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# Orania Journal; Afrikaners Have a Dream, Very Like the Old One

By SUZANNE DALEY  
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**ORANIA, South Africa**— There is still a whites-only enclave in South Africa.

It is here -- a privately owned village of aging prefabricated houses in a part of the country so harsh that few people of any race have ever wanted to call it home. And it is growing.

At the moment, there is even a housing shortage, so Wynand van der Westhuysin is building his own home, slapping the cement between the bricks while his wife holds the trowel to keep it in place.

The 600 people of Orania are so committed to keeping blacks out that they are even willing to do all their own work, including cleaning and gardening, jobs that many white South Africans have never done for themselves.

"We just knew this was right," said Mr. van der Westhuysin, who lost his job in a factory 50 miles north of here last year and decided to move to Orania soon after. His wife, Marie, agreed. "There are just the nicest people here," she said.

Most South Africans have gotten on with the awkward business of living in a racially and ethnically diverse democracy, where flipping the television dial can get you any one of 11 national languages. Some shows even make a point of having characters hold conversations apparently oblivious to the fact that one is speaking English and the other Afrikaans.

But a sizable number of Afrikaners -- the descendants of Dutch, German and French settlers who ruled this country for more than four decades, ruthlessly imposing strict racial segregation -- still hanker for a piece of land they can call their own. They want a place where whites can be in charge.

As the country gets ready for its second post-apartheid elections in June, recent surveys suggest that as many as 75 percent of Afrikaners still support to some extent the idea of having a zone or region where Afrikaners could enjoy significant autonomy. In Pretoria, where comparable surveys were conducted in 1995 and in late 1998, researchers say those who fully support such a scheme appear to have grown from 33 percent to 42 percent.

Not that many are willing to pull up stakes and move here. In 1994, 300 people lived in Orania. The figure has doubled, but even in the middle of the day, the streets have the feeling of a ghost town.

In their mind's eye, though, the founders of this village see several hundred thousand of the country's Afrikaners settling in the vast empty stretches of the Northern Cape Province as they can rule by majority within a democracy. At the moment, Afrikaners

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