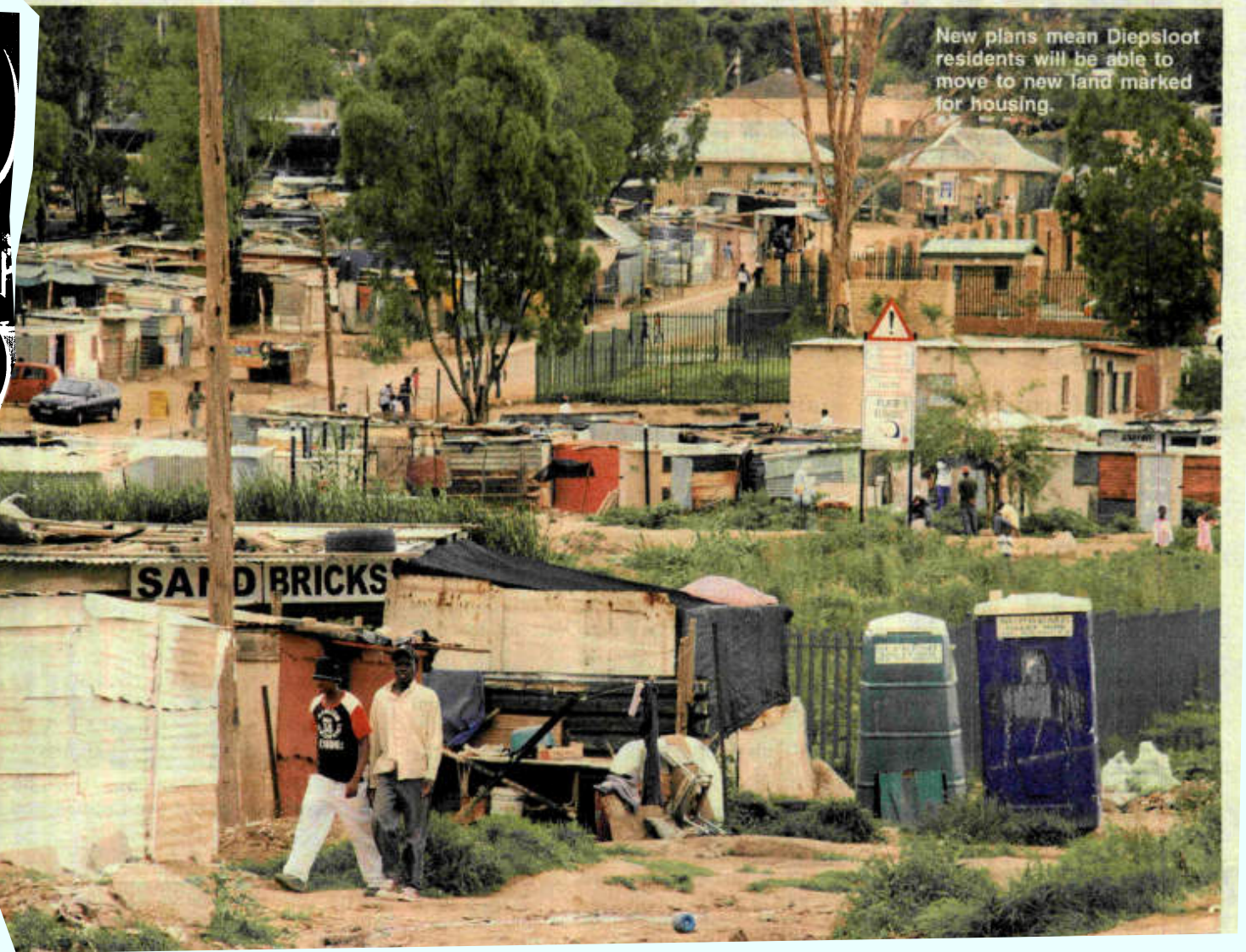


GOOD NEWS FOR THIS KASH!



More land means more houses!

DIEPSLOOT could get more space for housing if a plan to get some land from Northern Farm is approved.

Northern Farm is a 2 600 hectare farm, established in 1954 for the breeding of the "Bovelder", a unique South African breed of cattle, and is used for research at the University of Pretoria.

It and its neighbour, the Northern Works sewerage treatment plant, are managed by Joburg Water.

But the Joburg News Agency reports that over the past month Joburg Water

has been selling off the farm's assets.

The agency reported that it has now been proposed that 1 114 hectares – south of the N14 road, alongside the present Diepsloot township and north of the suburbs of Dairnfern, Riverglen and Chartwell – will be developed.

It said the Joburg Property Company – or JPC – has proposed establishing a township to the south-west of Diepsloot in the area between the N14 and the R114.

"This township would include mixed-income housing, commercial and business uses and social amenities," said Sonja van Eden of Nema Consulting, the

company employed by JPC as an independent environmental consultant doing the environmental impact assessment.

The sewerage plant is the collection point for sewage from Krugersdorp through to Springs.

The treated water produced was used to feed pastures on the farm, on which the Bovelder fed.

"The sewerage plant will be retained as it remains our responsibility to treat sewerage under the national guidelines.

Also, this remains our focus business as opposed to farming," said Baldwin Matsimela, the manager of marketing

and communications at Joburg Water.

They are busy selling the 3 000 cattle. Farm equipment, including the irrigation system, will be sold, and some 70 farm staff will be laid off.

Matsimela confirmed that Joburg Water was losing money running the farm.

Joburg Water will use the money generated to finance other projects.

"Our priorities in the next financial year are towards service delivery and improving the level of service by upgrading the old infrastructure – and we need all available resources channelled towards this goal," said Matsimela.

