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Bantustan women are the worst victims of apartheid rule. They have to scrape out a living from overgrazed, barren and unproductive lands. To subsidize their in-nutritious foodstuffs, they receive a small portion of their migrant husbands' depleted wage. Part of this slave wage is further reduced by Bantustan puppets in hut, land and livestock taxes, leaving almost nothing for food, clothings, education and medical care.

Given this dreadful position, our main task as democratic and patriotic forces in South Africa is to spare no effort in ensuring that rural women are mobilised and organised on bread and butter issues into a united force. Making their daily lives a seedbed for powerful resistance against the apartheid regime. We need to cultivate, develop, and inflame this force into mass revolutionary activity more than we did in the 50's when 20,000 women were mobilised against the pass laws.

The mass resistance displayed by women in 1956 was not spontaneous. It was an act of conscious mobilisation and organisation of women by the ANC Women's League and other women organisations. A



## MOBILISE

task which the Federation of South African Women carried out with continued vigour. The legality of Women's organisations of those days should not be a shield for our complacency. We must always bear in mind that the racist regime and their puppets, to save themselves from destruction, have unleashed a campaign of terror and physical extermination of our people.

When dealing with the plight of rural women, we must also address ourselves to the socio-political situation of these rural communities, running from geographic isolation from one another, illiteracy, intermarried with old-age traditions that have become some of the major



A face of determination



problems which confine women's activities within kitchen walls, thus retarding their political development.

In the cities and towns, unlike the rural areas, industrialisation plays an important role in the development of worker's political consciousness, bringing them together from different localities for organisation and collective bargaining. Moreover, the exploitation of the workers

Our urgent task as revolutionaries is to reach rural women where they are, drawing them in as activists of the ANC, putting

them in their rightful place, as members of our people's army, Umkhonto we Sizwe for the battlefront. We must also tackle the situation by mobilising and organising rural women on problems such as lack of schools, health care and even on the migratory laws themselves, and

## THE RURAL WOMEN



helps to unmask their real enemy. One vivid example, is the victory scored by women in the Commercial and Catering Allied Worker's Unions for paid maternity leave.

As a result, the task for organising rural women is a long process and needs patience. There is no blueprint for this, as conditions differ from area to area. To succeed in our task, intense political education and campaigns addressing themselves to specific issues that affect rural women in their everyday lives must be carried out. Our propaganda must be made simple and where possible translated into the languages they speak and understand.

mount campaigns and programmes to fight them.

Since there are no rural organisations in the Bantustans, it is our duty to build them. Democratic organisations must send their activists to these areas to mobilise, guide the rural women and not wait for some crisis to erupt. Women organisations have an important role to play to mobilise and activate the rural women to fight for freedom.

**MOBILISE AND MARCH FORWARD  
TO PEOPLE'S POWER!**