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cm m! m (01:) 131-5230
Mier, also known as Rietfontein, is a "coloured reserve" with a population of 5,000
residents in the Northern Cape, on the borders of Botswana and Namibia.
The Mier Rural Areas Bill was passed into law on June 13, 1990. This Act gives the
Minister of Housing and Local Government the power to sell land which he was meant to
hold in trust for the community. The residents  land now can be privatised, dispossessing
the people of the land they have lived on for generations. Communities who have fanned
communally for generations could now lose their birthright.
The residents are opposed to individual land tenure because they see this as creating a
situation in which rich land barons will be able to take over the land. The community
wants to return to communal grazing patterns which gives access to land to the entire
community.
The Mier Act is further proof of the shin since 1986 in the South African governmentis
strategy of forced removals. By privatising the land, the government relinquishes their
responsibility to private developers and local authorities. Today the state largely confi
its mle to providing the policy framework within which removals can occur. This shift in
policy threatens 8-9 million people throughout South Africa with forced removal from thei
r
land.
This policy of privatising land will also severely handcuff a future democratic governmen
The whole issue of land is critical in the upcoming negotiation process. If this problem
left unresolved, a newly elected government would be leh with a limited capacity to addre
the millions of landless people. At a time when a new constitution is being considered, t
government is selling off large tmets of land - ifs intentions should be seen for what th
еу
are.
Together with the African National Congress, the Surplus People Project and the National
land Committee, we call for the scrapping of the Mier Act and a moratorium on the sale
of all trust land until a just and equitable land policy has been decided and implemented
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ANC WESTEG CAPE: PRESS RELEASE

agga BILL: 19 JUNE 1990

No amount of justificttlon by tho Linen: Party cm wish guy this callous Mier Bill. Allan Hendrickae ha: choson co dispossqss tho rural poor to quell the disquiet in his pnrty. This step is rcttc3r0351Vc. Xi: abusa of tho Friedom Charts: ,in parlitment 'damanttratex both his Lgnorancn and his oppartunism. Thu Frutdcm Charter status "The land shall belong to :ho-e'who work is" - this 1: the ststus quo in thI Hie: Rusazve where th. land belcass to tha people. as a whole.

Th: State Ptasidnn: should now be heli to his comntzaont to address the Land Act. He should no: sign ch. Bill.

The ANC will stand by the people of H19: in the rquest to challenge this gnjustice material out against than by whatever manna. If all elEe fails - this retragressiv: legislation must be randutei unworkuble ! mass action.

No 1 May 1990 A publie-tlon o! the NATIONAL LAND COMMITTEE I P 0 Box 16858 Doornfonteln 2028 Johannesburg South Attle-' 4th Floor Khotlo Houu 62 Marohlll Strut Johannesburg I 011 - 8321123 Fax 011 - 838 6931 This is the first of the series of LAND This meeting also agreed to set up joint UPDATE which is designed as a briefing and committees to monitor the upgrading process. information sheet on land. removal, These will be composed of representatives of incorporation and related issues in both rural the community and the Municipality. Presen tly and urban areas. the area is classified as 'Coloured' Group Area. The residents reject the segregation of areas on the basis of race. The Civic also objects to the notion of declaring the area a L AW A AIKAMP Free Settlement hma- and is calling for one non-racxal mumctpality for all. SOUTHERN CAPE For the past six years Lawaaikamp near George, has fought various attempts by the authorities to remove it to Sandkraal. three kilometres down the road. In 1989 the On the Knysna ridge along the Garden Route. community was reprieved and R2,7m was set there is a cluster of informal settlements whic aside by the government to, - the upgrade of the are threatened with forced removals. The area. These are long standing demands of the infrastructure for the new township to reset tle residents. To ensure that the upgrading process the African residents of these areas has meets the demands of the communitity, the laid to him them into moving. Only four George Civic Association is working with the families have since moved into the new Development Action Group who provides township. Although the people have not them with expert advice and assistence. moved and refused to participant in the Skakel (Advisory) Committe. until recently. there On the 13th Match 1990 the Civic together were no strong community organisations. with DAG met with the George Municipality $^{\prime}$. . . and the Cape Provincial Administration (CPA) In February a cmc organisation was elected to discuss the community's upgrade plans. The and members of the Skakel Committee were plans were accepted by the Municipality called on to resign. The people mandated the without reservations. Civic to write to the CPA, which admmisters the area, about the residents' rejection of the Skakel Committee. They also request a meeting

KNYSNA INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

LAND UPDATE NO 1 MAY 1990 with CPA to discuss the recognition of the Civic as the representative structure of the community. The meeting took place April 3, but no resolutions were taken, because the CPA wanted time to meet with the Skakel Committee. The CPA has subsequently said to the Civic that it wants proof of Civicls support by the residents. Ocean View and Fish Hock are negotiating with the CPA for land to be set aside for them in the South Peninsula. A second meeting between the CPA and the joint committee of the four communites SMUTSVILLE A small 'squatterl community near Smutsville icolouredi township in Sedgefield has been resisting threatened removal since 1988. In November 1989 the Sedgefield Town Clerk together with the Management Committee held a referendumfor the confirmed that land would be made available iCOlomd, mldems t0 dcmmme Wheihcr and the CPA undertook to communicate with they want iblaCkS, in Sedgetield. The majority the joint committee on an ongoing basis. voted against the presence of iblacks'. Map of the South Peninsula and Northern Suburbs It was agreed that no final decisions would be taken without proper consultation with community representatives, that water and services would be provided in the interim, and that all criminal charges would be withdrawn. The land which the CPA is considering providing, is within a kilometre radius of these areas, except for Red Hill which is about 5km away. The isquatter, community was dissatisfied about the referendum and held a prayer service in protest. It was attended by many lcolouredl residents. This was the beginning of a co-operative working relationship between the two communities who are seeking jointly a solution to the housin crisis. Early this year the icoloured' community resolved to call for the resignation of the Management Committee and elected a new committee in a general meeting. NORTHERN SURBURBS Towards the end of 1989 the Kraaifontein municipality gave a nreprieven to communities in its area. These are Otto se Bos, Uitkyk and Bloekombos. lt conceded , A $_$ that the only solution to the squatter problem memorandum to the Sedgefleld Muntelpahty. was to make land available in the area for The marchers demaneled, among other them. A meeting to discuss this was set up for things, land and housmg for the squatters, the this year. After De Klerk's speech on 2 dissolution of the Management Committee and one municipality for all. WESTERN CAPE SOUTH PENINSULA On the let April a march of about 400 people from both the iicoloured" and squatter communities handed a

February, the CP controlled municipality cancelled all meetings with the community

In yet another incident indicating the backpeddling of the munipality, the

The communmes Of Noordhoek, Red Hill. community of Otto se Bos lost their

and their representatives.

LAND UPDATE NO I MAY 1990 temporary shelters and possesion when municipal officials started fires, ostensibly to MALMESBURY ubum out snakes". The 200 people left Since the end of last year inconsistent homeless by the fires then joined the negotiations between the local municipaliity Bloekombos community. However, the. and the community have been taking place. municipality refuses to accept the existence The people of this community are living in of this community. In the old heavy handed the workers compound and have been removals style the municipality has threatened with evictions. The authorities demolished their shelters in dawn raids, four have conceded that land should be set aside times in the last few weeks. for blacks in the area, but seem too be dragging their heels about the process. In the meantime they want to declaxe the compound a transit camp. This would make it easier to remove the community should the municipality so wish. After these people successfully obtained an interdict restraining the Municipality from removing them, they heard that the CPA h decided to give them land for settlement. It i yet not clear when the people will be able to move onto this land, nor whether the demolitions will stop in the interim. The people demand a formal reprieve from the authorites. KOEKENAAP There is no resolution in sight for the Koekenaap residents who have constantly had their shacks demolished by the authorities. The community tried to deal with this by rebuilding over the weekends. However, there were demolitions again in April. THE MARCH FOR LAND AND HOUSING A demonstration for land and housing was held held on the 5 and 6 April in Cape Town. About 500 people, mostly from the rural areas, marched from Dism'ct Six to the City Hall to hand over a memorandum and community demands to representatives of the City Council, RSC, CPA and De Klerle office. x WEST COAST In this area no land is set aside for the provision of housing for Africans. From Ca Town right up the west coast to the Orange River in Namaqualand, the presence of PORT NOLLOTH On the 23rd April two CPA officials visited the area and informed the community that land will be set aside where they will be able to settle permanently. Despite this announcement which would signal a massive victory for Port Nollothls African population, there is no clarity about the implications of this for a pending court case by the Port Nolloth Municipality to evict the community.

However, over the years, the many African workers living in hostels along the west coast have been joined by their families who live with them in the hostels, or who have built shacks near the hostels.

Mier also known as Rietfontein, is a icoloured reserve' in the district of Gordonia in the Northern Cape. It is just below the

recognised. The only housing available for NORTHERNCAPE

African communities is not officially ${\tt X}$

African people is single-menls hostels.

MIER

Kalahari Gemsbok Park which borders on Botswana and Namibia. It is the second

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biggest of' the 23 "coloured reserves" with a
population of about 5000 people on 398 789 years tried to move the residents from
hectares of land. The land is presently held in Daliwe to the new township. Recently the
trust for the residents of Mier by the Minister Committee gave up its attempts to
of Local Government and Agriculture of the
House of Representatives, Rev Julies.
In 1981 Mier was divided into 125 economic
units which were leased out to individual
fanners for a period of five years. In 1989
seven of these units were sold to individuals,
this being the first time that trust land has
been sold. The residents are opposed to the
individual land tenure because they see this
as creating a situation in which n'ch land
barons would be able to take over the land of
their forebears. The community want to
return to communal grazing patterns which
give access to land to the whole community.
In February the Mier Rural Areas Bill was
tabled in the House of Representatives. The
administers the new township has over the
administer the old township and thus the
attempts to remove it. This is a breakthrough
for the residents of Daliwe who want the
Cathcart municipality to take the
responsibility for the area.
The municipality is refusing to consider this
ubecause it does not have a mandate to take
political decisionsii Daliwe Is people have
decided to continue the consumer boycott of
Cathcart, now in its second month, until the
white council reconsiders its decision.
BORDERCORRIDOR
Since their reprieve from removal threat in
1986, the 1black spotI communities in the
border corridor have been involved in a
Bill gives the Minister pOWCr to SC" land held process to develop an approach to to
in trust for the community. It also seeks to
facilitate the establishment of democratic
validate, with retrospective effect, the actions foms of local government in rural areas.
Of the Management Board Md the Minism They have consistently rejected both the
in divmmg .1; area into economic units and tribal and community authorities which the
selling it. The community made
representations and mobilised strong support
against the Bill. Although the Bill has been
government tries to impose on them.
On April let a meeting which brought
suspended, the Minister has visited the area together the communities of Phumlani
and people were told to sign a petition saying (Needs Camp), Silverdale, Euson, Good
they are in favour of the Bill. A counter
petition by the residents have now been
circulated and about 1000 signatures have
already been collected.
EASTERNCAPE
DALIW E
Daliwe is the old Cathcart township which
has been threatened with removal to a new
township further away from the white town.
The Katikati Town Committee which
Hope, Mooiplaas, Kwelerha. Newlands,
Equoneni, Mgwali, Goshen and IJessyton,
issued a press statement about the
Department of Development Aid (DDA):
11We, representatives of the communities
participating in this workshop, have been
forced to deal for the past four years with
DDA. Our experience has been bitter.
DDA promised development but brought
nothing. DDA said that it was not concerned
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_with political matters but it sought to control

LAND UPDATE

and to create division. It refused to deal with our democratically elected Residents
Associations, but has been trying all along to impose unwanted tribal authorities. DDA promised resources but instead it built polic stations in our peaceful communities. DDA told the people that there was not any land for residential sites but it gave land for a police station.

uSince DDA came to us we have heard many promises but have seen less development than when we were under the old divisional councils. When we challenged DDA on their promises all they said was the money had been transfered to Natal

uDDA has failed to even begin to address th basic need of our communities - more land, Instead it has tried to imprison the people of Eluxolweni on plots of 96 square metres. Th residents of Phumlani have been demanding agricultural land. DDA refused to even discuss the matter.

uDDA does not provide any services itself. It only' refers our demands to other state departments. Why is there this special department for us? We see no reason to hav anything to do with DDA. We can and will deal directly with the other departments, NO I MAY 1990

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nu- lull. mm by Inc M whether it be CPA for pensions, Home Affairs for ID documents, or DET for education problems.

iiFor all these reasons we reject DDA. At a time when De Klerk is promising reform how can a department like DDA continue as if Verwoerd were still the prime minister?" ANTI-INCORPORATION

The Border communities of Thornhill, Zwelidinga, Peelton, Balasi and Tyolomnqa held a workshop to assess their struggles against incorporation into the Ciskei. It was the militant stmggles of these communities which gave rise to the popular resistance which resulted in the military coup that overthrew Sebe's regime. The new military government under Brigadier ngzo is sympathetic to popular organisations, as well as to the call for reincorporation into South Africa.

The workshop concluded that as long as there are bantustans, the poor material conditions of life will remain. It resolved that only through participation of ordinary people in decision making and the implementation of these in their daily lives, would solutions to their problems be found. They also resolved to be vigilant against the authorities only

paying lip service to the democratic participation of the people in community issues.

THE BANTUSTAN REVOLT

On the 5th April all the leaders of the non-indepedent homelands except Qwa'Qwa leader Kenneth Mopeli, and Kwazulu Chief Minister, Mangosuthu Buthelezi, boycotted a meeting with President FW De Klerk. This happened at a time when most of the bantustans were destabilised by popular mass actions.

In the wake of these actions the repressive regime of Sebe was toppled in a bloodless military coup, Vendais civilian government gave way to military ruler, Colonel Ramushwana and security in Bophuthatswana has been intensified in anticipation of another coup. After weeks of stay aways in GazankuluTs schools and civil service, Chief Minister Hudson Ntsanwisisi has obtained a breathing space after the South African secutity forces moved into the area to crush popular pressure for his resignation. Over a period of time, pressure from the grassroots organisations has pushed LebowaTs Ramodikwe to be more teceptive to popular organisation On the 7th May all the leaders of the non-independent homelands, except Kwazulu met with and expressed support to the ANC at a report back meeting after the Groote Schuur talks.

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TRANSVAAL

DRIEFONTEIN

In Driefontein in the eastern Tranvaal, tensions are higher than they have been since Saul Mkhizeis death at the height of the attempted forced removal.

This follows the abduction and murder of the chairperson of the Youth Congress, Themba Dlamini on the 10 March. A former chief, Mr Yende, who has been charged with committing the murder, is being uprotected by a band of armed impis which was bussed into area.

The local police refused to take statements from two people who came forward as witnesses. One of these people was the deceasede father. After intervention from the Legal Resources Centre, Yende was finally arrested by the Standerton police, but immediately released on R50 bail. The funeral was held on the 24 March without any incident. Feelings are still running high. In the meantime the Driefontein community and that of nearby Daggakraaal have submitted a memorandum to the government protesting against the Tribal and Community Authorities Bill which is presently under consideration in this parliamentary session. HARTEBEESFONTEIN

This western Transvaal community is resisting government attempts to incorporate it into Bophuthatswana. In March a community meeting was held in which a civic

LAND UPDATE

association was constituted. The Civic is organising to have services improved and th area to be given township status. This is part of the attempt to prevent Bophuthatswana taking over the administration. The Civic is helping residents to obtain their SA citizenship by applying for South African ID books.

On Sharpeville Day, the Civic Association's chairperson, Nathaniel Musa and nine othe were detained under the state of emergency. This intensified suspicions that the incorporation was imminent. The communit then planned a march to protest the detentions and demand the dismantling of Bophuthatswana. However, this was cancelled when the permission for the march was suddenly withdrawn. Musa and eight other detainees were released after two weeks and one is still in detention. There are reports of detention of about 167 residents, mainly youth, from the nearby community of Bapong which has a history of resisting the imposition of Bophuthatswana rule over it.

LEEUWFONTEIN AND BRAKLAAGTE

The situation in both villages is stable but still tense. The numbers of Bophuthatswana security forces appear to have lessened (because of crises in other area). The Bophuthatswana police have applied to the South African authorities to extradite a number of people they wish to charge with the murder of the nine policemen at Leeuwfontein last July. These people have been arrested and some let out on bail pending the outcome of the extradition hearing. This is to take place in Johannesbur on May 9 1990 and is being contested by lawyers for the affected people.

N01 MAY 1990

The Leeuwfontein murder trial is to begin in the Bophuthatswana Supreme Court in Mmabatho on May 23rd. Recently 18 out of the 57 people still awaiting trial at Rooigrond prison were released on bail.

The court case challenging the validity of the incorporation of Leeuwfontein into Bophuthtatswana will be heard at the Pretoria Supreme Court on the 5th June. The Braldaagte community is still waiting for an appeal court date to be set to hear their appeal against the decision that their incorporation was valid.

NATAL

FARMWORKERS FROM TRANSKEI

During the third week of January, a group of farmworkers from the Transkei approached AFRA for legal assistence. They had been recruited by a farmer in the New Hanover district who they allege had failed to perform his obligations with regard to wages, rations and accommodation. The workers finally left the farm completely destitute. The recruitment of farmworkers from the bantustans and subsequent cruel exploitation is a recurrent issue in the work with farmworkers.

THE uAMASWAZI" EVICTION

In the first week of February, AFRA was

approached by representatives of 89 families of the iiAmaswaziT clan who had recently been evicted from a farm called Coniston in the Winterton area. The families had occupied the farm since 1989 as refugees following factional violence in the Winterton area.

The clan maintains that it has "landlessn status since it was displaced from its ancestral home in 1895 by white farmers. Since then

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they have been seeking a permanent place of natural resources of the region for centuries

settlement. and have successfully adapted their techniques to the subtropical environment. Various temporary arrangements have been made by the government, but they have all resulted in tension between Amaswazi and other neighboun'ng clans. The most recent clash, which resulted in them occupying the white farm was with the Amangwane clan. The proclaimation of the Kosi Bay Nature Reserve in August 1988, following the concerns from some conservationists over environmental degradation, and the practice of the Kwazulu Bereau of Natural Resources have generated considerable antagonism from the local people. They claim that they have yet to see any material advantages. and that the Bureau is threatening to remove those people whose homesteads lie inside the reserve.

At the end of February a Commission of Inquiry was held by the government into the Amaswazi land claim. The government is insisting that people resettle temporarily at a place called Droogspmit, until land is identified for their resettlement. The Commission indicated that it would take more than three years to identify land for their resettlement.

In November the local people formed an organisation called Isididi to protest about their dispossession from the land as a result of the creation of the reserve. The people are extremely dependent on the land and access to the resources inside the reserve for their living. Conservation in the area depends on the consultation and the involvement of the people in planning, to avoid practices which are destructive to the environment.

It seems that the government is playing 'for time on this issue as the only land available is in iwhite' areas.

KOSI BAY CONSERVATION

REMOVALS

The Kosi Bay Nature Reserve lies on the coastal plain of Ingwavuma, in northern Kwazulu. It is a tegion of natural beauty, which includes most of the chain lakes, swamps, pans and mamhes of the Kosi lakes system, whose fauna and floura are varied and unique. The people of Kosi Bay have been fishing, farming and harvesting the rich In January a meeting was arranged in the Kwamazambane area by the Bureau on the question of compensation. When people were informed that the intention was to pay compensation on that day and that that cash had already been drawn for these purposes, they decided to boycott the meeeting. The reasons for the boycott were that there had been absolutely no consultation nor agreement regarding the compensation. A petition to be submitted to the Kwazulu Chief Minister is circulating in the area.

CONGRESS

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PREBE STHTEMINT

SY 1 OFHICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

ON I MIER BILL DATE : JUNE L2 1990

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having thu'r land. which they have occupied for generations, gold to private aun-rs. This 1.5 after Allan Hendriksais
Labour Party has bun forced talc. to withdraw the hier 3111
because of popular resistance. including the intervention of
the ANC and our Dowty-President. Conrado Handala.
After the Bier dallgation appealed to the NE, Comrade Handeli
contacted Hendriksa and asked him to withdraw the Bill and
consult the connunity thorquhly on this matter. rbndriku
hu nat consult" the counnity or the Hier Residents
Association who have a patition qunud by the majority o'f
residents against the Bill. Hendrikso obviously dons not
understand what it means to :cmuult because h. purports t
have :onuulted the community after a muting with a delegation
of residmts where he refused to annuar any questions or all
any discussion.

The rnidants of hier and the ANC totally rojact this Bill in an privatisation of trust land. Nior in not the ml cmunity waging a courageous battle against the 331- of thm'. land. u- call for a moratoriu- on th- uh of .11 trust Ian until a procous of negotiations b.tueon the government. th-communities and tho ANC, can work out a way in which t historical injultleus can bu redressad and landless peep! supported in th-ir attempts to coin land.

The land is a burning issue for the majority of South African and the ANC is committed to a procuss of dov-loping .- juand Iquitgble land policy. what the Labour Party aims to d by this Bill is to pre-enpt this procus. u. condemn thoi actions in the strangest possible terms. If this Bill shoal quahcad and began, law we will be forced to do all in nu power to make it unworkable.

m.

NATIONAL LAND CONINIITTEE
IDOlcx NOS! Dounlcmain 2325 Jehannnhug Sleuth nine:
"4m Hear Knals: Hausa 11 Mammu Slum Jshannuburg
r B1! -131 1123 Fax OH - M6 6311

Th- Hauso cf Rapresentatives kill cansider tho Miar Rural Arias Bill far the thlrd timl tcmorrOu. If the Bill is passed it will mnan that the community nlld land on which about 5 000 aaopl- hava llved for generatiahs will be privatilud and sald nff to individual own'ri. That will moan that largu numbers of paople will lase access to land and hence thoir liv-lihaod. The National Land Cammittee adds it volce ta that of tho cammunityls representntivas and nthor organisations who have called for the Bill to be dropped. and far the system of communal tanuru to be retained far tha present. Our cauntry 15 at a :rniuruads in its history. Th. proCISS of national negotiations which hogan with the Groota Schuur maating has opened the way for South Africa's problems ta bu ralolved nlacefully and by all of it. paaplo. Tho naqotiatians DPOCOII will centrally consider how apartheid's loqacy can bl araclcatud and society normalilod-This will mInn a groat anal al :nngultatiah Ind discussion with all South Africans so that the polltlcal dispensation that is finally decxuod 15 Oh. that can satisfy all on paoplt. Th. land question 1: :ritical to this neoctiatinn p PDCBSS .

it is crucial that the government Ind the Hauue oi RaprII-ntativ-I do hat dew take any steps that will pru-cmp this pracerss. Privatisihq Mier land will ihtanlifv t pronlams that apartheid has causnd.

The pruaeht unuqual dittribution of land in Our country an nan a more equal distribution tlkes place is a burning an emotxva issue. It needs to be handled with tho qroltes sensitivity.

A short while ago the quvarhmont ae:1dod ta auction land I tho westorn Transvaal that had bu-h uxprapriated ?POM 513: fraahold communztiai who wara farcibly remavud. This land nl remained vacant fur many yearn. The decision to tall it NI soon as an attempt to transfer DNnIPship int: privat. hand! so that anon raclal restrictions worn aeoliahed, the origin. occupant: would be unable to reclaim thoir land.

After prutest cram tho Transvaal :ommuhtiaa :oncernad, th-quvarnmnnt decided not to go ahuaa with th- land Illa. Th;-tensitivity is welcoma. "a call on the House of Ropresantativuu to show similar sansitivity and act in A responsibl- mannar.

In the cal. cf Hier there is at present no such Ionsitivity. The House of Rapr-sentatives is puihlnq ah-au with the Ball in the la:u of opposition from the community cancarned n; gall as a broadnr political community. All attumpts ta przvatlle either communal ar nationnllv held lahu (trust land) Just befora the land Question Become! part of th- natzonal nogotiation process will bu seen as a betrayal of Du? cauntry's peopla.

We tall for a moratorium on .11 att.npts to 9.11 or privatis-

. .__ _- v.-- '- SURPLUS PEOPLE PROJEC

' 2nd Floor

. _' A M rm Build

mic??? 468 WES I tRN (:an OgioKlipfonte End.

7760 . - Tel: (021) 696 3026/7 3316130113:

Fm (021) 696 3027

51 Y 14 June 1990

In parliament last night the Labour Party spent hours trying to justify why they passed the hler Rurel Areas Bill. They also want to considerabl. lengths to enswer newspaper reparte making all kinds of unfounded allequetions in the process. what they failed to do we: answer the cry of the majority of residents that tn: Bill be scrapped.

They falled to explain why they are pushing ahead with logISJAtiDn in to! light of widespread opposition and the call for a moratarlum on the sale of all trust land while a just and-equitable land policy is being worked nut.

They failed to explain why it is necessery to make the Bill retrospective. They :annat explain this without admitting that they want to stop the leu from running its :nursa and finding that their action in dividing the land into ecchomic units in the early 1?BOI and selling it, in illegal and invalid. It was clear from the denate in parliament last night that the Labour Party intends pushing ahead with the privatisation of land. not only in Hier, but in all the reserves. This will mean that thousands cf poaple will become landless while I small minority will bagnme land barons. This has serious implications for areas like Leliefontein. Steinkopf and the Richterlyeld where the system of economic units was declared invalid by the ccurts.

These communitie; have farmed the land communally for generatianl. Conservationists and bntanists heve shown that the economic unlt sygrnm was not in fact acanumically viable and the reasons for overgfezing are many and complex. Communal farming is suited to these areee'ee farmers must move to pratect the land, while the economic unit system made this impossible.

Rev Hendrikle asserted in parliament that the Mier Act is consistent with the Freedom Charter because it give: individual: the right to buy land. what he does not underst-nd is that the land at Hier is owned by the people as a whole. This Act dispossesse: them of their land end causes more 15nd hungor.

Rev Julie: said that a Trust Fund will be set up for those people who will not be able to get land because of this Act. why i- the astablishment of this Trust Fund and a mechanism far ensuring that it is used far the benefit of the whole community not included in the Inquielation? How :an th-community he expected to believe that they will see tho benavitl of this trust which is let up by the very Hiniitar who 1: meant ta hold the lend in trust tor the whole :ammunstv?

rum aq 'qn 11:5? PFnPIFR RIPPIHR 61Hi161 P S

Rev Juliea also stntad that ha 15 nusy buying land that borders Hier for th. community. It appears As if ho 1IIII thnoud to clear his conscionc- Iftlr ha pasgas legislatiun that uSspossesses tn. majority of peaple of their land. th aoos hnot campaign for the scrapping of the Land Acts. which is already in the pipelino, ID that rasidants of Mlar who want to individually nun land can buy land and compitl an tho upon market?

u. add our voica In that. of the majority of Hiar rlsidants. who althOugh they voicad their oppositian ta this Bill warnot: onlulted. in condemning the Labour Party who has once again shown itself to be unrepresentative and undemocratic. w. call for the scrapping of the Mior Act and a moratorium an the sale of All trust land until a just and equitable land policy has been warked out.