

NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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THE PAPER ABOUT YOU

AUGUST 1980 10c

UNITY NEEDED

NEW

How they beat the ban

The ban on meetings, imposed by the government almost three months ago, has failed to curb community action.

This is the indication as community and civic organisations, committees and action groups in the Western Cape continue to function and bypass the ban by:

- Producing informative newsletters and pamphlets.
- Organising drama evenings, film shows and 'get togethers'.
- Holding street committee meetings.
- Holding effective house meetings and visits.

A number of publications in the form of newsletters and pamphlets have been produced by community and civic organisations during the past two months. The Lotus Civic Association recently published its first monthly newsletter. The newsletter deals with the latest developments in a number of issues affecting the community such as the valuations objections, the problematic electricity accounts and the fight against higher rents.

The well-produced newsletter says in an editorial: "We hope to publish it (the newsletter) regularly because there is a definite need."

"Firstly we find there is not enough time at our monthly meetings to discuss all the issues with which we are involved. Secondly, it is impossible for normal meetings to be held at present because of the Government ban on all meetings until the end of August."

The 'Hanover Times',



serving Hanover Park and the surrounding areas, published its first issue in July.

The colourful, eight-page newsletter, well illustrated with informative 'comic' type cartoons, announced on its front page the formation of a new civic body for Hanover Park.

It also deals with the plight of pensioners in the area, youth and the general grievances of local residents.

The Bridgetown, Silvertown and Kewtown parent/student action

committee also brought out a newsletter called the BSK News. It carries articles on the bus boycott, the plight of the meat workers and local teachers who have organised themselves into a group.

An information sheet was also published by the Teachers Action Committee and the Committee of 81 produced an illustrated pamphlet to explain the suspension of the school boycott.

A spokesman for the Lansdowne Interim

Committee, which organised house meetings, said: "The ban did alter the mood of the people but it is effectively countered by house meetings."

"People are now getting a proper chance to air their views," she said.

The ban, imposed on June 14, and renewed on June 31 for a further two months, prohibits any gathering or meeting of a political nature.

It does not apply to any gathering of 10 persons or less.

RENTS: WHY MOST WON'T BENEFIT



AFTER years of hard struggle for lower rents by people in all parts of our country the government has at last admitted that the way our peoples' rents are worked out is bad.

The government has now worked out a new way to work out our rents.

Is the new way the rents are going to be worked out better? Do they benefit all our people or are they good for some people? What are the new rents going to be?

These are questions that are worrying tenants all over the country.

The exact rent structure is not available but Grassroots looks at the proposals as they appeared in a local newspaper.

• FOR PEOPLE EARNING LESS THAN R150 PER MONTH

Rents for people earning less than R150 per month will be 5 per

cent of what they earn. Since the minimum rent payable is R2,50, people in this group will pay rents between R2,50 and R7,50. For example, if your monthly pay is R120, then

the rent you have to pay will be R6,00

This is BASIC rental and people will still have to pay for Lights, water and administration charges, rates, etc.

• PEOPLE EARNING BETWEEN R151 AND R540 PER MONTH

The way the rent of people in this group is worked out is not very clear. What the article did say is that people earning between R151 and R540 will have to pay a maximum of R2,00 in EXTRA rent for every R10,00 by which their salary is more than R150. For example, if a person earns R160 per month, then his rent will be R9,50 (R7,50 plus

R2,00); if a person earns R350 per month, then his rent will be R37,50 (RR7,50 plus R30,00). This too is BASIC rental and does not include charges for lights, water etc.

The fact that some houses are over 30 years old and badly maintained, poorly built, is not taken into account.

It can happen that two people living in the same kind of house may now pay completely different rents - one could be asked to pay three times what the other pays depending on what he/she earns.

Clearly from the report one can say that the new rents will not be good for all the people. It can divide people in the communities.

What is also very clear is that all the communities have to come together to fight for new rents that ALL people can afford.

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An in-depth look at boycotts — Page 2-3

grassroots

Child writers of tomorrow — Page 4

grassroots

Newspaper strike victory — Page 3

grassroots

The death of a community — Page 7

grassroots

Goodbye to Bloemhof flats — Page 5

grassroots

Another look at the Urban Foundation — Page 16

grassroots

Why we need civic bodies — Page 8