

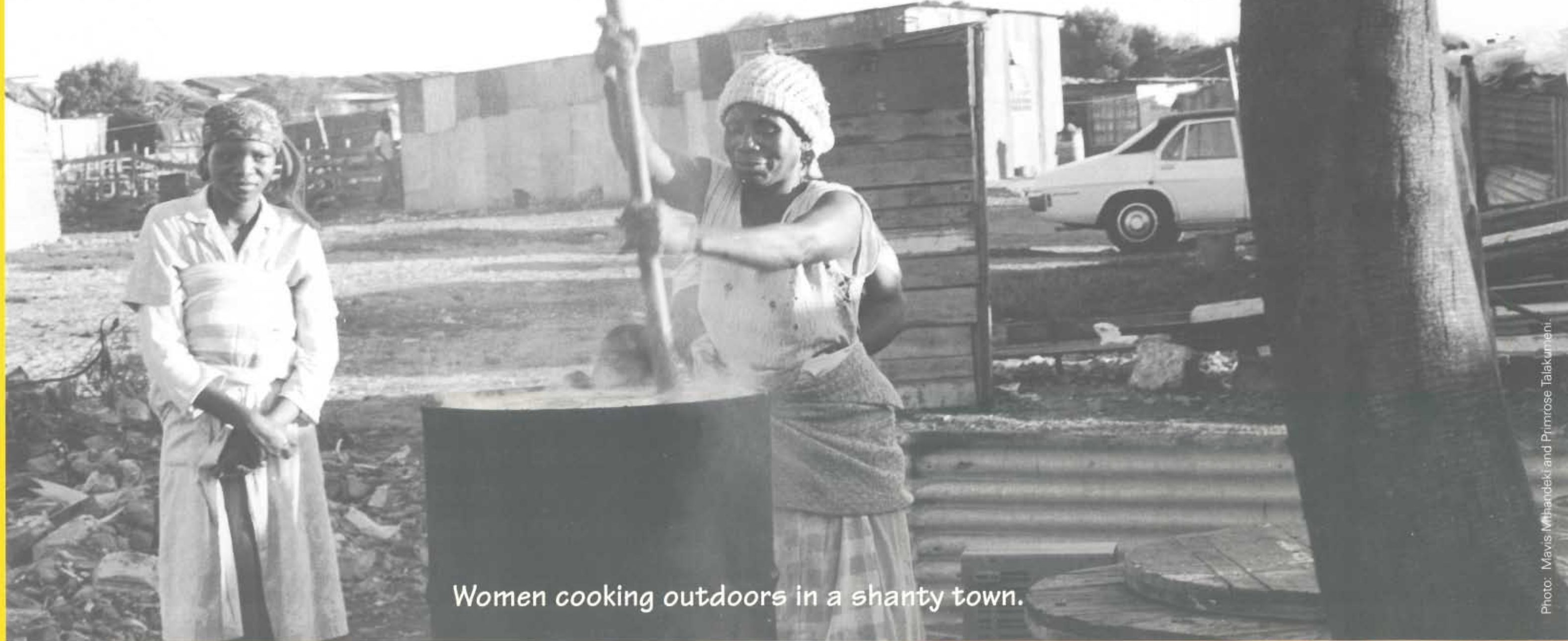
BUILDERS OF THE NATION



11

WORKERS IN THE COMMUNITY

Workers are citizens, they are sons and daughters, parents, husbands, wives and, of course, consumers. During the 1980s, thousands of organised workers became directly involved in challenging apartheid structures in their communities.

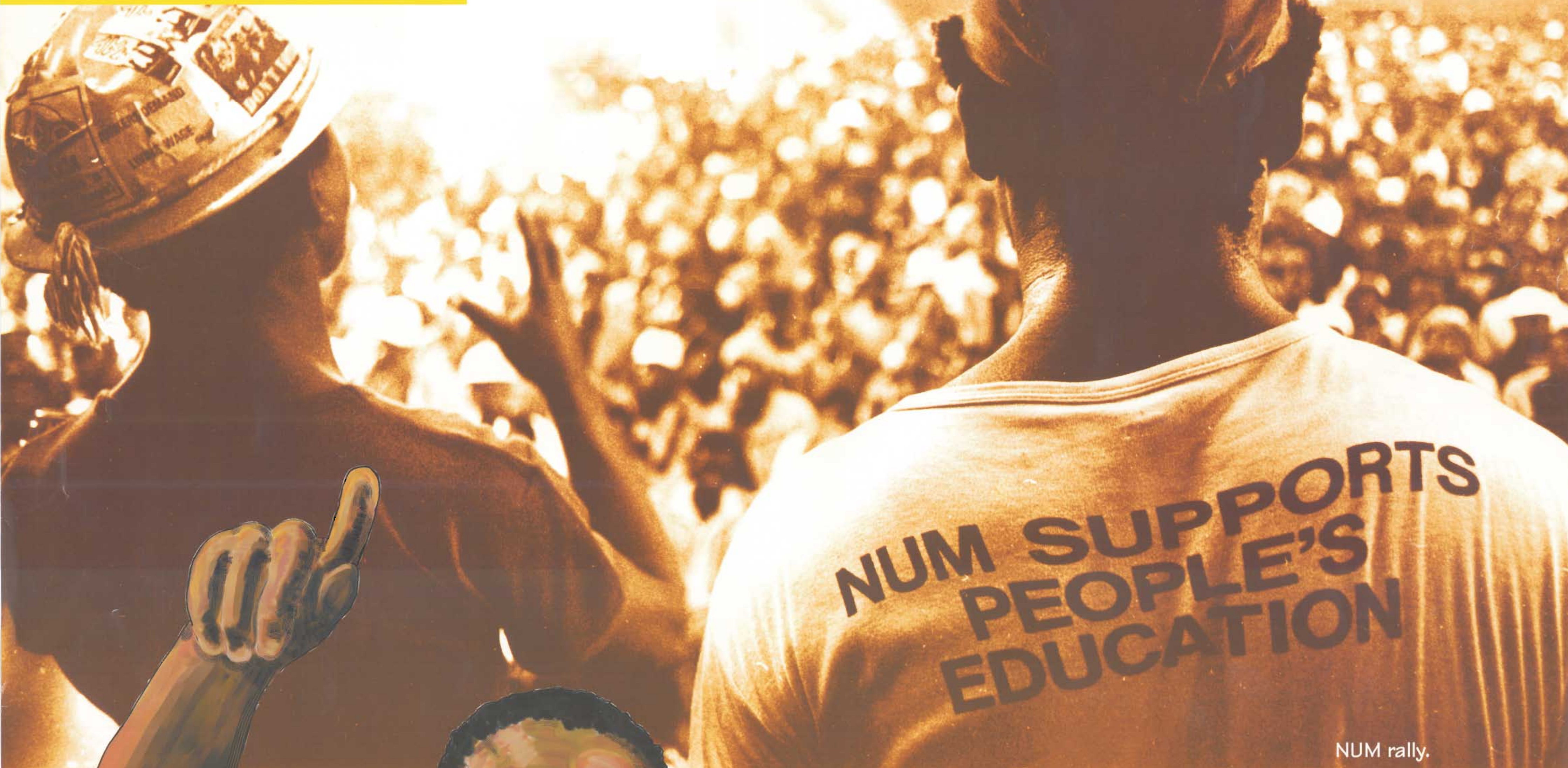


Women cooking outdoors in a shanty town.

Photo: Mavis Mhambeloni and Prunose Takumani



UDF launch, Cape Town, 1983.



NUM rally.



Civics were emerging in the townships. They fought against corrupt local authorities, and for better services, decent housing and a proper education for their children. In November 1984, a huge stayaway by FOSATU unions was organised which linked for the first time the struggle for better work conditions with the demand for better education, and the removal of the army from the townships. With the birth of COSATU (the Congress of South African Trade Unions) in 1985, organised workers became central to the mass democratic movement. Through their strategic use of power they helped bring an end to the apartheid government and have influenced the new governments economic and social policies.

We salute the workers who pioneered the struggle for democracy and development in the community.

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