

## KTC residents on the march

"WE are not fighting. We want houses. We are born and bred in Cape Town".

These were the words on the banners of marchers to Goodwood Administration Board. 67 KTC residents protested against the demolition of their shelters and their eviction from the KTC camp.

On that morning more than 14 vans with BAARB officials surrounded the camp and intimidated the people. The marchers were arrested before they reached Goodwood and are being charged with attending an illegal gathering.

This is part of a long struggle by the people of KTC for housing and the right to live and work in the cities.

The people have stood united and have forced the government to back down. They were promised 2 500 sites where they could build their own houses.

The first two hundred people were given sites. But now, Mr Bezuidenhout of the Western Cape Administration Board has announced that no more sites will be given, and that a new township will be built at Swartklip in three years time.

But, the people have rejected this. "We want houses now, we cannot wait for three years. Why must we be thrown 60 kilometres away from the city where there is no transport? We cannot afford this." said Nomsa Kiti, a KTC resident.

Mrs Kiti said that "there are rumours that we will have to buy these houses. My husband earns R40,00 per week, we cannot afford to buy a house. We demand that the government provides housing for our people at a price that we can afford".

The Administration Board has

tried every trick to divide the people of KTC - those with passes and those without passes. The building of a new township and offering houses to those who can afford it, is yet another way of dividing the people.

"They broke down my shelter even though I had a pass. What's the difference? We all suffer in the same way. We must stand united". These were the words of one of the mothers as she joined the 67 marchers on their way to Goodwood Administration Board recently.

# FORCED REMOVALS

## Driefontein mourns their leader — Saul Mkhize



Paul Mkhize talks to the residents at a protest meeting.

THE people of Driefontein in the Transvaal have lived there for generations. They paid for their land long before the government passed the Native Land Act of 1913.

This was a vicious law which took the people's land away from them. This law gave Black people who are the majority in this country only 13% of the land. 87% of the land went to a handful of whites.

The government has decided that the people of Driefontein must live in the homelands. The struggles of the people of KTC and Driefontein is one. It is a struggle for land, it is a struggle to live and work where they choose.

And, it is a fight against the government's homelands policy. A policy which has divided our people. One which

5 000 Driefontein villagers have been waging a long and hard battle against the government's laws of forced removals. It is a fight of a poor community for land and the right to live where they choose.

A battle which has cost them the life of a community leader, Saul Mkhize.

Mr Mkhize died recently when police shot him at a meeting called by the people to oppose their removal from the area. The United Women's Organisation has joined in the voices of protest.

"We condemn the shooting of Saul Mkhize as an act of intimidation against civic people. The government cannot stop the resistance against forced removals by shooting the leaders of the people. UWO extends its sympathy to the family and to the community of Driefontein".

In this story, Grassroots tells of the struggles of the people of Driefontein for their land.

has forced millions to become migrant workers and has broken up family life. In short, it is a policy of Apartheid,

for which the people have to pay the price.

The villagers of Driefontein started this fight around the middle of

last year. They were told by Piet Koornhof that parliament had decided that they must move and that a dam will be built in the Assegai river. The people were not consulted.

They organised themselves to resist the removals. Saul Mkhize said: "We paid for our land and we wish to keep it. We will not own the new land to which we are supposed to move. We will become squatters and who knows when someone else will decide to move us again?"

He said "the government wants our land... for minerals. Would they move white people in this way - by buses to barren land with no roads, no water, no

schools, no shops, nothing?"

Driefontein is a poor village. About 300 own land and small portions are leased to tenants. The people have raised cattle, they have grown their own food. They have started schools, built homes and churches.

Must they give all this up simply to make the government's laws work better? Must they give this up so that a dam can be built in the area?

### Removals

The villagers have organised themselves into a committee. They have fought the battle through the courts. They have petitioned the government and won the support of the people. They have said no to the government.

Mr Prinsloo of Dr Koornhof's department has told the people that "the government has already decided about the removal of Driefontein. We are not going to negotiate any further on the matter. It is finished."

But Mr Mkhize, in replying on behalf of the people's committee said: "If the government is not accepting any negotiation with us... then we don't accept. The community is not accepting it. Thank you." Today, Saul Mkhize is dead.

And so, the battle against removals between the people of Driefontein and the government continues.

Statement from the "voice of the Driefontein people", February 1983.

"Here we have widows, old men and women, who have spent all their lives raising their families. Educating them. Building their houses, looking after them while they still had the strength and vigour to do so.

"What can they do now - the old, the weak, the crippled? Must they just curl up and die? Without money and without the vigour of youth, which they no longer have, now can they start all over again?"

## Shocked at death of Langa worker

PEOPLE in Langa are shocked at the death of Xolisa Chicks Chikane. They say her death was caused because the bosses and shop owners refuse to make proper arrangements to protect their workers who are left to work alone at night.

Chicks Chikane worked at the Goodwood branch of Kentucky Fried Chicken. On the 6th February, at night, two whites walked in and ordered Chicks to open the safe. She was terribly frightened and could not do it. The workers then telephoned the police and the robbers ran away, without getting any money.

When the bosses of Kentucky heard about the robbery, they made no arrangements to treat Chicks for shock at all, but she was forced to

continue work.

After three days she collapsed. An ambulance was called but she died on the way to hospital. She was buried on the 26th March.

All over Langa the people are outraged because they say that this is not the first time that someone has died because the bosses refuse to protect or care properly for their workers.

They say that if she had been treated properly after the incident she would have been alive today.

A worker said, "something must be done to protect workers. The call is for all workers to join the worker's unions and together fight for their rights."

For advice about working problems, telephone the General Worker's Union, 67-0870.

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