

This newspaper has
been censored in terms
of the emergency
regulations

A large group of youth march through the streets of Guguletu on June 16.

Protests involving millions of South Africans took place throughout the country during June.

A call for the three days of national protest by the Congress of South African Trade Unions was observed by more than 3 million workers, students and youth on June 6, 7 and 8.

The worker stayaway was very effective, especially in Transvaal and Natal.

On June 16, things came to a standstill in all parts of the country. Many workers failed to turn up for work and church services were held nationally.

Another important day was June 26 - the day the Freedom Charter was adopted 33 years ago in Kliptown, Johannesburg.

Organisations held programmes on the Freedom Charter in Cape Town, Johannesburg, Natal and other centres.



THE FREEDOM CHARTER

The People shall govern!

All national groups shall have equal rights!

The people shall share in the country's wealth!

The land shall be shared among those who work it!

All shall be equal before the law!

All shall enjoy equal human rights!

There shall be work and security!

The doors of learning and of culture shall be opened!

There shall be houses, security and comfort!

There shall be peace and friendship!

The people's Charter

ON June 26, 1955, over 2800 people from every corner of South Africa arrived in Kliptown just outside Johannesburg. They represented millions of South Africans from all their home towns, from all the main cities to the smallest rural villages and settlements.

In the weeks and months before June 26, hundreds of thousands of people, workers, women, youth, students, and peasants of every colour and creed had been asked to speak out about the kind of country they wanted to live in. In each area a few people had been delegated to bring these demands to the Congress of the People.

On that day the Freedom Charter was drawn up and adopted by the delegates. Today the Freedom Charter stands as one of the most just and democratic documents ever drawn up in the history of the world. South Africans, in a country dominated by racial hatred and exploitation, saw beyond their everyday realities and created a vision of true equality and sharing, among all people of our country.

Over the last few years, hundreds of organisations have endorsed and adopted the Freedom Charter as their guiding document; from the National Union of Mineworkers, to the recently formed Cape Democrats, religious groups and lately the CTPA. This re-affirms the fact that the Charter contains the immediate demands of the people.

While a tiny minority of people celebrate forty years of Nationalist rule, and rejoice in the misery they have caused for so many millions of our people, we can be proud to lay claim to the Freedom Charter as our alternative to apartheid.

This year, however, as we celebrate 33 years of the Freedom Charter, we must do more than be proud. As we again resolve that "These freedoms we will fight for, side by side, throughout our lives, until we have won our liberty", we must ask ourselves what are we doing, and is it enough? We need to take the responsibility to popularise and implement the demands of the Freedom Charter in our lifetimes.

Sharpeville six face the gallows

CALLS TO STOP THE HANGINGS

THE Sharpeville Six are once again within a hairs breadth of the gallows.

Following the failure of an application to reopen their trial, July 9 has been set as the date for their execution. If the six should hang, a massive national and international outcry is certain to follow. Several countries have threatened heavier sanctions while others have said they would cut diplomatic ties.

Earlier this month, two state witnesses - Joseph Manete and Johannes Mongaule admitted to their lawyers that they had been forced into making statements by police intimidation.

Counsel for the Six requested that the court hear oral evidence from manete and Mongaule.

Acting Justice WJ Human rejected this request as "frivolous and absurd." He stated that he had ignored Mongaule's evidence as false and had relied on Manete's testimony only where it was supported by other

witnesses.

At the time of granting a stay of execution, Human had said that Manete's statement might have a bearing on the case. Judge Human pointed out that in terms of South African law, no provision was made for a court to hear further evidence once an appeal has been dismissed by the Appeal Court.

AVENUES

Only the State President could rule that such evidence be heard. Two avenues now remain open to the Six. They can once again request the Chief justice to grant them

leave to appeal or approach the State President.

CONVICTED

The Six, Theresa Ramashamola, Mojafefe Sefatsa, Malebo Mokoena Oupa Diniso, Duma Khumalo, and Fracis Mokhesi were convicted of killing Jacob Dlamini in September 1984. The state has conceded that none of the six played a direct role in his death. But they were part of a large crowd and in terms of the doctrine of common purpose, shared the responsibility of his death.

Still in detention

FORMER UDF secretary Trevor Manuel has been in detention for 686 days, the longest serving detainee in the Western Cape. Cape Youth Congress President Mzonke Jacobs has been held for 560 days while UDF treasurer Ebrahim Rassool has spent 400 days in detention.

Others in detention are Wilson Sedina and Mountain Qumbela (242 days), Maxwell Moss (286 days), Mark Splinters and Maqbool Moos (144 days), Walter Mputeng (135 days), Isaac Phooko (65 days), Willie Hofmeyer (64 days), Gloria

Veal (33 days), Mark Jackson (12 days), Hilda Ndude (30 days), Pascalina Tyeku, Nabom Sonto, Rayi Madikwa, Lunqile Mgikela, Vellie Mabaya, Mcedis Ndumo (all 28 days), William Thomas (22 days), Neville Naidoo (14 days) and Errol April (8 days).

All the detainees are members of UDF-affiliated organisations such as the Cape Youth Congress, the Western Cape Civic Association, The United Women's Congress and The Western Cape Student Congress.

We salute Mandela: 70 on July 18.

Govt. prepares for October elections



A poster from the 1984 UDF anti election campaign. Under new restrictions, it is illegal to call on people not to vote. You can now do one of two things - call on people to vote or remain silent.

THE government is going all out to prepare for the October 26 municipal elections when more than 7 600 councillors of all races will be elected to serve on local government.

So far, their preparations have included restriction orders on 18 extra-parliamentary groups, new emergency legislation making it illegal to call for a boycott of the elections and a R4,7 million advertising campaign.

The nation-wide municipal elections will be held in every city, town and village on the same day. It is the first time in the history of South Africa that blacks will be allowed to vote on the same day as whites.

Since the nation-wide uprising

in 1985, very few black local authorities have been able to operate and are being run by State-appointed white administrators.

In many Eastern Cape townships, communities took over the running of their areas themselves, with the now-illegal street and area committees.

Instances of community councillors being killed were reported throughout the country, some were forced to flee the townships and seek shelter near police stations or in white areas.

The legitimacy of community councillors was challenged by the communities they were meant to serve. In many areas, their functions were simply taken over by Joint Management Centres (JMC's) who at-

tempted to win over the community with street lights and pavements.

The rent boycott had a crippling effect on the community councils, who owe more than R500 million in rent and service charges.

Of the 258 black local authorities in South Africa, 34 - most of which are in the Eastern Cape - do not have enough members to operate.

In the Transvaal, more than 100 council seats are empty, because of fear and incompetence.

In the Cape, only 37 are functioning properly and one each in Natal and the Orange Free State.

This is the picture facing PW Botha who intends choosing

leaders from the black local governments in October this year.

The government's greatest fear is the number of voters who will turn up at the polls on October 26. In the 1984 tri-cameral elections, polls of as low as four percent were recorded in the Cape.

To overcome the possibility that there will be a small turnout at the polls, the government has announced that legislation will be introduced to allow for special votes.

To urge the voters to the polls Stoffel van der Merwe has spent R4,7 million on an advert which says: "On October 26 your vote will make it happen".

It is not clear yet what exactly will happen on October 26.

ON TRIAL: ASHLEY ALEXANDER FORBES, PETER ANTHONY JACOBS, NICKLO LOUIS PEDRO, NAZEEM LOWE, ANWA DRAMAT, CLEMENT BAADJIES, DAVID JOHANNES FORTUIN, JEREMY ALLAN VEARY, WALTER RHOODE, WAYNE INGEMAR MALGAS, COLIN CAIRNCROSS, ASHRAF KARRIEM, COLIN CLAVE MARTIN PETERSEN, LEON SCOTT, YASMINA PANDY.

'Their commitment strengthens us'

BEFORE November last year Shanaaz Dramat, Patricia Jacobs, Abdul Karriem and Dora Scott had never met each other.

Now every day they sit side by side in the public gallery of Court One in the Supreme Court building in Cape Town to see their sons stand trial on a terrorism charge.

For Anwar Dramat, Peter Jacobs, Ashraf Karriem and Leon Scott are four of the 15 accused in what is likely to be one of Cape Town's longest "security-related" trials.

Every day parents and

friends of the accused flock in from all corners of the Cape Flats to support their kin.

Despite the obvious strain of seeing loved ones standing in the dock for their opposition to apartheid, one bonus to relatives of the 15 is that they have formed one big family.

Mrs Tina Forbes, 60, of Wynberg, mother of alleged Umkhonto we Sizwe member

Ashley said the families of the 15 try to meet at least once a week.

"We miss each other over weekends when the

court does not sit," she said. The families, who first met when the 15 appeared together in court on November 16 last year, say the accused have remained strong in spite of going through the ordeal of Section 29 detention.

Mrs Shanaaz Dramat, mother of 19-year-old Anwar Dramat, said: "To see how strong they are strengthens us". The parents do not ignore the possibility of long prison terms being imposed on their children. "We are trying to accept it," said mother-of-eight Mrs Dora Scott of Bonte-

heuvel.

Her view is that her son Leon and the others have done what they have done "for South Africa... for us all... against apartheid." Until last month, two visits a week to the awaiting-trial accused were allowed, but their convictions and six-month sentences for contempt of court have changed that.

"We are now allowed one letter and one visit a month because they are prisoners," said Mrs Jacobs.

Jacobs. "And whereas before the conviction we could give them food and clothing, we are now allowed to bring only money.

"But they are still in high spirits. They are very committed." According to the families, all of them were allowed to take their visits together before last month's conviction.

Said Mr Abdul Karriem of Elsies River: "They all used to share the food the different families brought because the parents of Nicklo Pedro and Collin Cairncross (Mossel Bay) and Jeremy Veary (Genadendal) were from out of town". Now the parents speak to their children through the normal prison glass panel mingled with the general prison population.



Ashley Kriel's grave in Maitland. His memory lives on in people's hearts

MEMORY OF ASHLEY KRIEL LIVES ON

The memory of people like Hector Petersen, Steve Biko and Ashley Kriel is a thorn in the side of the police and the government who would prefer the community to forget them.

But the people will always remember them... remember the brave young people who have paid the ultimate price for a new South Africa.

Almost a year after the death of Ashley Kriel questions remain unanswered about the way he was killed.

Ashley was a guerilla trained by the armed wing of the ANC, Umkhonto We Sizwe. He was a founder member of the Bonteheuvel Youth Movement in 1982, and his qualities as a leader were recognised by the community although he was only 14 years old.

Late in 1985, he stopped working in the Cape Youth Congress, and decided to leave the country and join the armed struggle

His death on July 9, 1987, shocked and outraged the Bonteheuvel community. Several thousand pupils in the area held rallies and placard demonstrations, and the Bonteheuvel Senior Secondary School was renamed Ashley Kriel High.

Ashley's funeral was severely restricted by the police who ordered that no more than 800 people attend.

Teargas was fired at the mourners as they left the church and hundreds of police lined the route to the graveyard.

Although an inquest into the cause of Ashley's death has not been held, a private pathologist found that he had been shot in the back at point blank range.

Earlier this month, a security policeman, Jeff Benzien told the Supreme Court he was involved in a struggle with Ashley when a shot went off.

Ashley's shocked mother was sitting in the public gallery of the court when Benzien



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**SHOP AT ELITE
IT MAKES CENTS**

ANGER AT LATEST MEDIA CURBS

THE Save the Press Campaign in the Western Cape has condemned the Government's media curbs which were imposed with the latest state of emergency on June 12.

In a statement issued to Grassroots, the campaign co-ordinating committee said: "The curbs have brought the country a few gazettes away from totalitarianism. By restricting information coming from organisations representing millions of South Africans, the Government has set the basis for only one voice to be heard - its own."

The latest curbs are taken to dangerous extents in many cases. The government is not only empowering itself to re-ban papers already silenced; it can also silence press agencies which play an indispensable part in keeping people informed about events.

The latest media curbs is now added to a long list of other laws which make it virtually impossible to really know what is happening in our country".

Small news agencies around the country have been hard hit by the Minister of Home Affairs Stoffel Botha's new regulations.

After July 31 it will be illegal for news agencies to operate unless they are registered with the Director General. The register must reflect the name of every periodical (or TV or Radio station) to be supplied with news about South Africa.

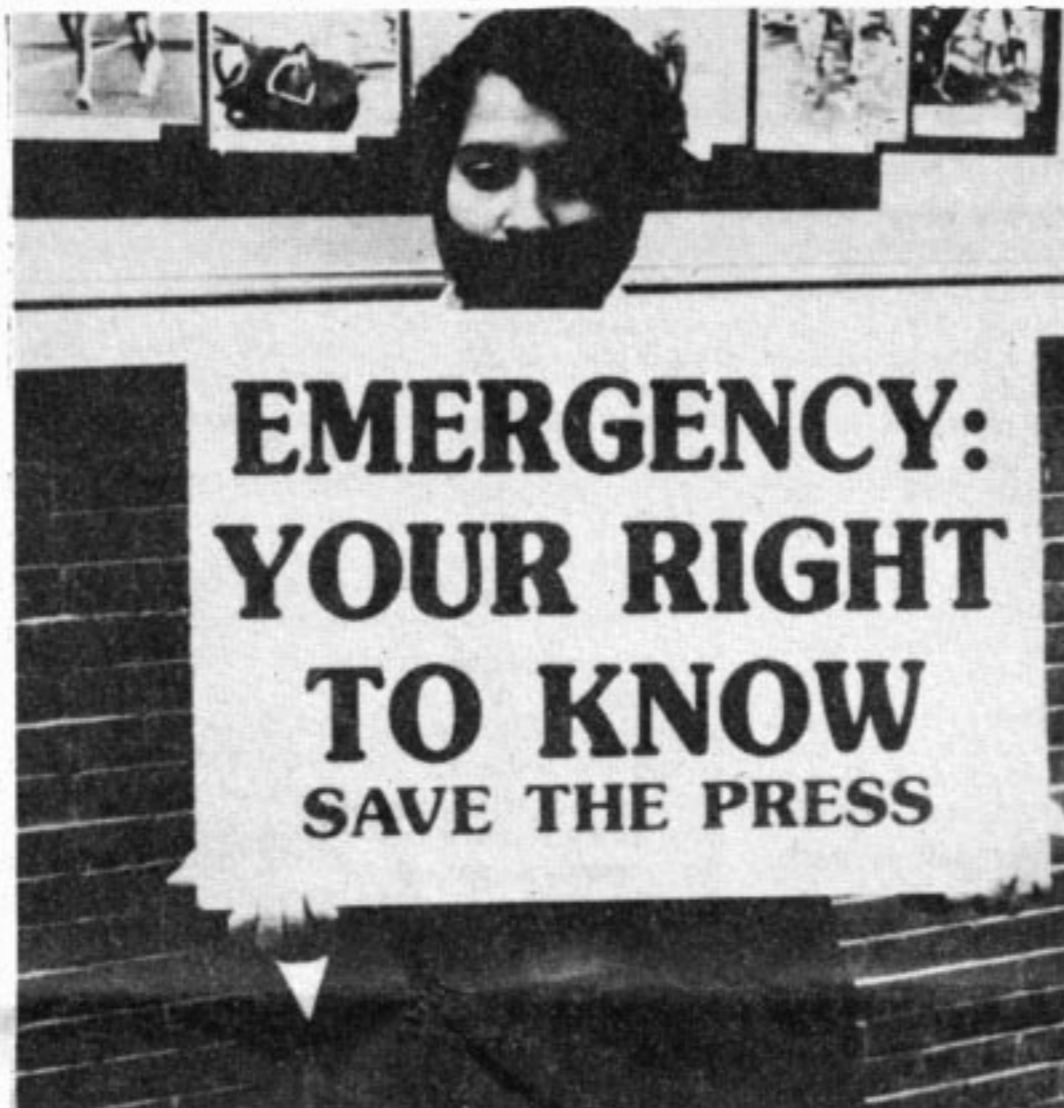
The name and address of every journalist, commentator, news correspondent or photographer must be supplied. Contravention of these regulations could result in a fine of R20 000 or ten years imprisonment.

The new regulations also makes it illegal to quote banned and restricted organisations. These include The African National Congress, The United Democratic Front, The Congress of South African Trade Unions and the National Education Crisis Committee, the South African Youth Congress and The Release Mandela Campaign.

SAVE THE PRESS

CAMPAIGN

"Several media groups



A Cape Town Journalist pickets outside Newspaper House in St. George's street on June 21.

have united under the banner of the Save the Press campaign (Western Cape Region) to oppose the clampdown on the media.

Already two publica-

tions were closed down by Stoffel Botha. New

Nation appeared again at the end of last month after being closed for three months while South

is back on the road again.

Other papers under threat include Grassroots

Saamstaan, Weeklay Mail, Work in Progress, The Sowetan and New Era.

UWCO hard-hit by spate of detentions

IN the days leading up to the three days of protest called by COSATU, security branch members swooped down on numerous homes in Cape Town. Four UWCO members are among those who were detained.

Mrs Nobom Sonto, Mrs Rayi Madikwa, Mrs Hilda Ndude and Mrs Pascalina Tyeku.

Both Nobom and Rayi are currently serving on UWCO Executive. Nobom's husband, Rosebery Sonto was himself recently released from over 8 months in detention at Victor Verster Prison.

Small Siyanda just 2 years old was only getting used to her father again when her mother disappeared into prison.

Rayi Madikwa has been actively involved in women's organisation since its formation. She has been active in organising the UWCO choir and loves working with children. Her two children are now left alone for long hours while her husband works long hours

from 7am until 9pm. But their spirit is high and they support the work their mother has been doing.

Hilda Ndude's five children are now completely alone. Their father is also in jail, currently awaiting trial on treason charges. She has also been the Publicity Secretary of the UDF for the past year.

Mama Tyeku has suffered a lot from the 1960's. She had to raise her children alone since her husband was forced into exile. One of her children is mentally ill and needs her special care. Mama Tyeku also has serious chest problems, but has nevertheless been a bystander member of women's organisation in the Western Cape.

The United Women's Congress warns that detention without trial will not solve the problems in our country. We stand firmly with our members and what they believe in.

We call on all women to unite and resist the system of detention without trial.



Hilda Ndude is one of the UWCO members in detention

Labour Party issues warning to CTPA

ANOTHER teachers organisation could be formed if the Cape Teachers Professional Association (CTPA), cut their ties with the Labour Party, the chairman of the North Cape Region of the Labour Party, Mr Leslie Abrahams threatened.

Mr Abrahams said CTPA leaders thought they were politicians. He referred to an article in the Afrikaans magazine Die Suid-Afrikaan where the executive committee of the CTPA said that the younger and more radical members of the organisation urged the body to cut ties with the Labour Party.

"Teachers organisations must stop threatening the Labour Party," Mr Abrahams said.

"If the CTPA touches our members, we will take precautions." He said if the radicals of the CTPA got their way it would mean another teachers organisation would have to be formed. "Let me

remind the CTPA that there are advantages to their recognition from the Labour Party, Mr Abrahams said.

"The CTPA must remember they are not the only organisation of their kind".

About 2 000 teachers delegates from all parts of the Cape Province attended the CTPA 21st anniversary congress at the University of the Western Cape last month.

The conference saw the CTPA moving much closer to the communities and the organisations of the people. Speakers at the opening included Dr Allan Boesak UDF Chairperson Advocate AM "Dulla" Omar, Father Smangaliso Mkhathshwa, secretary of the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference and Jay Naidoo of the Congress of South African Trade Unions.

The Conference adopted the Freedom Charter and came out in support of non-racial sport.

NEWS BRIEFS

Victory for EAWU

An agreement which includes granting workers paternity leave and a minimum of R 781.00 a month was signed at a Diep River factory on June 20.

According to Mr Brian Williams, assistant general secretary of the Electrical and Allied Workers Union, the agreement with Renak (Pty) Ltd. was the first signed at factory level in the Cape metal industry.

Other benefits which were won are a R 1 000.00 death benefit, a paid holiday on Sharpville Day (March 21) and paid compassionate leave.

Lawaaikamp eviction orders

LAWAAIKAMP residents plan court action.

Residents of Lawaaiikamp township near George are gearing up to fight their threatened forced removal to Sandkraal. They will not be intimidated by eviction notices which have been increasingly circulated to households by George municipality since the expiry of the May 31 deadline set for them to dismantle their homes.

Lawyers acting for the community's mouthpiece, the George Civic Association (Geoca), have been instructed to prepare legal steps through the Supreme Court to fight the removal.

Geoca has vehemently denied claims by authorities that several families have agreed to move since the notices were distributed.

It says the community is unshakeable in its determination to stay and have Lawaaiikamp upgraded.

Islanders released

FOUR men Mr Sandi Sijake, Mr Maqina Mpanda, Mr Theo Cholo and Mr Alson Tshitahle were released from Robben Island last month.

Mr Alson Tshitahle served ten years and the others fifteen years after being convicted for ANC activities.

The four men were recently given a heroes welcome at the opening night of the Cape Teachers Professional Association's annual congress.

New Resource Centre

LOCAL organisations in Wynberg got together on Sunday 26 June for the launching of a resource centre.

The launch which was held on Freedom Day was attended by representatives of the United Womens Congress (Wynberg Branch), the Western Cape Students Congress, the Wynberg Crises Centre and the Call of Islam.

A local speaker outlined the importance of a resource centre and said it had to be "democratised in order to become an instrument of the community."

A speaker from the Education Resource and Information Centre spoke about the importance of the Freedom Charter and what it symbolised for our people.

Grassroots under threat

GRASSROOTS newsletter and New Era political magazine, both products of Grassroots publications are under threat of a six month closure by the Minister of Home Affairs Mr Stoffel Botha.

Both publications have received gazetted warnings in terms of the emergency regulations.

In additions charges in terms of the police act and Internal Security Act are being investigated against two members of the Grassroots staff.

Last month the newspapers offices in Rylands was visited by security police who warned a staff member present that charges were being investigated following an advert in another Grassroots publication, Learning Roots.

The Shield arrives

A new publication, The Shield, hit the streets of Cape Town last month.

The Shield, a monthly publication, is the latest product of Grassroots Publications which now has a total of four publications - the grassroots news letter, Learning Roots, a student newsletter, New Era, a political magazine and now The Shield.

Explaining why the name had been chosen, a Grassroot's spokesperson said; "The shield is the weapon our people have traditionally used to shield themselves from blows of attackers.

Today our people are under fierce attack from the forces of apartheid. They ban our organisations, imprison our leaders, restrict our trade unions, freeze our wages and raise our rents."

grassroots comment

Rents-an ongoing battle

In June 1987, the Government put forward a new rent formula. This formula is explained at length on these pages. As is always the case, these formulas are worked out and imposed on us. We are not asked what we think about them. Our needs are never considered.

The Government is either unaware or does not care that we daily battle to feed and clothe our families. How can we still afford to pay high rents? Most of us have been unable to keep up with our rent payments for many years. Crippling arrears are placing an unbearable burden on us.

Those who impose these rents on us - the ministers in Parliament - who we have not elected - live in luxury while deciding to impose these hardships on us.

New rent formulas or old rent formulas are irrelevant. The issue at stake is that we cannot be expected to pay rents we cannot afford.

We face eviction when we do not pay. Yet when we go in search of jobs we do not find any.

Rents have been going up over the years. It will continue to go up as long as we are exploited by the bosses and as long as we have no say in the running of the country.

Until we have a say in the running of our lives, our only defence is to build organisations. To say with one voice that we demand RENTS WE CAN AFFORD.

In many areas, our people are coming together and starting to campaign. This must be encouraged.

Campaigns do not always end in victory. But they assist tremendously in the process of organisation. It takes us a step forward towards realising our ultimate goal - a non-racial and democratic South Africa where the people shall govern.

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WE DEMAND RENTS WE CAN AFFORD!

Anger and confusion over rent formula

Shortage of housing and poor housing facilities is one of the things people in South Africa have been constantly faced with. Despite the low wages our people earn, the government just raises rents and works out housing policies without consulting those who are affected by them.

In a time of massive unemployment, we are again presented with a new rent formula by the state. This rent formula has been drawn up by a government working group consisting of the three different houses. The new formula will apply to all people living in government houses all over South Africa.

What will it mean for us? The old formula is different from the new one in that with the old formula, rents and repayments were based on the amount it cost to build the house. This meant that people with lower incomes were subsidised more than those with higher incomes. With the new formula however, rents and repayments are based mainly on the breadwinner's income.

This is one way for the government to deal with rent boycotts and big rent arrears. It is important to remember that once you have signed on to this new formula, you cannot change back to the old one. At the moment, it is impossible to say whether people will be better or worse off under the new formula. None of the councils around Cape Town have worked this out yet. In Durban, however, it has been found that most people were worse off under the new system.

According to a government circular, rents will initially be based only on the main breadwinner's income. But later they plan to base payments on the wages of the whole family. This will make the rents much higher. It also means that every time a breadwinner gets an increase, their rent will also rise.



Mr Michael Lee 39 years old, of Umlazi lives in a 2 bedroom house with 16 other adults and children. Mr Lee has been unemployed since 1979 and is in arrears with his rent by more than R550,00. With the New Rent formula his rent would increase from R48,82 to R70,62. Mr Lee claims that he does not understand how this new formula works!

CAHAC says NO to formula

The Cape Areas Housing Action Committee (CAHAC), has said that while tenants are being told to choose between the old formula and the new formula, there is no real choice involved because the residents themselves have had no say in deciding the amount that should be paid for rents.

CAHAC intends to take this up with the council," she continued, "to demand that they delay implementation of the new formula because of all the confusion." In some areas local organisations are taking up a campaign against the new rent formula. In Helen River for example, house meetings are being set up, to explain to people what the new formula means. At the same time the management committee is urging people to consent to the new system without explaining the implications to them.

Durban residents resist

In Durban, Rajbani, Curry and the Durban City Council are also in the process of implementing the same rent formula. This has been met with widespread resistance from community organisations. The Durban Housing Action Committee (DHAC) which is spearheading the campaign against the rent increases spoke to Grassroots.

More than 4 000 people crammed into the Durban City Hall for our first protest meeting. Some people could not get to the meeting because we did not have enough transport. But what was quite surprising is that about 500 white families also came to the meeting which shows that rents affect everybody in our country. Demonstrations also took place in front of Rajbani's house and the Treasurer's Department in Durban centre.

Grassroots: How many people are affected by the new increases?

DHAC: More than 15 000 people will be affected by the new formula. These rent increases come at a time when unemployment is at its highest. Now both is even calling on the bosses to freeze workers' wages.

Grassroots: What are the people saying about the new rent increases?

DHAC: People are extremely angry and are not going to accept the increases. Rents are increasing by more than 70% in some cases, more than half of people's present income.

Grassroots: Year campaign had quite an exciting launch. Can you tell us a bit about it.

Grassroots: What are the people's demands around this new rent increase?

DHAC: People were not consulted on this new rent formula that is responsible for the new rent increases. They want this rent formula to be scrapped and a new formula to be worked out in consultation with the community.

Grassroots: What is so significant about this campaign?

Rajbani: This campaign is very significant for us. We are able to do door to door work again, build our civics and stretch mass mobilisation.

"We're still strong!"

The rent boycott in New Crossroads is now almost entering its fourth year with no end in sight. Residents of New Cross are determined to continue the fight until BAAB (Bantu Affairs Administration Board) respond to some of their demands. The Rent boycott started in January 1985 with residents being dissatisfied with the rent increases of R6,00 every month.

The campaign was led by the then United Women's Organisation (UWO) now United Women's Congress. UWO organised mainly unemployed women around the issue and gained a lot of support in the process. A resident in the area said that the success of the boycott is the result of the unity that prevails amongst the people in the New Cross area.

If you have received a letter or an option form and are having difficulty in understanding what it all means, contact the nearest Advice Office or Civic Association in your area. The Advice Office Forum can be contacted at 637-9090, and CAHAC (Cape Areas Housing Action Committee) is available at 47-5647.

What does the charter say?

The ninth clause of The Freedom Charter, drawn up 33 years ago, clearly and explicitly set out to address the question of housing in our country when it declares: THERE SHALL BE HOUSES, SECURITY AND COMFORT.

- * All people shall have the right to live where they choose, to be decently housed and to bring up their children in comfort and security;
- * Rent and food prices shall be lowered, food plentiful and no one shall go hungry;
- * A government health scheme shall be run by the state for all, with special care for mothers and young children.
- * Shums shall be demolished and new suburbs built, where all shall have transport, roads, lighting, playing fields, crèches and social centres;
- * The aged, orphans, the disabled and the sick shall be cared for by the state;
- * Rest, leisure and recreation shall be the right of all;
- * Fenced locations and ghettos shall be abolished and laws which break up families shall be repealed.
- * There is a housing shortage in South Africa today of over half a million units. People who do have houses have no or limited rights.
- * Over four million people have been forcibly removed from townships, thousands of people are evicted daily for refusing to pay the rents they cannot afford. On the other side of the fence, in the white areas, 37 000 housing units stand empty.
- * Instead of building houses for the people, this government is spending millions on the SADF and the SAP, and on maintaining their puppets in the Bantustans.
- * Unemployment and food prices are rising and families are unable to survive. Thousands of children die every year from malnutrition.

The demands of the Freedom Charter do not represent a beautiful but impossible dream. They are totally possible in a country as rich as South Africa. And in fact they contain only basic human rights which any humane government would implement without question. The Nationalist regime, in forty years of rule, has only managed to decrease and take away our rights with every year, every month and every day that it has remained in power.

Let all who love South Africa commit themselves to bringing about the demands of the Charter as we say: THESE FREEDOMS WE WILL FIGHT FOR, SIDE BY SIDE, THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES, UNTIL WE HAVE WON OUR LIBERTY.



grassroots comment

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WE DEMAND RENTS WE CAN AFFORD!

Anger and confusion over rent formula

Shortage of housing and poor housing facilities is one of the things people in South Africa have been constantly faced with. Despite the low wages our people earn, the government just raises rents and works out housing policies without consulting those who are affected by them.

In a time of massive unemployment, we are again presented with a new rent formula by the state. This rent formula has been drawn up by a government working group consisting of the three different houses. The new formula will apply to all people living in government houses all over South Africa.

What will it mean for us?

The old formula is different from the new one in that with the old formula, rents and repayments were based on the amount it cost to build the house. This meant that people with lower incomes were subsidised more than those with higher incomes. With the new formula however, rents and repayments are based mainly on the breadwinner's income.

This is one way for the government to deal with rent boycotts and big rent arrears. * It is important to remember that once you have signed on to this new formula, you cannot change back to the old one. At the moment, it is impossible to say whether people will be better or worse off under the new formula. None of the councils around Cape Town have worked this out yet. In Durban, however, it has been found that most people were worse off under the new system.

* According to a government circular, rents will initially be based only on the main breadwinner's income. But later they plan to base payments on the wages of the whole family.

This will make the rents much higher. It also

means that every time a breadwinner gets an increase, their rent will also rise.

* Because the new formula was first introduced in July 1987, tenants who have not moved from one house in the last year will not have increases or decreases or repayments until 1 July 1988. But people who have moved during this time have been put onto the new formula already.

* The government has said that for those people whose rent actually decreases under the new system, this will be backdated to July, 1987. The extra money will then be credited to your rent account, either to wipe out rent arrears, or to put the account into credit (the extra will not be paid out in cash).



Mr Michael Lee 39 years old, of Umlazi lives in a 2 bedroom house with 16 other adults and children. Mr Lee has been unemployed since 1979 and is in arrears with his rent by more than R550,00. With the New Rent formula his rent would increase from R48,82 to R70,62. Mr Lee claims that he does not understand how this new formula works!

Durban residents resist

In Durban, Rajbani, Curry and the Durban City Council are also in the process of implementing the same rent formula. This has been met with widespread resistance from community organisations. The Durban Housing Action Committee (DHAC) which is spearheading the campaign against the rent increases spoke to Grassroots.

Grassroots: How many people are affected by the new increases?

DHAC: More than 15 000 people will be affected by the new formula. These rent increases come at a time when unemployment is at its highest. Now both is even calling on the bosses to freeze workers' wages.

Grassroots: What are the people saying about the new rent increases?

DHAC: People are extremely angry and are not going to accept the increases. Rents are increasing by more than 70% in some cases, more than half of people's present income.

Grassroots: Your campaign had quite an exciting launch. Can you tell us a bit about it.

DHAC: More than 4 000 people crammed into the Durban City Hall for our first protest meeting. Some people could not get to the meeting because we did not have enough transport. But what was quite surprising is that about 500 white families also came to the meeting which shows that rents affect everybody in our country. Demonstrations also took place in front of Rajbani's house and the Treasurer's Department in Durban centre.

Grassroots: What are the people's demands around this new rent increase?

DHAC: People were not consulted on this new rent formula that is responsible for the new rent increases. They want this rent formula to be scrapped and a new formula to be worked out in consultation with the community.

Grassroots: What is so significant about this campaign?

Rajbani: This campaign is very significant for us. We are able to do door to door work again, build our civics and stretch mass mobilisation.

"We're still strong!"

The rent boycott in New Crossroads is now almost entering its fourth year with no end in sight. Residents of New Cross are determined to continue the fight until BAAB (Bantu Affairs Administration Board) respond to some of their demands.

The Rent boycott started in January 1985 with residents being dissatisfied with the rent increases of R6,00

every month. The campaign was led by the then United Women's Organisation (UWO) now United Women's Congress. UWO organised mainly unemployed women around the issue and gained a lot of support in the process. A resident in the area said that the success of the boycott is the result of the unity that prevails amongst the people in the New Cross area.

If you have received a letter or an option form and are having difficulty in understanding what it all means, contact the nearest Advice Office or Civic Association in your area. The Advice Office Forum can be contacted at 637-9090, and CAHAC (Cape Areas Housing Action Committee) is available at 47-5647.

What does the charter say?

The ninth clause of The Freedom Charter, drawn up 33 years ago, clearly and explicitly set out to address the question of housing in our country when it declares: THERE SHALL BE HOUSES, SECURITY AND COMFORT.

- * All people shall have the right to live where they choose, to be decently housed and to bring up their children in comfort and security;
- * Rent and food prices shall be lowered, food plentiful and no one shall go hungry;
- * A government health scheme shall be run by the state for all, with special care for mothers and young children.
- * Orphans and the aged are left to roam the streets and beg for scraps.
- * Health care for pregnant women, children is hopelessly inadequate. In state run hospitals the patients are forced to lie on the floor as all the beds are full. Wards stand half empty in white hospitals.
- * Shums shall be demolished and new suburbs built, where all shall have transport, roads, lighting, playing fields, crèches and social centres;
- * The aged, orphans, the disabled and the sick shall be cared for by the state;
- * Rest, leisure and recreation shall be the right of all;
- * Fenced locations and ghettos shall be abolished and laws which break up families shall be repealed.
- * There is a housing shortage in South Africa today of over half a million units. People who do have houses have no or limited rights.
- * Over four million people have been forcibly removed from townships, thousands of people are evicted daily for refusing to pay the rents they cannot afford. On the other side of the fence, in the white areas, 37 000 housing units stand empty.
- * Instead of building houses for the people, this government is spending millions on the SADF and the SAP, and on maintaining their puppets in the Bantustans.
- * Unemployment and food prices are rising and families are unable to survive. Thousands of children die every year from malnutrition.



The demands of the Freedom Charter do not represent a beautiful but impossible dream. They are totally possible in a country as rich as South Africa. And in fact they contain only basic human rights which any humane government would implement without question. The Nationalist regime, in forty years of rule, has only managed to decrease and take away our rights with every year, every month and every day that it has remained in power.

Let all who love South Africa commit themselves to bringing about the demands of the Charter as we say: THESE FREEDOMS WE WILL FIGHT FOR, SIDE BY SIDE, THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES, UNTIL WE HAVE WON OUR LIBERTY.



Detained for 2 years

RAYMOND Suttner, 43, has been in detention for two years, and most of that time he has been held in solitary confinement. He is one of 40 detainees who have been behind bars since June 12 1986.

This is not Suttner's first spell inside either. In June 1975, he was detained for 5 months and allegedly heavily tortured. A former NUSAS executive member and law lecturer, he was working underground for the African National Congress

(ANC). He was sentenced to seven-and-a-half years in prison.

After his release, he lectured law and worked in the JODAC and the Transvaal UDF, where he served on the Executive as Education Officer.

After a year in detention, a court application for Suttner's release failed.

As South Africa enters its third year of Emergency rule, the Government seems determined to keep

Raymond Suttner in detention. His friends and comrades assured Grassroots, however, that his spirit will not be broken.

Over 550 detainees have been held since 1986. One of the most prominent of these is New Nation editor Zwelakhe Sisulu, who has been in for 18 months. Son of jailed ANC leader Walter Sisulu and UDF President Albertina Sisulu, Zwelake has now been detained four times.

Amos Masondo, a Soweto Civic Association and COSATU Executive member, has been held since July 1986. He also spent the full 9 months of the 1985 Emergency in detention. Masondo has been detained 6 times, and also served 5 years on Robben Island for ANC activities.

Among the hardest his groupings in the country have been the Port Elizabeth UDF leadership. President Edgar Ngoyi, 62 has been held

since June 12 1986. He spent 4 months of the 1985 Emergency in detention, and 18 years on Robben Island for ANC activities. UDF Vice President Henry Fazzie, 64 and PE Youth Congress leader Mkhuseleli Jack have been held since August 1986. Both were also detained during the 1985 Emergency. Fazzie spent 21 years on Robben Island for ANC activity, while Jack has been detained 11 times in the past 12 years.

He turns 79 in August is a diabetic and is confined to a wheelchair but Oscar Mpetha remains . . .



APARTHEID'S PRISONER

IN most democratic countries, the imprisonment of a sick, elderly man is a shame. In South Africa, where the detention and imprisonment of both young and old is a daily practise, the public soon forgets their outrage against such action.

Oscar Mpetha, who turns 79 in August, has been in jail since 1985. He has spent just as much time in the past three years in hospital as he has in his prison cell at Pollsmoor.

Oscar Mpetha is a diabetic who had a gangrenous leg amputated and is confined to a wheelchair.

He has a long history of involvement since 1948 when he joined the African National Congress and in 1958 he became its Cape provincial president

two years before the ANC was banned.

In 1951 he became secretary-general of the Food and Canning Worker's Union.

He was also active in the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) which now operates in exile.

From 1954 to 1956 he was prohibited from attending meetings under the Suppression of Communism Act.

He was again served with banning orders in July 1959, preventing him from attending meetings and leaving the Cape Peninsula for five years.

Oscar Mpetha was detained on August 13, 1980 while chairman of the Nyanga Resident's Association and held under Section Six of the Terrorism Act.

After four months in detention he appeared in court and was charged with terrorism.

His trial made legal history in South Africa after it dragged on for 235 days. It was postponed time after time to accommodate Mpetha's ailing health and constant visits to hospital for treatment.

Despite his ill-health and age, Mpetha was convicted in the Supreme Court by Mr Justice D M Williamson and sentenced to five years imprisonment for terrorism.

His conviction arose from an incident near Crossroads in August 1988 when two motorists were attacked and killed by a crowd in Klipfontein Road.

The state alleged Mpetha swore and threw

stones at one of the men and ordered the youths to "kill the whites".

On June 29, 1983, Mpetha was granted bail of R1 pending an appeal against his sentence.

After almost three years in custody, he was finally allowed to return home to his family.

In 1983, he was elected first president of the United Democratic Front in the Western Cape.

In April 1985, his appeal against his five-year conviction was dismissed by the Bloemfontein Appeal Court.

At 4am on August 25, Oscar Mpetha was arrested at his home in Nyanga and taken to Pollsmoor Prison to begin serving his sentence.

The police arrived in 15 police vans to take him away.

SEND ALL LETTERS TO: GRASSROOTS PUBLICATIONS, P.O. BOX 1161, CAPE TOWN 8000

NICRO slams detention

Dear Grassroots,

ONCE more the State of Emergency, after 2 years has been re-instated NICRO (National Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders) is still concerned about the continued reduction of personal liberties being placed on the peoples of South Africa. By this we refer to the clampdowns on the press, the proposed new labour legislation and specifically continued detention without trial.

NICRO is a welfare organisation whose primary focus is the underprivileged and disenfranchised sector of the population. Our professional responsibility is to respond to and address the needs identified by the communities. This means working with legitimate and responsible

community leadership. Our work involves seeking political as opposed to party political and social alternatives to improve the conditions in the communities.

However, what has occurred now is a process whereby the legitimate leadership of the communities is often banned and detained. The avenues through which people are able to express their needs and problems are being narrowed. As a result, many communities are leaderless. This reinforces a position of learnt helplessness and desperation in the communities.

NICRO opposes detention without trial and particularly of community members with leadership skills, vision and commitment to work towards a better society. NICRO Staff and Management CAPE TOWN

Tricameralism: Where does ICOSA stand?

REPRESSION is clearly being escalated by the South African government as is seen in the attempts to destroy the alternative press, the banning of community leaders and organizations and the proposed laws on foreign funding to community organizations and attempts to bleed the independent trade union movement to death.

It is with this background that alternative state-promoted leaders are being produced and held up as the new breed of moderates. There is a link between the refusal of the state to allow Dr Rashid Salogie the right to be heard and the simultaneous promotion of Adv Ebrahim Bawa and his right to be heard. The very appearance of Mr Bawa on SABC TV is linked to the silence of Dr Salogie. The state has never made any bones about what TV is meant for and anyone who passes their test of legitimacy - irrespective of the contents of his or her views - must necessarily be of dubious political and religious credibility in the eyes of the community.

The announcer made it plain that Mr Bawa was speaking in his personal capacity although his former secretary generalship of ICOSA was referred to quite a few times. Non-Muslims could easily have been under the impression that the Islamic Council of South Africa is the Muslim equivalent of the

South African Council of Churches which, of course it isn't. (ICOSA is, in fact, a collection of a few individuals - some of whom are quite respectable people - who do not have any constituency whatsoever.)

Mr Bawa has claimed that the ANC and the UDF do not have any support inside the country. That may be debatable, but what isn't is that the UDF is able to draw thousands of people to its public meetings. If ICOSA would only dare to call a public meeting - something which they haven't done for about four years then we would be having some idea of what their support in the community is like.

Mr Bawa spoke at length about the benefits of tricameralism and referred specifically to the abolition of the Pass laws and the Immorality Act. It is here where he displays political naivete of the worse kind. These gestures on the part of the state were not the products of tricameralism or of Mr Botha's generosity. They were the results of battles fought by community organizations that are today so glibly rubbished by Mr Bawa.

Tricameralism could not even produce a free swim in the seas of Port Elizabeth - forget about the dismantling of the Group Areas Act or the release of Nelson Mandela. MAULANA FARIED ESACK

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Archbishop Tutu at a service with Dr Alan Boesak and Rev. Lionel Louw.

Behind the anti-Tutu demos ATTEMPTING TO ISOLATE THE ARCHBISHOP

AIRPORT demonstrations by anti-apartheid groups are outlawed in South Africa, and have been dealt with harshly. Activists have come away battered and bruised, and sometimes even found themselves in court, after demonstrating against deportations, or welcoming Govan Mbeki.

There is a new type of airport demonstration which the authorities see differently. In fact they are so excited about these demonstrations, that they put them on the TV news whenever they happen.

These demonstrations are not against apartheid - they are against Archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu.

The anti-Tutu demonstrators are usually a combination of small numbers of cranky white right-wingers, and a larger group of blacks. Where do the blacks come from? The journalists who have asked this question have found an interesting answer: they are recruited on unemployment queues, given placards and T-shirts of organisations like Inkatha's UWUSA 'union' and paid to shout against Tutu.

Airport demonstrations have greeted Tutu all over South Africa. While Tutu supporters have been arrested, anti-Tutu demos appear to be encouraged by their prominent SATV coverage.

A central figure behind these demonstrations is Port Elizabeth Community Councillor Thamsanqa Linda. Linda told pressmen at a PE demonstration that he had hired the demonstrators, and painted the placards himself.

Linda (with his hired help) is a regular at the anti-Tutu demonstrations. So are the National Students Federation (NSF) and the UWUSA 'trade union'. The NSF is a right-wing students organisation which was set up to destroy Nusas but failed to win significant support on the campuses. UWUSA claims to be an organisation defending the interests of the workers, but there is no record of it ever even being involved in a dispute with the bosses.

Ever since he was elected Archbishop in 1986, Tutu has been the target of a vicious smear campaign by the apartheid media. This campaign has reached frenzied new heights, and is becoming more organised.



The airport demonstrations are a media stunt designed to 'show' that black South Africans oppose Bishop Tutu.

Why the intensified campaign against Tutu? Because he continues to call for economic sanctions against apartheid, and these sanctions are starting to hurt Pretoria.

The Government likes to pretend that sanctions have no effect, but Archbishop Tutu has pointed out that if sanctions are ineffective, "why should people be jumping up and down as if they've got ants in their pants over the whole issue?"

Pretoria recognises that Tutu is among the most respected South Africans overseas. Anti-apartheid demonstrations in the United States pushed even President Reagan to meet with Tutu in 1984, and Tutu condemned his refusal to impose sanctions.

Sanctions, says Tutu, are designed to "snap the Government out of its intransigence and get it to agree to sit down and negotiate". Pretoria is beginning to feel the pinch, and their response is a hysterical campaign against Tutu.

The Government knows that repressive actions against Tutu will cause a massive outcry at home and abroad, from people not even firmly in the anti-apartheid camp. Before they can act against Tutu they must isolate him, and give the impression that many black South Africans are against Tutu. This is the aim of the campaign of demonstrations, new church bodies and the hate campaign in the press.

Church must resist injustice - convocation

ON 31 May, 230 church leaders representing 22 churches met in an emergency convocation in Johannesburg. They committed themselves to a programme of prayer and action to end unjust rule. A committee was established to launch a National campaign for the churches around the theme, "Stand for the Truth".

The idea of convocation came after church leaders had met with the government and the liberation movements. From these meetings, it became clear that the latter are open to discussions on ending the national crisis. The regime on the other hand would not consider any negotiations which could threaten its own power base.

The aim of the churches campaign then is to put pressure on the state to abandon apartheid and participate in a negotiated settlement to bring peace to South Africa.

There was consensus at the conference that Jesus was in conflict with the civil and religious authorities of his time because of their hypocrisy, their love of money, and their treatment of the poor. The church, in following Jesus, must resist the injustice of an illegitimate government and take the side of the poor as Jesus did.

The convocation agreed to two short term goals. Firstly to support Cosatu and Nactu in their call for

three days of national protest on June 6, 7 and 8. Secondly to call for the release of all political prisoners and all detainees, with a special focus on Nelson Mandela on his birthday, July 18.

Several practical ways of implementing these goals were suggested.

- Church members should take flowers and gifts for detainees being held at local police stations;
- Letters should be written to detainees and political prisoners;
- Prayers should be offered in services for detainees and prisoners;
- A vigil will be held with church bells tolling every hour, calling for the release of all detainees and political prisoners. A suggestion was made that services be held outside prisons and police stations;

It was noted that the church has a responsibility to initiate protest actions, but also to support actions initiated by the community.

Beyers Naude speaking during the convocation said that this is only the beginning of a campaign to make the church into "the voice of the voiceless, the arms and legs of those who cannot act".

This campaign had the potential to make a significant impact in South Africa and is a step in the commitment of the churches to hasten peaceful change.

SAVE THE PRESS CAMPAIGN WESTERN CAPE REGION

40 years of apartheid rule has seen our basic rights being removed bit by bit. Today, despite government talk of reform, millions still have no right-to vote, to live where they choose, to jobs, to decent houses, to affordable rents, to a living wage and to proper health care.

Emergency rule has seen more basic rights taken away and the police and army have enormous powers.

The government is in dire straits. It has run out of initiatives and is faced with massive, mounting opposition. The state has set about crushing all dissent. One of the most obvious targets is the media.

The nationalist government is deciding what we, the people, can and cannot hear, read or see.

Anything which threatens the apartheid system is not to be allowed.

There are more than 100 laws governing the press, without state of emergency media regulations.

ALREADY...

- South and New Nation were closed for one and three months respectively;
- Grassroots, Saamstaan, Weekly Mail, New Era, Work in Progress and Out of Step are next in line
- Security force action in our townships cannot be reported;
- Reporting on SADF involvement in Angola is curtailed;
- Journalists and photographers are not allowed to be at the scene of "unrest". let alone report on it.

NOW, IN TERMS OF THE LATEST EMERGENCY

- The ANC, UDF, NECC, Cosatu, Release Mandela Committee and several other banned and restricted organisations have been further silenced
- Unregistered publications can now be closed down for six months;
- Several news agencies have to register by July 31. They will be required to submit names and addresses of all journalists employed as well as copies of their work within a day of distribution;
- Publications can be taken off the printing presses during publication.

We are being fed extremely limited, distorted, state approved information on the situation in our country. The Save the Press Campaign, representing more than 30 media groups in the Western Cape, is highlighting threats to the media and vigorously opposing the clampdowns. Information is a right, not a privilege.

SUPPORT OUR CAMPAIGN



grassroots SPORT

Tambo Square soccerites form new club

SOCCKER enthusiasts in the Cape Youth Congress, Western Cape Civic Association and several other organisations in Tambo Square have come together to form a soccer club.

The Manyano Football Club was formed at the beginning of this year after several meetings and discussions amongst the youth.

Grassroots spoke to some of the members of this new community club and asked them to tell us a bit more about themselves.

One of the players said; "Our aim is to organise the youth and encourage other organisations to form sport bodies, including soccer, rugby and netball clubs."

Asked if the team only draws in members of organisations and activists, he said. "We organise all our unorganised sports people. Our aim is to accommodate everyone who believes in non-racial sport and we encourage that in our discussions." Grassroots asked them what teams they would be playing against.

He said: "Many teams have already challenged us. We will play against most teams, but not those who promote racial sport. We know that some of the teams involved in racial sport are being supported by community councillors". "The name of the team, Manyano, was decided upon democratically by all the members as well as others who have helped to form the club.

It means Unity and we know this is very important in our country - a country which has been split and divided by the system of apartheid."

Presently the Manyano Football Club is fast gaining membership. Since they do not receive sponsorship like most non-racial sportspeople or clubs, they have to constantly battle to raise enough funds to keep the club going. But the community is fully behind the club and this community support will ensure that they not only survive but go from strength to strength.



Members of the Manyano Football Club photographed here on the field next to Tambo Square in Guguletu shortly before the start of one of their matches. The Club is committed to non-racial sport.

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Premier league championship

THE RACE IS ON

WITH the start of the second round of the Western Province Football Boards Virginia Premier League championship, the race for the title is hotting up.

Three teams - Liverpool and top Wynberg clubs Battswood and Clarewood head the log at this vital stage with 14 points each.

Battswood, the club that has won every major title locally as well as national championships, is ahead on goal average.

Hot on the heels of the leaders is Grassy Park club Peninsula United, with 12 points from as many games. There have been a number of upsets in the league this year.

Clairwood, a team known for its flair and attacking style recently suffered a severe setback, when they went down 2-0 to Peninsula United in the Virginia challenge cup

competition.

Their recent loss of form means that they will

be hard pressed to keep pace with the other front runners. Mitchells Plain champions Liverpool in their first season in the Premier League, look well placed to lift the cup.

NUCLEUS

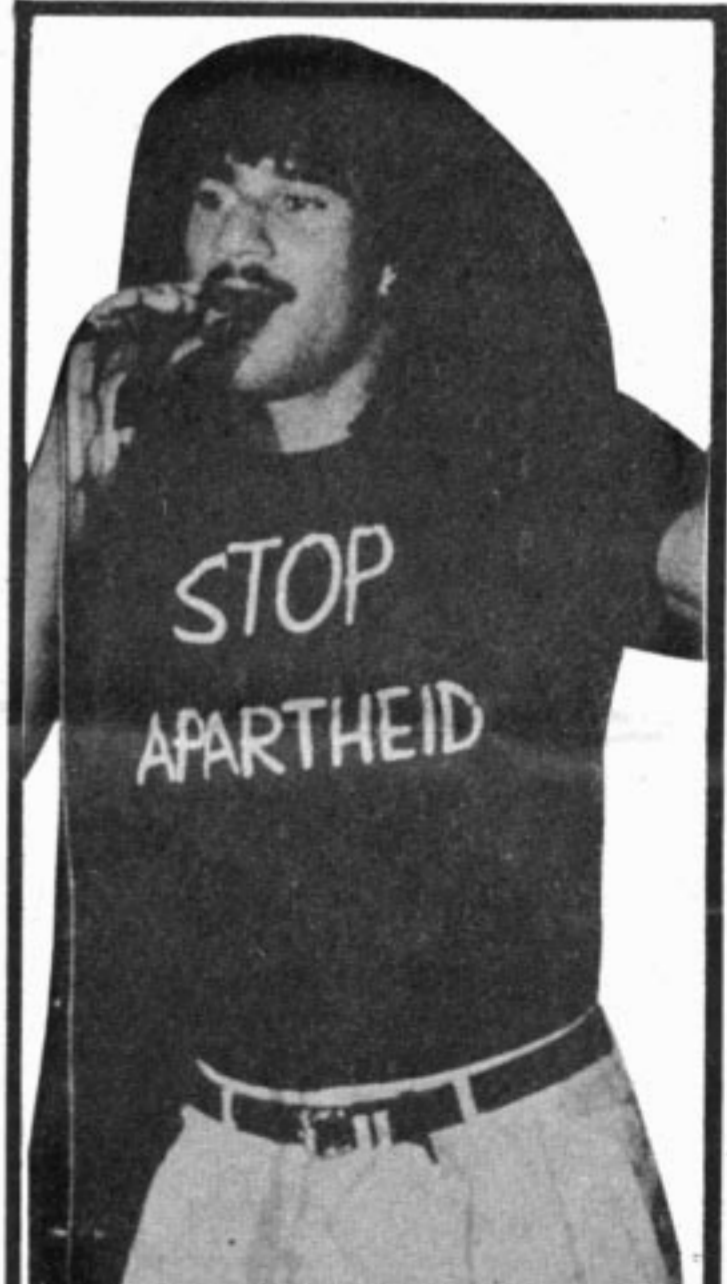
Players like Charles Fuller, Igshaan Solomons Daryl Goldman and Colin Medell form the nucleus of a team that has taken the Premier League by storm.

Battswood, plagued by injuries earlier in the season, now have their full squad back in action.

They have always been the team to beat. Battwood will be especially dangerous if their strikers get their act together. In the first Division Green Dolphin leads the pack with Matroosfontein only 3 points behind.

Green Dolphin remains unbeaten and are almost certain to win promotion to the Premier League.

Idas Valley, Everton United and Norway Parks are battling to avoid relegation.



RUUD Gullit, who last week led the Dutch team to honours in the European cup, beating the Soviet Union 2-0 in the final, is a man of many talents. 25-year-old Gullit, besides being the most expensive soccer player in the world also sings at nightspots when he has some spare time.

Gullit is a committed anti-apartheid campaigner and recently dedicated his European Player of the Year Award to African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela.

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