

Vaal Committee opposes SAIC elections

A 13-PERSON Transvaal Anti-SAIC Committee (TASC) has elected to organise a boycott of the SAIC elections in November.

Dr Essop Jassat, a former member of the Transvaal Indian Congress, heads the committee, together with Drs Ram Saloojee and Ismail Cachalia who are its Vice-Chairpersons. Others on the committee are Mr I Momoni (secretary), Mr P Naidoo (assistant secretary), Mr A Moonda (treasurer) and Mr N Pahad (publicity secretary).

In a statement issued to SASPU the committee pointed out that the SAIC had been rejected by the Indian community ever since it was imposed in 1964. However, the lack of an organised anti-government political organisation meant that opportunists could jump on the bandwagon

posing as leaders when popular leaders like Yusuf Dadoo, Ahmed Kathrada, Malvi Saloojee and Nelson Mandela were either banned, imprisoned or exiled.

The SAIC was first imposed in 1964 as a nominated body called the National Indian Council. In an attempt to diffuse widespread opposition to this council, the Government allowed half the members to be elected by electoral colleges made up of local management or consultative committees.

However, this plan was just as unsuccessful and the Government announced a new 45 member committee, of whom 40 were to be elected in 1979 on a common voters roll. When the registration of voters failed, the Government tried to coerce people to register by threatening to fine people R50 if they re-

fused to register as voters.

"The move to have elections should not be seen as a change in the Government's attitude — Apartheid is going through a crisis, neighbouring countries like Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Angola have been liberated. Namibia will soon be liberated. Internally, labour strikes, school boycotts, community resistance and struggle, the failure of the Government's homeland policies and so on all threaten the very existence of apartheid.

"Consequently the Government tried to win friends inside the country through creating a black middle class, total strategy and in its attempt to win the 'hearts and minds' of the people.

"The SAIC still remains an ethnic body which is powerless. The right to vote implies the right to the shar-

ing of power. The SAIC is a mere dummy body, aimed to strengthen Apartheid and white domination."

The TASC committee found it principles and demands of the Freedom Charter which still serves as the only document guiding us in our struggle for a non-racial, democratic and free South Africa.

"The illusions of change are merely geared to divert us from the principles and demands of the freedom charter which still serves as the only document guiding us in our struggle for a non-racial, democratic and free South Africa.

TASC said the recent bannings of Sammy Adelman, the Cachalia Brothers, Andrew Boraine, Sophie Mthembu and others reveals that not much has changed in South Africa.

"The Government will only allow

dissent if it is done within its own structures. In particular, the bannings of George Sewpersadh, A Chetty and Azar and Firoz Cachalia clear the way for the Government to go ahead with its SAIC elections."

The committee intends to launch an intensive campaign against the SAIC elections, and hopes to commit and co-operate with people from all over the Transvaal. Mass meetings will be held in all major areas in the Transvaal, the first of which is to be held in Lenasia on August 19 at the Civic Centre.

"The TASC calls upon all freedom-loving and democratic South Africans to actively reject and destroy these institutions of Apartheid and commit themselves to meaningful change and the creation of a non-racial, democratic and just South Africa," the statement concluded.

Meer — AD has crucial decision

THE OUTCOME of the trial of Fatima Meer in which the internationally-acclaimed sociologist is accused of contravening her banning order on four counts, could have far reaching effects on the lives of 156 restricted people in South Africa.

For the first time since the Suppression of Communism Act was passed in parliament in 1950, the validity and authenticity of an entire banning order are to be contested by the defence at the trial which has been remanded to July 26.

Senior Counsel for Mrs Meer, Advocate Ismail Mahomed, stated at the preliminary hearing that a document purporting to be signed by a person describing himself as Jimmy Kruger, Minister of Justice, and further purporting to place restrictions on Mrs Fatima Meer, had been served on Meer. He added that the validity and authenticity of the banning order was in dispute.

Advocate Mahomed, who is well known for his work in challenging and finding legal loopholes in the not-so-water-tight apartheid system, has an impressive record to his career including his appointment as judge of the Supreme Court of Botswana and his appointment to the Appellate Division of Swaziland and Lesotho.

In opening the defence he told the court that Mrs Meer would admit that she was present at the Gandhi Settlement, but disputed the allegation that she was on the grounds of an educational institution.

The boundaries of the magisterial district of Durban are also being questioned as the defence denies that Mrs Meer left the city area.

Mrs Meer recently took another swipe at the restrictions imposed by banning orders when the Supreme Court judged that a previous conviction for contravening her banning order be set aside because of an

'incorrigibly obscure' definition used in the order by the Minister of Justice in reference to 'social gatherings'.

The Attorney General of Natal was later granted leave to appeal against this decision, but the appeal has not yet gone to court.

July 26 will be closely watched by those presently restricted by the State and many others threatened by the curtailment of their individual liberties.

Advocate Mahomed is assisted by Mr C Mailer and instructed by George Sewpersadh and Company. Mr J Garr will appear for the State.



48 Cape Town students demonstrating at a recent international meat conference.

"Meat" protest students on trial

48 STUDENTS from the University of Cape Town are to appear in court next month charged with contravening the Riotous Assemblies Act.

The charges arose after they were arrested for protesting outside the Good Hope Center on 27 May.

They were protesting under the banner "International meat bosses condone worker oppression" — against the conflict in the meat industry over the past year in which more than 800 Cape Town meatworkers were dismissed during an industry-wide strike in mid-1980.

The meatworkers have been struggling for a long time. They demand recognition of their democratically elected, non-racial workers committees vital to their struggle against appalling working conditions and low pay.

They were widely supported in the community by a meat boycott and fundraising activities — but 800 fired workers were never reinstated.

Management in fact cooperated with the state, and a number of workers were endorsed back to the

homelands and other meat workers and union officials were detained and harassed.

Since the strike conditions have deteriorated even further, but workers have attempted to reorganise themselves. Largely, their attempts have been throttled by the meat bosses, who have intimidated and victimised potential leaders and other workers.

And it was in this context that the OPIC international meat-producers' conference was held in Cape Town.

Despite pressure from the International Labour Organisation, foreign delegates attended, and Cape Town meat bosses attempted to create the impression they were in harmony with their workers.

An open letter written by the General Workers' Union to all delegates informed them of conditions and labour relations in the meat industry and drew attention to last year's strike — but most of the letters mysteriously disappeared from the registration desk before the conference began.

Union takes 'car' bosses to court

JUDGEMENT was reserved in the Supreme Court, Cape Town this week in an urgent application brought against Leyland SA by the Leyland Union of Motor and Rub-

ber Workers and nine of its members.

The application called for an order declaring Leyland's dismissal of 1 900 workers on May 20 a

"wrongful breach" of their contracts of employment.

The applicants contended that Leyland went against the terms of its employment contract.

In argument for the applicants it was stated that they were not properly dismissed and "we must go back and follow the procedures".

Leyland contended that in negotiations that took place in December 1980, wage increases were settled and this settlement was valid for a year.

The company also contended that in view of its commitments, it was compelled to dismiss the striking workers and employ new people. It was argued on Leyland's behalf that the dismissal of the workers followed a breach of contract and was therefore not unlawful.

Mr CP Plewman, SC, and Mr J Brassel, instructed by AM Omar and Omar and Co, appeared for the union and the Leyland workers.

Mr C Cohen SC and Mr M Odeh, instructed by Syfret, Godlonton, Fuller, Moore Inc appeared for Leyland.



Cosas exec. member 'Oupe' Masaku

Cosas calls for release of leaders

THE Congress of South African Students (Cosas) has strongly criticized recent state action against its members.

A statement released by Cosas's national executive committee claimed that security police were intensifying their activities against the organisation and had detained a large number of members, including its president, Wantu Zenzile who is being held under Section Six of the Terrorism Act. Cosas's first

president, Ephraim Mogale is serving an eight year sentence on Robben Island.

The statement said these actions were aimed at uprooting the students' voice, and called for the immediate and unconditional release of all detained Cosas members.

Measures such as bannings, detentions and jailings would never prevent students from striving to achieve a just and democratic society, the statement said.