year of the RDP budget. Mr Alec Erwin, deputy minister of finance, said the RDP priorities included feeding schemes for primary schools, health care and upgrading townships. The RDP fund of R2,5 billion could be boosted by proceeds from possible sales of state assets. A special cabinet committee will assume broad responsibility for the RDP, along with the Minister Without Portfolio, Mr Jay Naidoo.

(*Farmer's Weekly: July 8 1994*)

### RDP can lend R1 billion from DBSA

THE DBSA has R1 billion to lend the RDP to meet its goals for the financial year ending in March 1995.

According to its annual report, the Bank had disbursed 59% extra project finance from its previous year's R446 million. By the end of March 1994, it had approved a cumulative total of 1 475 projects worth R8,9 billion over 11 years. A further 246 projects were under consideration with an estimated loan value of R2,1 billion.

About 10% of the Bank's current loan portfolio was for projects outside South Africa, but within Southern Africa. Most of these, such as the Lesotho Highlands Water Project would benefit South Africa in the long run. (*Farmer's Weekly: July 8 1994*)