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Glenmore squatters move starts next week

By ANDRE VILJOEN
THE FIRST truckload of inhabitants of the contentious Glenmore township on the Fish River, will arrive on Tuesday. Glenmore engineer, Mr W. P. Malherbe, said in an interview yesterday.

The newcomers are squatters who are to be moved 180 kilometres from the coastal farm Klipfontein to Glenmore, where they will form the nucleus of a work force to build the township proper. Mr Malherbe said about

50 trucks will be used to transfer about 1460 squatters and their belongings, which include cattle and poultry. The move is being carried out by the Department of Plural Relations. The Klipfontein people

will be housed in a temporary township of 500 three-roomed prefabricated wood and cement houses. There are outside toilets between the rows of houses and borehole water is supplied.

Mr Malherbe said the newcomers will start building the township within the next few weeks. A further 5000 houses will be built over five years.

He said the township inhabitants will be employed by private contractors and would be paid the normal rates for unskilled labour.

The Town Clerk of Bushman's River Mouth, Mr Bill Deacon, said although he felt sorry for people who were moved without being given any choice, he felt the removal of the Klipfontein squatters was a good thing.

He said there were no sanitation facilities at Klipfontein which was in the Bushmans River catchment area the town's catchment area. "The settlement constituted a health hazard to both its occupants and to whites in the vicinity," he said.

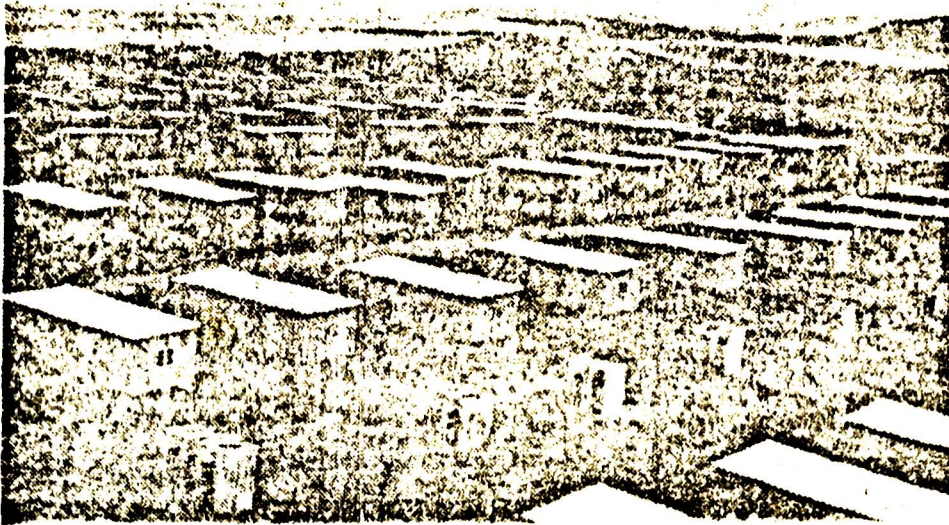
"I am surprised the Klipfontein people got through a summer without a major epidemic," he said.

Mr Deacon said he believed the Klipfontein people regarded the move with mixed feelings but that on the whole, they were resigned to it.

He said that in terms of an agreement between the Government and the municipalities of Bushman's River Mouth and Kenton-on-Sea, registered employees from Klipfontein would not have to go to Glenmore.

The workers would move to the nearby temporary transit camp at Kenton. Unemployed inhabitants of the transit camp, which presently housed about 500 people, will be moved to Glenmore.

"Once all the unemployed people are gone, conditions at the transit camp will be improved," he said.



SOME of the three-roomed, prefabricated wood and cement houses at Glenmore. Between the rows of houses are toilets.