

# COMPULSORY PURCHASE OF FARM LAND

A LETTER from The Ministry of Planning and Development completely shattered members of a Seychellois Praslin family this week.

Mr. d'Artagnan Verlaque who with his mother, eight brothers and sisters own approximately 25 acres of land at Anse Kerlan Praslin, were told by letter that Government required to purchase their property.

Mr. Verlaque told 'Life' "The letter was addressed to my brother who lives on Praslin and runs the property as a small farm on behalf of the family. You can imagine his horror at its contents."

The letter stated:

"Mr. Verlaque,  
Anse Kerlan,  
PRASLIN.

Dear Sir,

The Property of Mrs.  
M. Verlaque —  
Anse Kerlan

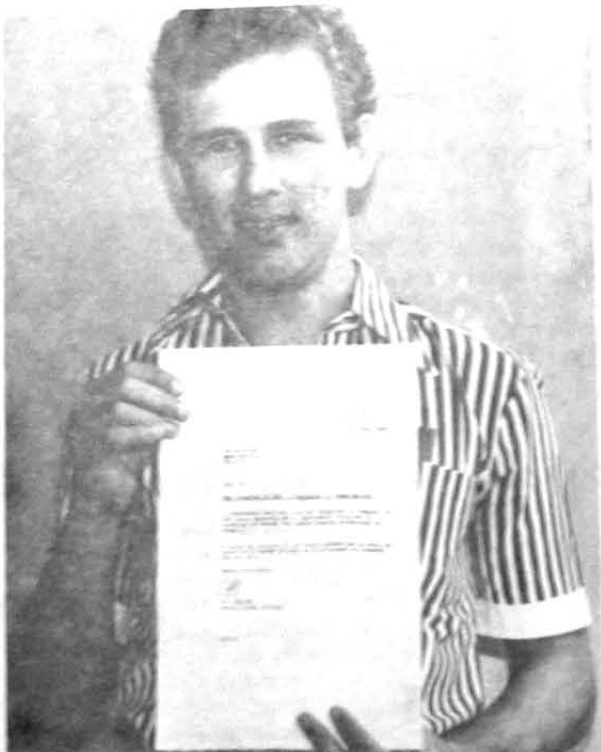
I understand that you are the fiduciary in respect of the above property which Government requires to purchase to extend the State farming enterprise on Praslin.

I would be obliged if you would contact me as soon as possible in order to make an appointment to discuss the matter.

Yours faithfully,  
signed.

P. J. TRANT,  
Senior Lands Officer".  
The property in question was left to the Verlaque family by their father Mr. Mederic Verlaque on his

"... I feel very bitter and angry at this inhuman decision." - say Praslinois.



Mr. Verlaque displaying a copy the shock letter

death. "When my brother received this letter he immediately contacted me", said Mr. Verlaque "and I in turn telephoned Mr. Trant and asked him on what grounds Government were planning to take our property from us. Mr. Trant replied that this was not his concern, his responsibility was to carry out

instructions and to purchase the land." Mr. Verlaque went on to say that he then asked Mr. Trant who did have the responsibility and alleges that Mr. Trant told him that this had been a Government decision and the person who had the responsibility for the decision was the Minister Dr. Maxime Ferrari, Mr.

Verlaque who admits that he was somewhat distressed, after further conversation claims that Mr. Trant said to him, "I assure you Sir that we have the power to compulsorily purchase your land and your land will be purchased for Government..."

Mr. d'Artagnan Verlaque said "We as a family have never had any intention of disposing of our land to any one. The land which we consider our inheritance was the result of hard sweat and labour of our deceased father."

"Furthermore, although several members of the family have gone overseas because of lack of employment here they have done so with the full intention of one day coming back to build their own homes and settle on Praslin. "Now what are we supposed to do."

After all what of the land that is owned by the rich landowners in this country, and only some of them foreign, why it is that Government have decided to take what in fact is just over 2 acres from each member of our family. "We are Seychellois and none of us rich. "Surely a mistake has been made. Surely this cannot be the policy of a Government for the people by the people to take small pieces of land just like that. "For in the end all it will do is cause deep resentment. If our

land is taken it will be against our wishes. I feel very bitter and angry at this inhuman decision."

Mr. Verlaque's brother at Praslin, Patrick, is equally bitter and angry at this decision, specially that he has started to develop the land, albeit on a small

Continued on page 2

## REGATTA IS HERE AGAIN

WE welcome once again this weekend the famous Regatta which starts this year with a Trade Fair this afternoon at 5 p.m. on Beau Vallon Beach, and tomorrow at 10 a.m. Regatta '79 itself takes place culminating in the now famous R. 15,000/- First Prize Lottery Draw at 5.30 p.m.

Once again unhesitatingly we must congratulate the organisers of Regatta '79, The Seychelles Round Table No. 22 under the able Chairmanship of Bernard Pool.

So come along one and all enjoy yourself in the knowledge that the proceeds will go towards an added construction for the Les Cannelles Mental Hospital.

Read all about it in our inside pages.