

NON - PROFIT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

**grassroots**

THE PAPER ABOUT YOU

Volume 8 No. 10 December 1991

TO ALL OUR READERS

This is our last issue for the year. We wish all our readers a happy Festive Season. We hope that you found Grassroots enlightning for the year. Think of those imprisoned and detained for their ideals.

# MBEKI WILL SPEAK 14 DECEMBER GOOD HOPE CENTRE



## A HUGE WELCOME FOR MBEKI

Govan Mbeki, a leader of the ANC, released after 23 years on Robben Island, will speak in Cape Town on December 14

A huge welcome is being planned for him. Thousands will come to hear the 77-year-old leader. Even in far-away rural towns, residents are preparing for the big meeting. From tiny dorpies in the Karoo to farming towns in the Boland, residents are thinking of ways to get to Cape Town.

In Cape Town itself a lot of organising has already taken place around the rally. Pamphlets have gone out door to door in most areas. Posters have gone up on lamp posts and shop windows, everywhere. Now busses are being organised to transport people to and from the rally. This will be the first time that Cape Town will hear an ANC leader speak.

The committee has also asked the commissioner of police not to interfere by banning the rally. If they do interfere, the committee will take them to the supreme court. Any banning will be challenged.





# 1987 . . . A YEAR OF UNITED ACTION

## SAYCO under attack

THE South African government has today as its programme the crushing of the mass democratic movement at whose centre is the UDF. The South African Youth Congress is an organisation on which major attention has been focussed. We know that this is precisely so because of the militancy and determination that youth has shown in struggle to do everything and everywhere for liberation.

South African Youth Congress is a powerful, non-violent and lawful (legal) organisation which represents the majority of South African Youth today - leading figures in SAYCO have been detained from when the launch was being prepared. Hundreds of our youth activists have been murdered by vigilantes. Thousands of them are in detention under emergency regulations. Comrades Mangosuthu, Sisoni Vice President is also in detention. Recently Comrade Fancott Mafabe, Treasurer General, Joe Nkomo Religious Co-ordinator, and Andy Sebelo-Cultural Co-ordinator are missing. These are the leaders of our youth.



## A Campaign to save the Patriots

We learned that our comrades are under heavy pressure. We fear for their lives. Comrade Fancott Mafabe was seen in Soweto being escorted to point certain houses. They have put on his face bullet wounds. Three of them were detained from Durban Hotel in the early hours of Thursday morning on the 19th November 1987. This is (SAYCO) gathered from management and security in Durban Hotel. They confirmed that KwaNdebele together with the South African Security Forces detained them from there, but their detention has been made a mystery by refusal of South African Security to respond on letters sent to them by our lawyers. Secondly when we went to Durban Hotel to seek for the people who use

our comrades being detained, the management was very uncooperative. We also learned that the people we spoke to previously had been given untimely leave. As we were talking to the management, one white person from management disappeared. All of us retreated and some few minutes later saw a lot of police flooding the hotel, some a distance.

SAYCO says that the management of Durban Hotel collaborated and are still collaborating with South African Security Forces against our people. We fear for their lives as our comrades whose detention is not confirmed by South African Security. We therefore demand the Durban Management as well as South African security protect comrades Fancott Mafabe, Joe Nkomo and Andy Sebelo.



Hazare conference on children in detention

THREE major conferences highlighting the evils of apartheid took place this year, putting the isolation of apartheid on the agenda of every foreign country. The first major talks on the future of South Africa took place in August, when 52 white South Africans met with the ANC in Dakar. They discussed issues like the armed struggle, the economy and the ANC's view of a free South Africa.

In September the Hazare conference on detention attended by 500 South African delegates sparked a huge outcry in international community. Delegates and members of the foreign press heard South African children describe their orphans in apartheid's jails. 300 delegates from 40 countries met a Hazare last month to discuss the international isolation of apartheid apart. The Declaration of Harare adopted at the conference called on all countries to intensify their actions against apartheid apart.



## A bomb blast at Community House



## De Klerk bills Widely Rejected

Student on campuses throughout the country protested against the new De Klerk regulations to pay the universities. Dutch Jipke Klaas de Jonghe ended his two-year sabbatical in 11 Netherlands embassy this year when he swapped to the South African government for a SADF spy Major Wynand du Toit. Pierre Albertus was also released in the swap.

The South African Youth Congress, formed in March is the biggest youth organisation ever. Says, representing one million young people nationwide, was launched recently in Cape Town.



## Workers demand living wage

Trade union militancy has grown in the past year with industry rocked with massive strikes in the mining and public sectors. The National Union of Mineworkers organised the longest strike in the history of the industry with more than 150,000 workers on strike for 26 days. The strike was also the most expensive in the history of the country with mining companies losing millions of Rand.

1987 also saw strikes in the public sector for the first time in the history of the country. The railway and postal strike organised by the South African Railways and Harbour Workers Union and the Post and Telecommunications Workers Association crippled South African Transport Services and the postal system. Workers were their demand to be represented by a union of their own choice.

Cosatu's living wage campaign launched in March sparked several strikes country-wide. Cosatu demanded that bosses spread their books to unions to prove they could not afford to pay their workers decent wages. They also demanded a 40 hour week and the March 21, May 1 and June 16 be recognised as public holidays.

The living wage campaign sparked off country-wide strikes where workers demanded living wages. In Cape Town, Cosatu's Spiceland workers in Bellville and bakery workers at three bakeries were on strike for higher wages. Cosatu came under heavy attack by the State throughout the year. In Mrs. Coates House in Johannesburg was virtually destroyed by two bomb blasts. Six people were killed. In Cape Town, Community House in Salt River was also hit by a bomb blast. Cosatu as well as several community organisations have offices there. Thousands of Cosatu members were detained during the year.

## Mandela wins vote



The white elections in May saw the National Party regain power, but the Nats faced heavy attack by the Democratic Party, which swept into parliament as the official opposition. The DP lost thousands of supporters during the elections. The black community responded to the recent elections by staying out of work on May 5 and 6. More than one million workers heeded the UDF and Cosatu call for a national stayaway on those days.

Hundreds of South Africans involved in the struggle for a democratic future were sentenced to long periods of imprisonment during 1987. The South African Youth Congress, formed in May this year, spearheaded a campaign for amnesty for the 32 young people on death row in Pretoria. During this year, Thelma Ramadimela, of Sharpeville, became the first woman to be sentenced to death for political deeds.

Hundreds of South Africans faced charges of terrorism and treason and were sentenced to harsh periods of imprisonment. In Cape Town, Liso Ngqungwana was sentenced to life imprisonment after being found guilty of terrorism. Liso was the co-commander of Umkhonto we Sizwe in the Western Cape. Twelve other young men were sentenced to periods ranging from 18 to five years in the same trial.

The UDF was hard hit by the strike in which the state attempted to annihilate the organisation. The Delmas Treason trial, which is the longest-running trial in the country has now been going on for more than 30 months. Top UDF executives like Patrick Lekota, Papi Mkhize and Masi Chikwe have been imprisoned for more than two years now. In the Ciskei, the secretary of the border region of the United Democratic Front, Reverend Arnold Stofile was sentenced to 11 years on terrorism charges. The "Boha" trial led to the imprisonment of those people who refused to give evidence against Reverend Stofile. One of them was Freshman Pasiu Albertus. The State of Emergency ended its second year on July 12, when the State President stipulated the country-wide emergency. Hundreds of detainees were re-detained and the new regulations imposed strict rules on the conduct of street-related incidents.

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**HEROES DAY CONCERT**  
ZERS  
LEDS  
RATINGS  
YAMA  
GARDENS YOUTH CONGRESS  
CLOSING: 30th December

**VACANCY: ADVICE OFFICE FORUM**  
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Assistant Training Officer/Organiser  
A vacancy exists for the above position

**TASKS INCLUDE:**

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**CLOSING: 30th December**



# Defend, Consolidate Advance to People's Power

THE last two years have been difficult years in our struggle for freedom. We have seen the government do everything in its power to stop our march to freedom. Thousands of our people were detained, from the youngest children to the oldest grandparents

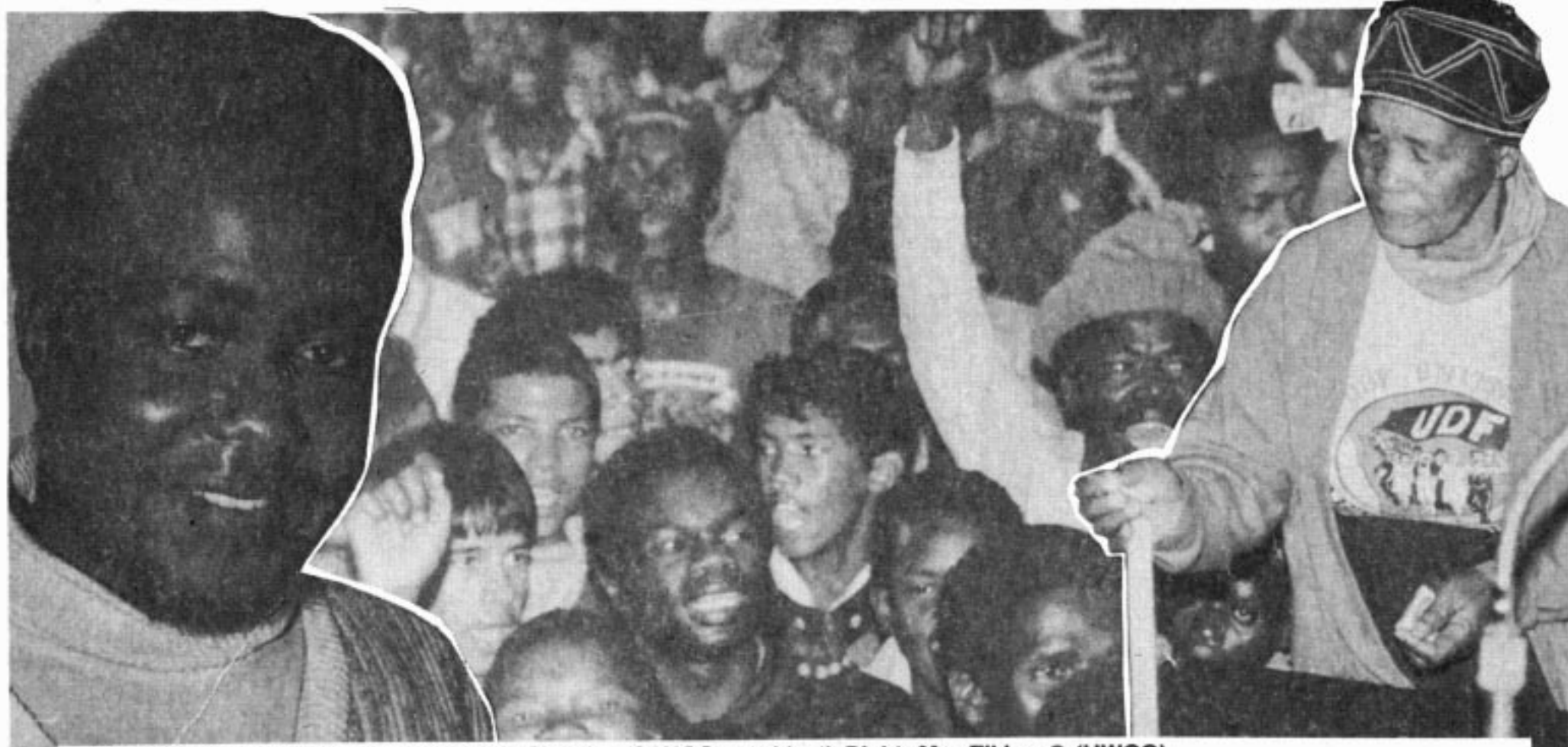
But the government has not succeeded in its plans. During 1987 we made many important gains, especially the launch of the SA Youth Congress, SAYCO, which has inspired our youth anew to resist the evils of the apartheid system.

We have also won important victories. Just a few weeks ago Govan Mbeki, one of the great leaders of our country, was released. We have won his freedom because it is our actions that makes it difficult for Botha to keep our leaders in jail.

Today we can see that the government is confused. It is clear that Botha does not have any solution to the problems of our country except for more and more repression.

Today it is we in the UDF, COSATU and other progressive organisations that are deciding what our country's future will be. In 1987 both UDF and COSATU adopted the Freedom Charter because we see it as the political program that best spells out the wishes of all South Africans.

But we must not wait for democracy until we have won our freedom. We must build our own democracy against the apartheid system NOW. We must organise our youth into youth organisations, our workers into democratic trade unions, our people into civic or-



UDF 4th Anniversary Rally. Left: Peter Makaba (SAYCO president) Right: Mrs Zihlangu (UWCO)

ganisations, our students into SRC's. In this way we learn how to take control over our own lives.

When we look forward to the new year it is vital that we do not relax in our opposition to the government. We know that Botha will come with some more dummy reforms, while at the same time he tries to smash our organisations.

We must not allow ourselves to be fooled by these schemes. Let us renew our commitment to fight for freedom and justice in our country. Let us all join one of the many organisations that make up the struggle for freedom in our country. Let us join together with millions of other South Africans and say in the words of the Freedom Charter

*These freedom we will fight for, side by side, throughout our lives, until we have won our liberty.*

## Every youth a Congress member

THE launch of the South African Youth Congress under the State of emergency is a victory for the liberation movement. The renewed dedication of the Young Lions is an inspiration for the struggling masses of our country.

In order for the Western Cape to play its role within Sayco we need to build a strong mass based Youth Movement. The building of youth organisation will have to develop with the implementation of our programme of action. Young Lions let us build Cayco and the mass democratic movement.

Let us commit ourselves to the implementation of our programme of action which reflects the hopes and aspirations that are spelled out within the Freedom Charter which includes:

1. The unbanning of all progressive organisations and the return of exiles.
2. The release of political prisoners and detainees.
3. Save the Comrades on death row.
4. Police SADF and Security Forces out of our Townships. The Living Wage Campaign, High cost of living, Rent increases and bus fares.
6. Free compulsory non-racial Education.

Let us rededicate ourselves to carry forwards our demands to 1988. Let us organise 1000 youth for each of our comrades on death row.

Revolutionary Greetings to all our comrades in prison, from Robben Island to Pretoria especially our President, Whitey Jacobs.

VICTORY IS CERTAIN

## Call adapting to Political conditions

HOW the Call of Islam, 1987 has come complete with all its ups and downs. In one way repression has made our operation difficult with the renewed State of emergency in June came the detention of Ebrahim Rasool, our national secretary.

In Transvaal and here in the Cape some of our members were detained giving out pamphlets. It was difficult to hold open mass meetings to speak to the people. But when old ways do not work we must find new ways.

1987 has been the year of Inter-Faith vigils and a year of culture for People's Power. Vigils and culture

became our weapons against Apartheid. 1987 has also been the year of moving closer to working class areas.

We have moved closer with campaigns such as Free the Children and calling for the Release of Detainees and the soup-kitchens in Mitchells Plain and Mannenberg. Our struggles and those of other organisations is what forced the Government to Release Govan Mbeki. With united struggles in the community the State will have no choice but to Release Nelson Mandela and all other political prisoners and detainees.

For 1988 we must chal-

lenge the State with more new ways of operating. We will have to do this because repression is more vicious. We must work closer to the ground in these times and increase our areas of work. We must educate our people and activists to move into the future clearly. In these times the Quran inspires us: **TRULY WITH EVERY DIFFICULTY THERE IS RELIEF. THEREFORE WHEN YOU ARE FREE (from your immediate struggle) STILL LABOUR HARD AND TO YOUR SUBSTAINER TURN YOUR ATTENTION. (THE EXPANSION: 6-8)**

## Women Uniting for People's Power

"WOMEN unite for people's power!" This has been the idea behind much of UWCO's work this year. It's been a year of deepening our organisation, of building national and regional links. A year of uniting many women's organisations.

This year we launched the Western Cape region of the Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW) at the Claremont Civic Centre on August 29. The crowds of enthusiastic people present showed just how much work had gone into building participation in the Federation on the ground: it meant we had to develop new relationships with other women's organisations, not only in Cape Town but in the broader rural areas. At the same time much time was spent

on working towards our National launch. These national and regional developments have occupied much of our energy this year - as ultimately this will strengthen our voice and our capacity to become a united national force.

UWCO, along with FEDSAW (Transvaal), NOW (Natal), PEWO (P.E.) and other political women's organisations, has also worked on uniting the political women's organisations into a national body that can provide the political leadership for the Federation that can be the backbone of the Federation.

But the state has made sure it hasn't been easy: a number of our members spent time in apartheid jails. Our previous chair-

person, Nomaindia Mfeketo, spent 8 months in Pollsmoor Prison. At the moment we think especially of Mama Zihlangu, President of FEDSAW (Western Cape), 66, diabetic and partially sighted. Two of our members are being held under the vicious Section 29 - Jenny Schreiner and Soraya Abbass.

Yet at the moment we are flooded with requests from new areas wanting to form branches, which is currently one of our main tasks. It hardly needs to be said that detention and repression will not prevent women from coming together to fight for a new non racial, democratic and non sexist South Africa. We are sure that the coming year will bring even more growth to women's organisation than this year

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1. Running office admin. of the A.O.F.
2. Liaising with A.O.F. fieldworkers.
3. Liaising with member offices.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- Ability to work in democratic environment
- Willing to work overtime from time to time
- Typing skills essential
- A drivers license is useful
- A reference from your organisation.

PHONE: Anthony at 637-9060 or 797-1225