



R22m for land victims

THE NEW AGE FRIDAY - 06 NOVEMBER 2015 [PG 07]

Cash for families
robbed by apartheid

TNA REPORTER

A GROUP of 21 families who were dispossessed of their land and homes by the apartheid government have at last been compensated to the tune of R22m.

MEC for agriculture and rural development Cyril Xaba, who led the handover at the Durban ICC this week, said the victims came from Cato Manor, Chatsworth, Redhill, Pinetown, Durban Central and Phoenix across to Ifafa Beach and Harding on the South Coast.

"This tells a story of the massive exercise in social engineering carried out by the apartheid government to create racially exclusive townships and suburbs."

He lamented the negative effect of the racial separation and suspicion promoted by the apartheid government which continues to haunt South Africa.

"We continue to live with that legacy as communities remain in racially-zoned areas. Yet, before this re-zoning, there were mixed communities where the different races co-existed side by side," he said.

Xaba said while the Freedom Charter promoted a vision of a non-racial South Africa, "the apartheid mindset where we view different race groups through a lens of stereotypes and prejudice continues to persist".

Among those compensated was the Oberholzer family whose prime land at Ifafa Beach was taken away under the Group Areas Act because it was proclaimed for the exclusive



CASHED IN: Nomfundo Nhloko Gobodo, Cyril Xaba, Mlungisi Ndhela land claimant from Cato Manor, Logie Naidoo and Dr Sipiwe Mkhize at the hand over of financial compensation to victims of apartheid.

use and occupation of whites.

The Matthee family were dispossessed of their farms in Harding.

"Mr Matthee had built a clinic and a store for the local community, as the town was too far away. He had also developed a hydro-electrical scheme which provided free electricity for the farms, store and clinic. Here was an enterprising farmer who had his livelihood taken away," Xaba said.

The Reddy, Khan, Ramlall and Naicker families lost their land in Chatsworth.

"It is ironic that valuable farmland in

Chatsworth was lost and replaced by the development of a township," Xaba said.

A number of Cato Manor land claims were also settled with the Nzaba, Buthelezi, Mkhize, Mbili, Sibisi and Simelane families being compensated.

Xaba said Cato Manor was not only another shameful chapter in the history of land dispossession but also an area of conflict between Africans and Indians in 1948.

"However, historians have confirmed this conflict had its roots in the divide and rule tactics of the apartheid government."

The MEC said the KZN government's court action to prevent local businessman Phumlani Mfeka from fanning racial hatred between Indians and Africans via social media, as proof of the ANC government's commitment to non-racialism.

"This commitment is also shown in the manner in which land claims are handled by the Land Claims Commission. All cases are investigated and compensation is given to all deserving cases, regardless of race and ethnic origin," he said.

news@thenewage.co.za