

Pretoria flocks to land debate

Idasa and Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) in Pretoria were joint hosts of a recent evening seminar on the land question.

About 300 people representing all political persuasions attended the meeting which was addressed by Prof Andre van der Walt (Unisa), Ms Aninka Claassens (Centre for Applied Legal Studies) Mr Paul Farrel (NP MP) and Prof Albie Sachs.

Farrel highlighted the fact that all land expropriated by the government in the past, and still in its possession, would be made available to "farmers of colour" on very reasonable terms, with the help of an advisory commission.

Claassens argued that there are values common to both black and white communities which could be used as criteria for the redistribution of land.

Prof Sachs said he believed a complete change of government in South Africa would occur in the next year or two. The current government was spending much time and effort on redrafting legislation which will, as a matter of course, be changed, he said. This would happen because the government had not sought to consult as broadly as possible with those most directly affected by the legislation.

The majority of the questions raised were directed to Farrel, and this confirmed to us the importance of giving people the opportunity to speak directly to the legislators; and of the significance of the kind of meeting which focuses on current debates.

Kerry Harris
Regional Co-ordinator

A new director in Jhb

Born in Lydenburg but raised in Atteridgeville, Pretoria, former UDF leader Titus Mafolo has more than paid his dues to "the struggle". But he says his move to Idasa, as regional director in Johannesburg, is just another part of this process.

A year after matriculating in 1976 he was detained for two months, the first of several spells in detention without trial over the next 10 years.

During the late '70s and early '80s Titus helped organise a range of activities in Pretoria's townships, from candle-making and water-drilling projects to establishing and editing a community newspaper.

In 1984 he was appointed the Pretoria and Northern Transvaal co-ordinator of the UDF's million signature campaign and in 1985 he became treasurer for the Transvaal.

In 1990 he served as the Mass Democratic Movement's link with the bantustans and met with all the homeland leaders except Chief Buthelezi and Lucas Mangope.

Like certain other new Idasa staff members, Titus



Titus Mafolo

has encountered some criticism for joining the institute. He offers the following as the reasons for his decision:

"Joining Idasa is a challenge in more ways than one. Firstly, there are those who may think one is abandoning the ongoing process of building and nurturing democratic structures that have played a crucial role in bringing about political change in our country.

"But you can bet your boots that people who have spent half their lives struggling and fighting for a non-racial democracy - and building the necessary structures for that purpose - will never jump out of the trenches. We have so internalised this process that without it we would feel as if an important organ of the body had been removed.

"Secondly, there may be a belief that work in an organ-

isation like Idasa is less important. Incorrect. Idasa is a product of the struggles and sacrifices of our people everywhere, but particularly in the townships and villages.

"Idasa, being a product of the turbulent 1980s, has, through its tireless work, booked itself a central seat on the transition bus that is taking us to the new era of democracy and political tolerance.

"As a facilitator and educator, Idasa must help free us of fear, mistrust, intolerance and suspicion. It can do that effectively if its staff is involved in the day to day activities of the people, so that there is no artificial divide between the struggle of our people against apartheid (which is still alive and kicking hard!) and Idasa's work.

"Idasa is well positioned not only to facilitate discussions and debates on important questions facing us, but also on setting in motion a process whereby disadvantaged people are developed so that they can also take part in the construction of the road to democracy."

Welcome on board Titus!

Vyandelike verlede moet bely word

Afrikaners en swart Suid-Afrikaners moet 'n sleutel in hul gemeenskaplike verlede vind sodat die deur tot 'n ware nuwe Suid-Afrika kan oopgaan, volgens dr Beyers Naudé.

Sonder 'n belydenis oor hul vyandelike verlede uit dié twee oorde, sal pogings tot versoening faal, sê dr Beyers. "En die belydenis moet opgevolg word deur konkrete dade."

By 'n onlangse openbare vergadering in Parow oor versoening,

gereël deur Idasa, het dr Naudé en aartsbiskop Desmond Tutu saamgestem dat rekonsiliasie ontmoontlik is tot tyd en wyl Afrikaners hul apartheidsverlede behoorlik verwerk het.

Die waarheid, belydenis en vergifnis is noodsaaklike elemente van dié proses, sê die kerkleiers. 'n Mens kan nie betekenisvol om vergifnis vra voor jy 'n grondige begrip van jou misstappe het nie. Daarom is dit van uiterste belang dat

veral blanke Suid-Afrikaners meer te wete moet kom oor die onreg en pyn wat apartheid hul swart medeburgers besorg het.

Dr Beyers het gesê hul geskiedenis van konsentrasiekampe behoort Afrikaners uniek bevoeg te maak om die hartseer van apartheid te verstaan. Hoewel dit ontmoontlik is om ten volle restitusie te doen vir die onreg van apartheid, is dit belangrik dat Afrikaners dit tenminste teenoor swartmense erken.

Dr Johan Heyns, voormalige NG-moderator, het gesê apartheid het op wanpraktyke uitgeloop en restitusie was noodsaaklik.

Aartsbiskop Tutu het gesê daar is geen plek vir eiegeregtigheid in Suid-Afrika nie, almal kom onder die oordeel. Die waarheid is wat alle Suid-Afrikaners moet nastreef.

Ronel Scheffer
Media Direkteur