

## Irrigation Farmers in Gash-Barka Told to Relocate

Department of Information and Culture

Eritrean People's Party

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Continuing on its policy of arbitrary takeovers of private lands, the regime of PFDJ ordered all vegetable and fruit producers who depended on Gash and Barka rivers to irrigate their crops to give up their lands and move 700 m away from the river banks. According to EPP sources, beginning October 2009, farmers who produce vegetables have six months and those who produce fruits one year to vacate the area.

Sources added that the decision to remove the farmers from the proximity of the river banks will affect a large number of households and workers who depended on these irrigated agriculture for food and income. The farmers will be unable to farm in the new location as they will be away from the river banks, which was the only source of water to run their farms.

To date, the government provided no compensation either in monetary or in other forms for the land it has forcibly seized from its citizens.