

grassroots

THE PAPER ABOUT YOU VOL. 8 NO.: 2 March 1987 FREE!

SHARPEVILLE, LANGA REMEMBERED



Students with banners march around the campus at the University of the Western Cape after a Sharpeville commemoration meeting held on Friday 20 March.

'WE'LL NEVER FORGET'

THOUSANDS of people throughout South Africa and the world commemorated the 27th anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre on the weekend.

The township of Sharpeville became a symbol of oppression and police brutality on 21 March, 1960, when police opened fire on a peaceful anti-pass demonstration. Sixty-nine people were killed, many of them shot in the back.

The Sharpeville killings, and the State of Emergency which

"The shooting did not stop until there was no living thing in the huge compound in front of the police station."

followed, led the ANC to form Umkhonto we Sizwe, and take up arms against the South African government. On the 25th anniversary of Sharpeville, the bloody scene was repeated when police opened fire on a funeral in Uitenhage, killing over 20 and injuring many more.

Meetings commemorating Sharpeville were banned in the Western Cape on the weekend. But UWC held a meeting before the ban, attracting a crowd of over 2 500.

"THE dead and injured were strewn all over. Bodies lay in grotesque positions".

And at the "Champs of Champs" schools athletics meetings on March 21, 15 000 school students were addressed on the significance of Sharpeville. They then sang the Na-

tional Anthem.

In London, the Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM) held pickets outside a supermarket selling South African goods, and also outside Shell petrol garages.

The manager of the supermarket was presented with a petition with thousands of signatures rejecting the sale of SA goods.

And on Saturday, a picket was organised outside the South African Airways offices in protest against South African tourism.

WHILE the coming election on May 6 is widely discussed in the white community, black communities are wondering what the excitement is all about. While hundreds of people are still in detention and troops still occupy the townships, people know that the election is not going to change anything.

The United Democratic Front has released a major policy document on the coming elections. They regard the elections as a time-wasting blockade in the way of the real challenges which our country should be facing.

"The elections and its participating parties offer no real solutions to the hundreds of South Africans who are excluded from their right to govern. As long as they are there will continue to be conflict," the UDF said.

"The Nationalists and

So what's all the excitement about?

all those who participate in the apartheid elections have no long term visions for a peaceful and productive South Africa."

"The National Party has only offered and will only offer, war and violence."

The UDF said the situation will still be the same on May 7, give or take a few seats.

"We say the only solution for South Africa lies in one person, one vote in a united country."

"What's all the excitement about?" Dr Allan Boesak asked a lunchtime crowd at St Georges Cathedral earlier this month.

"While the elections are discussed in almost every white home throughout the country, it is

ignored in the black community," he said.

"How can we talk about a white election at this stage in our history. It is dangerous to think that white people alone

can make fundamental decisions which affect all of us."

"How can we discuss an election while there is a State of Emergency in our country, while people

are in prison and while death squads are killing our children?"

"I hope that as the elections draw near whites will take these realities into account."

Choose your leaders

WE would like to hear from our readers who your would choose to lead our country if you had the vote!

Send your 'vote' to GRASSROOTS, P.O. Box 1161, Cape Town.

The people I would like to lead my country are:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Age: Area of residence

National body for lawyers

A National organisation for democratic lawyers will be launched in Durban on 25 and 26 April.

The date and venue for the launching was unanimously agreed on at a meeting of the Steering Committee set up to organise the launch.

The committee met in Port Elizabeth earlier this month.

The adoption of a constitution, the formulation of policy and the election of officials will be the main points on the Agenda.

Lawyers from all over the country will gather at the launch and are expected to issue statements on major legal problems such as detentions and the state of Emergency.

Released from Island

A well-known South African journalist and a former clerk were released earlier this month from Robben Island after serving a seven year sentence.

Thami Mkhwanazi who was reporter with The World, Weekend World and the now defunct Post and Jerry Majatladi, formerly a clerk with the Department of Information are both from Atteridgeville in Pretoria.

Both were detained in 1979 and convicted of terrorism and conspiracy in 1980.

Thami told Grassroots that their trial which lasted for four months in the Pretoria Regional Court consisted of evidence of

cassettes and transcripts of their conversations.

Both Thami and Jerry were granted leave to appeal but both lost their appeals.

"On Robben Island we had contact with Nelson Mandela before he and the other comrades were transferred to Pollsmoor prison. Govan Mbeki and Elias Motsoaledi were with us until we were released," said Thami.

Thami who was an executive member of the Writers Association of South Africa at the time of his arrest said he was prepared to join any organisation that believed in the Freedom Charter.

MAY DAY CONTROVERSY

THE State President's decision to have the first Friday in May declared a public holiday is indeed a strange one.

For years workers have struggled to have May 1 declared a holiday. Last year, more than 1,5 million workers stayed away from work unofficially declaring May 1 a public holiday.

PW Botha's decision has sparked off a controversy in the trade union movement. The Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) said Mr

Botha had acted undemocratically, and was undermining their demand to have May 1 declared a paid public holiday.

They were also dissatisfied with the name given to the holiday - Workers Day - which they said should be called Labour Day.

Cosatu vowed to continue its struggle to get Labour Day recognized.

They already have members in several plants in agreement with employers to have May 1 regarded as a paid holiday.

STILL IN DETENTION

Grassroots member John Neels was detained at his parents home in Grassy Park last month and is being held under section 29 of the Internal Security Act. John is a student at UWC.

Another student also detained under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act was Melvin Fourie shortly after Mr. Neels.

Other UWC students still in detention are Leslie Maasdorp, Valentine Senkhane and Russel Mc Gregor.

Among the more than 100 detainees still held at Victor Verster are UDF executive members Trevor Manuel, Zoli Malindi, Christmas Tito and Wilfred Rhodes, Noma-Indie Mfeketo of the United Womens Congress, Noel Williams, chairperson of the Atlantis Residents Association, Rose Sonto, former Cayco president and Sinton school teachers Nabel and Dehnan Swart.

No leave to appeal for former Wynberg pupils

AN application by 8 youth convicted of public violence for leave to appeal to the Appellate division in Bloemfontein has been rejected in the Cape Town Supreme Court.

In a final attempt to avoid going to prison, attorneys for the youth are to petition the Chief Justice.

Wayne Jordaan, 18, formerly of Wynberg Senior Secondary faces three years in prison. The others all have a one-year sentence hanging over their heads.

They are, Julian Stubbs, Dee Dieks, Venecia de Klerk, Nasir Masoet, Ehsan Amlay and Showkit Enous, all 18.

Ansaaf Mohammed, 18 was acquitted at the end of the appeal in the Cape Town Supreme Court.

A 15-year-old girl, who cannot be named was given a postponed sentence after the initial trial in the Wynberg Regional Court.

Miners adopt Freedom Charter

THE 360 000 strong national Union of Mineworkers (NUM) held its fifth annual general meeting recently with workers from mines all over the country coming together to discuss the matters affecting their lives.

One of the most important developments at the Congress was a resolution by the more than 750 delegates present to endorse the Freedom Charter.

The Charter was drawn up at the Congress of the people in Kiptown on June 26 1955.

Speakers at the Congress included Mrs Winnie Mandela, wife of ANC leader and NUM honourary president Nelson Mandela, Cosatu Secretary Jay Naidoo, and UDF

publicity secretary Murphy Morobe.

Jay Naidoo said in his address that apartheid is the most brutal form of capitalism and that the bosses in South Africa have for decades fed off the fruits of the apartheid tree."

He continued: "Today seven companies own 88 percent of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange who extract massive profits from the ruthless exploitation of Black workers.

What have black mine-workers gained from this. *46 000 dead in the dark dungeons underground thousands more dying of disease and maimed by injury, the migrant labour and soul destroying hostels that have broken up the*

family life and social fabric of millions of our people in Southern Africa, poverty and starvation for themselves and their families.

"We have seen intensified attacks against us from our enemies and their allies. On the mines tribal fighting provoked by our enemies is used to break our unity and power."

The Kinross disaster was for us last year a bloody reminder that the minebosses put profits before workers lives. The Num has subsequently led the struggle for workers control over health and safety, paving the way for the only real protection for millions of workers in South Africa."



The Western Cape Secretary of Sarhwu, Dennis Makati opens a press conference earlier this month. Sarhwu executive members listen attentively.

Thousands of railway workers join Sarhwu STAFF ASSOCIATION ON THE WRONG TRACK

RAILWAY workers countrywide have joined the South African Railways and Harbour Workers union (Sarhwu) in their thousands and it is expected that many more will seek membership of the recently revived union.

It is believed that more than 4 000 railway workers resigned from the South African Transport services' Staff Association in a period of only five months and joined Sarhwu.

Sarhwu, an affiliate of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) and the United Democratic Front (UDF), started a campaign to increase its membership at the unions' launching congress in October last year.

The union's national vice-president, M Mrawusi explained at a recent press conference: "After resolutions were taken in October, workers went around explaining about the staff association. Many workers resigned from the staff association. Forms with their signatures were sent to the head office in Johannesburg.

However, police raided the offices and many forms were not returned. The process was started again. The names are going in today."

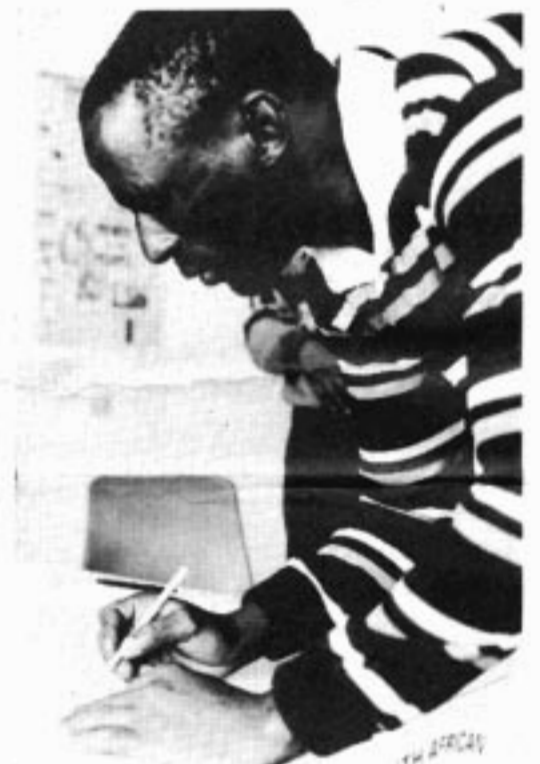
In Cape Town, 600 workers resigned from the Staff Association. The majority of workers who resigned and joined up with Sarhwu are from Transvaal region.

Another Sarhwu official said the campaign was not ending until the last worker resigned from the staff association. Sarhwu officials claim that the idea of the staff association did not come from the workers. It came from the employers, who appointed the officials. They said there were separate staff associations for Indian, Coloured, African and white workers.

"Sarhwu wants to unite all railway workers," they said. Chairperson Mr G Cube said that the Staff Association did not act in the interest of the workers. "I found no reason why I should stay there," he said. "I felt I should join the other workers in their struggle."

Mr Mrawusi said that he must point out that the struggle was not against the Staff Association. "The Staff Association is in our way. We want to get them out of the way and face the employers."

A spokesperson for Sarhwu told Grassroots that the Staff Association refused to accept the forms containing the signatures of 600 Cape Town workers.



A railway worker adds his name to the long list of workers who have resigned from the staff association.

Court told of shooting in Oudsthoorn township

LOUDTSHOORN policemen involved in the fatal shooting of three Bhongolethu children in June 1985, denied in the George Regional Court that they had planted any petrol bombs near their bodies.

This was part of the evidence heard earlier this month in the trial of Humphrey Joseph, and Msukisi Mooi, both from Oudsthoorn.

Mr Joseph, former organiser for the Saamstaan community newsletter and Mr Mooi a member of the Bhongolethu Civic Association are charged in terms of Section 27(b) of the Police Act.

It is alleged that they published untruths about the police and their actions. Mr Mooi was discharged at the end of the state case as none of the evidence implicated him in the act of publishing.

The charge arises from a front page article in the

July 1985 edition of Saamstaan about the killing of three children, Fezile Haase, 14, Andile Majola, 13, and Patrick Madikane, 14 who were shot by police on June 17 1985.

The newspaper was handed in as an exhibit in court. Sections of the report reads: "Three young boys of Bhongolethu died cold-bloodedly at the hands of the South African police on 17 June 1985.

The shooting took place at the home of a black security policeman, Mngoma. As eyewitnesses said: People believed Mngoma's house was empty. Another boy with a red jersey went to the front

door.

The next minute I heard a shot going off and had to change my position immediately.

Shots were fired continuously. When I returned to my original position, I saw a little boy lying near the gate. I saw a girl crawling across the road.

The next moment, policemen came out of the house. One policeman continued firing at the crowd

One of the policemen brought a holder with petrol from the house and threw it in a Fanta bottle. He then put in near the body of the one child."

The policemen in their evidence denied what was stated in the newspaper

report. They said they had acted in self-defence after a crowd attacked the township house that they were guarding.

The policeman testified that one of the youths had sprinkled petrol on to the carpet of the house. The other one had matches on him and in order to stop him from striking the match, the policeman in charge shot the child.

The other two children were shot in the process of fighting the crowd which had gathered outside the house, the policeman testified.

The policemen together with other men were busy moving the furniture of the black security policeman who was unable to live in the township.

Mr Joseph said he had no cause to disbelieve the account given to him by the eyewitness, Mr Msukisi Mooi.

The magistrate will deliver judgement on, April 7.

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Priests slam Saunders

ARCHBISHOP George Daniels of Pretoria and Professor Brian Gaybba of UNISA were among a group of theologians who slammed the nomination of Cliff Saunders for an award for his controversial documentary on Liberation Theology and SABC Television last year.

Mr Saunders has been nominated for an "Angel" award by a North American religious broadcasting body.

A statement by the theologians reads: "The so-called documentary produced by Cliff Saunders on Liberation theology merits no comment, only contempt.

However, as it has been put forward as a serious contender for merit awards and as it is undoubtedly the only knowledge many South Africans will have of Liberation Theology, we must point out its character as a biased presentation of a theology that the South African Government and the SABC obviously wish to discredit.

The theologians referred to the programme's "disgusting absence of objectivity" as well as "its blatant manipulation of viewers minds".

'We're with you all the way'

"WE are very heartsore about our son's situation but every time we visit him in jail we tell him: 'We are with you all the way Cecil'."

These are the words of Mr Jacob Esau of Worcester whose son Cecil is awaiting trial on charges of terrorism and furthering the aims of the African National Congress.

Cecil was detained in April last year, and held in solitary confinement until he was charged in October.

"For seven months we couldn't visit our son. We weren't even told where he was being held," Mr Esau said.

"Why did they have to keep him that long? If the police had a case against him, surely they could have charged him earlier."

"Cecil is very dear to his mother. Ever since he had polio as a child, she has treated him differently from our other children. She is closest to him".

Both Mr Esau, 67, and

his wife Maria, 73, suffer from ill-health. Both are pensioners and find it difficult to afford the expense of coming to Cape Town twice a week to visit their son.

"We attended his trial in Hermanus once, and had to hire a car to get us there. That cost more than R50," Mr Esau said.

"Our daughter June, who lives in Cape Town, comes to fetch us sometimes to visit Cecil at Pollsmoor. But we don't see him as often as we would like to".

High Spirits

"We were very pleased to see that Cecil's spirit is so high inside the jail. He may be weak physically but his character is very strong".

The Esau's are finding it difficult to cope alone with the stress of having a son in detention.

"A few people from the Detainees Parents Support Committee came to visit a few times, and the

Crisis Centre in Wynberg gave us financial support on one occasion."

"We are not asking for people to help us, as we must carry this burden alone, but we would appreciate it if someone could help us get to Pollsmoor more regularly to visit Cecil.

"All this worry is not very good for my wife. Every time she talks about Cecil she gets so upset that she has to lie down for a while. I am also a bit 'inmekaar'," Mr Esau said.

Mr Esau's daughter June, said she would do whatever she could to support Cecil and the 14 other accused.

"For more than six months we had no contact with our loved ones, since they were taken away in April last year."

"When we saw them for the first time we could see they were in good spirits but still we worry about them.

"Now we hear that they are on a hunger strike. This makes us worry even more, but we still stand by them until they win their demands."

CAROL - ONLY 18 BUT A VETERAN OF STRUGGLE

THE contribution made by our youth in the struggle is immeasurable.

Thousands of young people are involved in organisations and have borne the brunt of State repression.

One such person is Carol Moses, an 18 year old member of the Brighton Youth Congress in Oudtshoorn.

Carol has been detained four times in the past four years, and charged three times with attending illegal gatherings. She was only 14 years old when she went on trial for the first time.

She joined the student committee at Brighton High in 1983, after attending a meeting at the school, where she heard of Nelson Mandela for the first time.

"When I heard how long he had been on Robben Island, it inspired me to get involved," she said.

Carol was active in Cosas, the banned Congress of South African Students, and became involved in the anti-election campaign.

"We organised a joint programme with all the schools in Oudtshoorn and we were on our way

to the meeting when I was detained for the first time. "From the cells of the police station we could hear the students singing outside, and that kept me strong."

Carol was found guilty and given a five-year suspended sentence.

Between 1983 and 1986 she became involved in the UDF, the Oudtshoorn Resource and Advice Centre, the Women's Co-op, the Huurders Aksie Committee and working on the community newspaper Saamstaan.

During those years she was detained three times, and was held for two weeks on two occasions.

"The longest I was held was during the last State of Emergency. They kept me for eight months."

Carol was detained on June 11 1986 and kept for two months at a police station in De Rust and then transferred to George Prison.

"I was kept alone for the entire eight months," she said.

During that time she went on hunger strikes. It was the only way I could win any demands inside the prison. After the last hunger strike they gave me videos every weekend

and allowed me to write matric in prison."

Carol passed matric and is now studying at Khanya College in Cape Town where she is doing Sociology and Economics

"I want to find out how capitalism works. I want to know how people are exploited and why there is so much poverty in this country," she said.

"Being detained has not frightened me. I am now even more determined to continue the fight for a democratic South Africa."

Children feel their parents pain

PRESCHOOL children are badly affected by the detention of their parents, a University of Cape Town study has found.

Psychology honours student Mr Donald Skinner interviewed parents and guardians of 19 preschool children and told of the effects of the detention of their parents:

One little girl watched her father being assaulted in their home and saw him bleeding. She continually asked if her daddy's wound was going to heal.

One child was woken up at 2am and questioned by security policemen about his father's activities. He had nightmares for weeks and refused to leave the home.

A little boy ran into his house and hid whenever he saw members of the security forces.

Four children, from different homes, shar-

ed a similar nightmare involving a tall, dark man standing over their bed or coming toward their beds.

Four children insisted that their parents were dead.

A child of a detainee who was still being held after 92 days refused to allow any object of his fathers clothing to be touched or packed away.

A little girl of three became obsessive about studying and doing homework so as to avoid being detained.

Mr Skinner concluded after his study that preschool children experienced high levels of emotional problems following the detention of a parent.

"These problems are particularly related to separation anxiety and fear". Other consequences included physical problems, aggres-

sion, bedwetting and developmental problems," the research report stated.

Most of the children developed fears and phobias.

"Most of them were directed at the state security forces and other things associated with detention, such as loud knocking or white people," Mr Skinner said.

"Most of the children suffered from nightmares about detention.

"Some of them dreamt up well thought out plans to get back at 'P.W.' and the police.

"Most of them had very little idea of what a prison looked like, and visions of the place where their parent was being held ranged from small, dark rooms to dark vicious jungles."

Many of the children clung to their parents and did not want to be left alone

NATIONAL DETAINEES DAY . . . NATIONAL DETAINEES DAY



These women clearly show their solidarity with detainees at the National Detainees Day rally held in Bonteheuwel on March 15. Close to 3 000 people attended the rally.

DETENTIONS HIGHLIGHTED

ON Thursday March 12 South Africans from all walks of life fasted from sunrise to sunset to commemorate National Detainees Day.

Almost 30 000 people have been detained since the beginning of the second State of Emergency - more than 82 people a day.

The Repression Monitoring Group, which

keeps totals of people in detention said a "conservative estimate" of the number of detainees was 28 471.

Organisations throughout Cape Town organised meetings around National Detainees Day after 16 organisations, including the UDF, called on the public to commemorate the day.

4 000 students atten-

ded meetings at the University of Cape Town and the University of the Western Cape to protest against detention without trial.

In Bonteheuwel, Dr Allan Boesak and Sheikh Nazeem Mohammed addressed more than 2 000 people and called for the end to the system of detention without trial.

But the anguish and trauma of detention still continues.

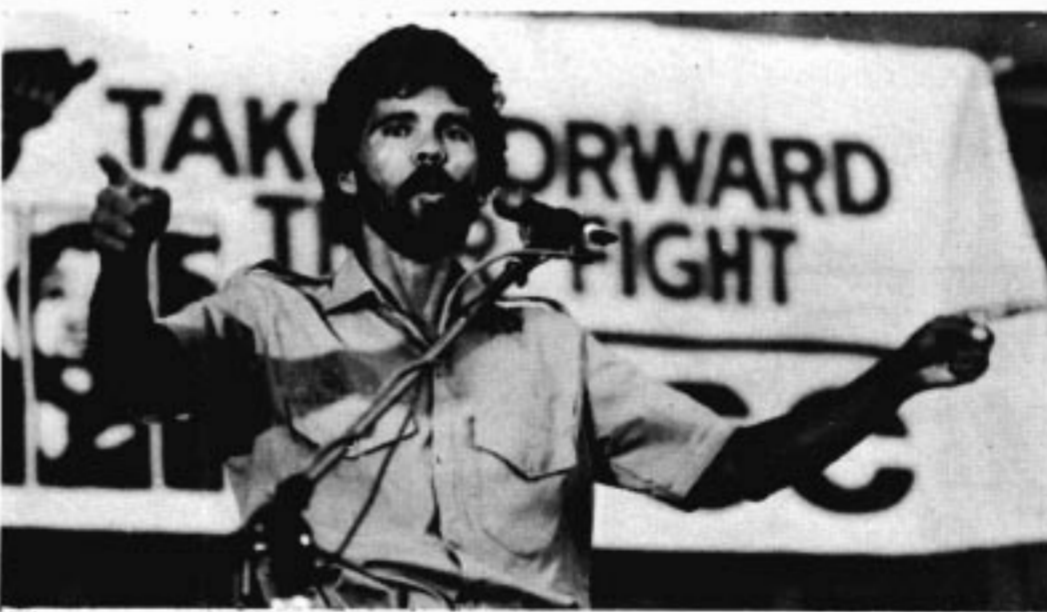
Mr Nabil Swart deputy principal at Alexander Sinton Secondary and his son Dehran were refused permission to attend their brother and uncle Edwin Swart's funeral on Saturday March 14.

More than 100 detainees at Victor Verster went on a hunger strike for more than two weeks in protest against their continued detention.

Families of the detainees on hunger strike held a vigil on March 6 to show their concern

Mr Roseberry Sonto, former president of the Cape Youth Congress, was also detained under the Emergency regulations.

A member of the Grassroots team, John Neels, a UWC student Melvyn Fourie and Miss Janap Fadal of Belgravia Estate were detained under Section 29



The reverend Chris Nissen addresses students at the University of Cape Town at a Detainees Day rally organised by the South African National Students Congress (Sansco) and the National Union of South African Students (Nusas).

COMMENT Elections a farce

THE excitement being whipped up around the forthcoming white elections is observed with cynicism and anger by the black community. Our people know that the elections mean nothing to us. It will not address the issues which have caused us so much misery and suffering. Unemployment will remain and become worse. The housing crisis will deepen. We will remain without a vote in the land of our birth.

The issues which continue to wreck our lives like gutter education, forced removals and army and police violence will not even be mentioned in the manifestos of the candidates representing their respective parties.

Our people are angered by the arrogance of those in power who still believe that they possess some God-given right to make important decisions on behalf of millions of us.

The United Democratic Front, in a major policy statement, said "In every sense the forthcoming election is a farce. It is a farce because the minority of South Africans will elect a parliament that will attempt to determine the future of the majority of South Africans."

It is a farce because it is neither free nor democratic. The election will take place under a state of emergency with police and army control. There is heavy censorship of press, an almost total information blackout and no freedom of association. Most white South Africans are the victims of state-promoted fear and ignorance.

Many of the large organisations of the people would agree with these words.

Grassroots, too, sees the election as no more than a farce which attempts to silence the real issue facing the people of this country.

The true question facing all South Africans is the complete and total dismantling of apartheid. The real issue is the establishment of a truly free, democratic and non-racial South African based on the will of the people.

This newspaper has been censored in terms of the emergency regulations.

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HOUSING TIME BOMB

THE housing shortage in the Western Cape, and throughout the country, is getting worse. And there appears to be no solution in sight. The country's housing crisis has been described as a time-bomb which could explode at any time. In some areas, the bomb has started to explode already. Decent housing has always been a demand of the oppressed people - along with jobs and higher wages. But like jobs and wages, housing has also been used as a powerful tool by the government and the bosses. Throughout the years, the movement and settlement of people have been determined by the cost, quality and availability of decent housing. And as artificial shortages were created in some instances, the cost of housing has systematically skyrocketed and the quality of housing steadily manipulated to suit political objectives.

Recently, a government official said there was a shortage of 334 000 homes for blacks in South Africa, while there were about 37 000 homes to spare for whites. The extra homes for whites could fill a town the size of Mitchell's Plain. Some experts have estimated that 400 houses a day will have to be built for the next 20 years to cope out the backlog. But while more houses are needed, the government

THE country's housing crisis is serious, very serious. But while millions are struggling to find a decent place to stay, the government does not see it as a priority. GRASSROOTS looks at some of the reasons for the housing shortage.

has decided to cut back on its funds for housing. In 1982, the then Minister of Community Development, Pini Kotea, split out the government's new housing policy. He said preference would be given to serviced plots, welfare plots, subsidised housing for the very poor and do-it-yourself housing schemes. People earning more than R150 a month would have to build their own houses, unless they were pensioners or disabled people. The government spends much more money on its army than it is prepared to spend on housing. It has been estimated that it could construct 220 000 units at a cost of R25 000 a unit from the money it used for the army every year.

But while the government is not too concerned about housing, big business is also to blame. Multinationals take billions of rands out of the country each year, money which could have been used on housing.

At the same time housing has become a multi-million rand industry, inspired by high profit motives, thus pushing decent housing out of reach of most workers. But the exploitation of housing by the government and big business has had other effects. Squatter camps have mushroomed in rural areas and high rents for cheap houses has become a major issue throughout the country. Government attempts to keep the cities white by not providing adequate housing for black workers, have failed. Attempts at formal removals have been resisted everywhere.

At the same time, communities throughout South Africa have started to challenge the payment of high rents for housing which was built with cheap labour and materials. The government has also used laws like the Group Areas Act based in hand with its housing policies. It has limited the availability of land and housing for blacks while boosting housing for whites. The government stepped up spending on white housing from R10-million in 1980 to R40-million in 1986. They spend R40-million on black housing in 1986.

It has become clear that the housing crisis can only be resolved once apartheid and exploitation has been eradicated.



A typical housing scene in Hout Bay where residents have decided to do something about the problem.

Hout Bay does something about overcrowding

THE creation of townships in Hout Bay last year did not come near to solving the housing crisis in the area. But one thing that it did show was that a lot can be achieved through unity and organisation. The people of the small fishing village for years struggled for decent housing and lower rents. They have been united under the banner of the Hout Bay Action Committee.

Mass meetings, petitions and delegations to the council are with little or no response. In 1985, the Action Committee had a meeting where they consulted people on the kind of houses they needed in the area. The people gave suggestions and decided to get their own architect to draw up plans.

The plans were drawn up and the people approved them. They were handed in to the council who agreed to erect the townships. Today the 87 townships at least provide some relief for the many families in Hout Bay. However, the housing situation still remains serious in the small area and the Hout Bay Action Committee plans to continue the struggle for houses, security and comfort for all. A spokesperson for the Action Committee recently told Grassroots that there was no room space for houses in the so-called coloured group area. He said the action committee was going to demand that houses be built outside the area.

City Council waiting list goes on forever

ANY family who applies for a rental house from the Cape Town City Council now is unlikely to ever get a house.

The Council has between 43 000 and 47 000 families on its housing waiting list. The situation has remained nearly stagnant for many years. The "community services" department (formerly Development Board) has a similar problem. A spokesman confirmed that there was a "very serious backlog in housing" in the townships they served, like Langa, Guguletu, Nyanga, Crossroads, Khayelitsha and townships in Paarl, Gans, Hermanns and Stellenbosch.

Both community services and the City Council do not seem to have any long-term solutions to the housing crisis. Much of what they can do depends on the money made available by the government. Community services are making steady advances where people can build their own houses, at Khayelitsha and Old Crossroads. They are also selling open sites to private developers who build houses "for the higher income group". But community services themselves are not building any houses.

The City Council has a number of small projects lined up. Five-hundred houses are being built in Mitchell's Plain, 307 in Hazwood Park, 220 in Pelican Park. There is also the possibility of a further 500 houses in Mitchell's Plain, 138 in Pelican Park and 139 in Kensington. The council is investigating the possibility of obtaining sites for 2 000 houses in Loversdel Hill and 1 300 houses in Mitchell's Plain. If all these plans materialise, it will still only make a small dent in the housing backlog. Because of the high cost of building nowadays, it is possible that the houses could work out as expensive, if not more than, the houses recently built in Bo-Kaap. Those houses have been rejected by the community as being too expensive.



Mrs Denise Peterson and her son in the little shack they used to live in until they got a council house. Just one victim of the serious housing crisis.

New parks and pavements . . .

IT IS difficult to move around Bontebruwel nowadays. Around every second corner, council workmen are busy, fixing potholes in the streets, painting railings in many bright colours and improving recreational facilities. But while the authorities are doing their best to make the area look bright and colourful, it is a totally different story behind the corrugated iron fences and inside the little match-box houses in Bontebruwel.

Here one still finds the story of doom and desperation. Stories of three families living in a one-bedroomed house are rare and increasing unemployment is taking a grip on the area. Bontebruwel is just one of the areas where the government's future plans for control over our people are beginning to be implemented. Very soon they hope to have structures called JMC's operating in all areas.

The public fret for this will be management committees with lots of powers and lots of our money. They will be given the responsibility of housing. The last place she lived was a small kannel-like shack - one metre by three metres - in somebody's backyard. Her furniture stood outside, some of it disappearing, others breaking to pieces. While she was trekking around with her eight-year-old son, Abela, she saw the council workmen upgrading the area. "Those thousands that they are spending there could have been used to build houses for people like me," she said. The Bontebruwel Advice Office agreed. "We do not have a problem with the upgrading of the township. There may be many things that need to be repaired," a BAO spokesman said. "But these upgrades are not because of the City Council's generosity. It is the result of bitter struggles since 1980, and even earlier. "Sell, the things they are doing are far removed from the people's real demands for housing, jobs and major facilities, like a day hospital. "They will not please the people with colourful railings and nice pavements, which have been planned by the JMC's," he said. Mrs Peterson eventually received a house from the council after much pressure from the advice office who contacted them almost every day. But while Mrs Peterson now has a house, there are more than 45 000 families like her throughout the Western Cape without houses. They will see the council workmen painting and filling potholes and they will ask: "But what about the houses?"

But where are the houses?

When the United Democratic Front was formed in 1983 Cahac and WCCA both made a major contribution. Today Mr Zola Mafico, an executive member of the WCCA is the president of the LICF, Western Cape. Withed Rhodes of Cahac is one of the vice-presidents. WCCA and Cahac continue the struggle for houses, security and comfort. Cahac affiliates opposed recent management committee elections in Athlone and Kennington. Tafelsg streets are filled with mud from a neighbouring building complex and residents complaints to the council had fallen on deaf ears. The meeting heard that Tafelsg had many problems. Many of the area's residents are unemployed and struggle to pay their rent.

CMC's rejected

THROUGHOUT the years, the government has tried to force many underclass structures on our people. And these have always been rejected. One of these is the so-called management committee. This is clear from the low polls they have - everytime there is a management committee election. Now the government has announced plans for the establishment of CMC's in six Western Cape areas - Mitchell's Plain, Woodstock, Retreat, Schotche Kloof, Walmer Estate and Sell River. CMC's in these areas would fall in line with the government plan for Regional Services Councils (RSC's) which would be "controlled" by its own local authority, who will see to housing and other needs. The RSC's will be headed by residents of these areas and the government hopes to implement the first one by July this year. Progressive civic groups have condemned the RSC's and the CMC's. The Cape Areas Housing Action Committee (CAHAC), which has 22 civic affiliates, said CMC's were undemocratic and racist. The 2,72 resident poll in the recent Athlone management committee election clearly indicated that the community rejected these puppet bodies, Cahac said.

The Mitchell's Plain Co-ordinating Committee (MPCC), which represents civic organisations in the area, said the government planned to stretch apartheid through the RSC's. "They have no interest in the community and are only concerned with strengthening their apartheid structure," the MPCC said. All affiliates of the MPCC issued separate statements condemning the CMC's and RSC's. The Rocklands Ratepayers Association said: "These committees have been rejected by other communities. They have never called for a lowering of rents, creation of jobs for the unemployed, seeing that there are enough halls and creches for the people, nor providing better transport facilities."

The Portland Action Committee said nobody could trust a body not chosen by the people. The Stellenberg, Kennington Housing Action Committee said: "Who is going to serve on these undemocratic structures? They will not serve the majority of the people but the apartheid system."

Community support for Cahac, WCCA

For the last six years, the Cape Areas Housing Action Committee (CAHAC) and the Western Cape Civic Association (WCCA) have been in the forefront of the struggle for houses, security and comfort. Cahac and WCCA have united thousands of people during the many campaigns against high rents, bad housing, forced removals and increases in business, food and other essential costs. The Western Cape Civic Association with the support of thousands of residents of Guguletu, Langa, Nyanga, Crossroads and the KTC squatter camp fiercely resisted the removal of people to Khayelitsha from their places of residence. WCCA has affiliates in Paarl and Worcester as well as Murrays and Elandsbosch. Cahac has affiliates in Mitchell's Plain, Stellenberg, Scottswood, Grassy Park, Bontebruwel, Elsie River and Hout Bay. Cahac campaigned vigorously for Rent we can afford after the Council announced yet another rent increase in 1981. This followed a maintenance campaign when the poor state of houses in the City and Divisional Council areas came under the spotlight.



Because of the housing shortage, squatter camps, like the one above, has become common in most areas throughout the country.

Tafelsg to form civic

A CIVIC organisation is to be formed soon in Tafelsg, a sub-economic area in Mitchell's Plain. A committee of volunteers has been asked to organise a public meeting soon to launch the civic. The meeting heard that Tafelsg had many problems. Many of the area's residents are unemployed and struggle to pay their rent.

When the United Democratic Front was formed in 1983 Cahac and WCCA both made a major contribution. Today Mr Zola Mafico, an executive member of the WCCA is the president of the LICF, Western Cape. Withed Rhodes of Cahac is one of the vice-presidents. WCCA and Cahac continue the struggle for houses, security and comfort. Cahac affiliates opposed recent management committee elections in Athlone and Kennington. Tafelsg streets are filled with mud from a neighbouring building complex and residents complaints to the council had fallen on deaf ears. The meeting heard that Tafelsg had many problems. Many of the area's residents are unemployed and struggle to pay their rent.

COMMENT Elections a farce

THE excitement being whipped up around the forthcoming white elections is observed with cynicism and anger by the black community. Our people know that the elections mean nothing to us. It will not address the issues which have caused us so much misery and suffering. Unemployment will remain and become worse. The housing crisis will deepen. We will remain without a vote in the land of our birth.

The ivory-tower continues to wreck our lives. The gutter education, forced removals and army and police violence will not even be mentioned in the manifestos of the candidates representing their respective parties.

Our people are angered by the arrogance of those in power who still believe that they possess some God-given right to make important decisions on behalf of millions of us.

The United Democratic Front, in a major policy statement, said: "In every sense the forthcoming election is a farce. It is a farce because the majority of South Africans will elect a parliament that will attempt to determine the future of the majority of South Africans."

It is a farce because it is neither free nor democratic. The elections will take place under a state of emergency with police and army control. There is heavy censorship of press, an almost total information block and no freedom of association. Most white South Africans are the victims of state-promoted fear and ignorance.

Many of the large organisations of the people would agree with these words.

Grassroots, too, sees the elections as no more than a farce which attempts to sidestep the real issue facing the people of this country.

The real issue facing all South Africans is the complete and total dismantling of apartheid. The real issue is the establishment of a truly free, democratic and non-racial South African based on the will of the people.

This newspaper has been censored in terms of the emergency regulations.

VACANCY

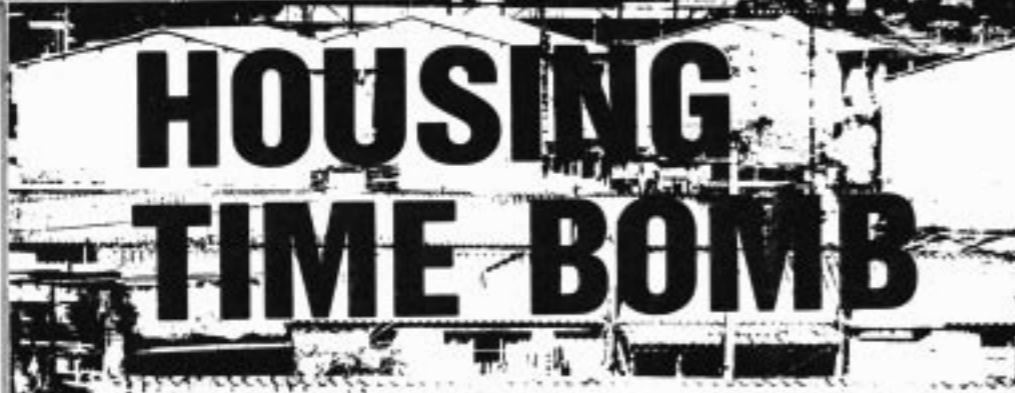
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HOUSING TIME BOMB

THE housing shortage in the Western Cape, and throughout the country, is getting worse. And there appears to be no solution in sight.

The country's housing crisis has been described as a time-bomb which could explode at any time. In some areas, the bomb has started to explode already.

Decent housing has always been a demand of the oppressed people - along with jobs and higher wages.

But like jobs and wages, housing has also been used as a powerful tool by the government and the bosses.

Throughout the years, the movement and settlement of people have been determined by the cost, quality and availability of decent housing.

And as artificial shortages were created in some instances, the cost of housing has systematically skyrocketed and the quality of housing skillfully manipulated to suit political objectives.

Recently, a government official said there was a shortage of 234 000 homes for blacks in South Africa, while there were about 37 000 houses to rent for whites.

The extra homes for whites could fill a town the size of Mitchell's Plain.

Some experts have estimated that 400 houses a day will have to be built for the next 20 years to wipe out the backlog.

But while more houses are needed, the government

THE country's housing crisis is serious, very serious. But while millions are struggling to find a decent place to stay, the government does not see it as a priority. GRASSROOTS looks at some of the reasons for the housing shortage.

has decided to cut back on its funds for housing.

In 1982, the then Minister of Community Development, Pen Kotze, spelt out the government's new housing policy. He said preference would be given to serviced plots, welfare plots, subsidised housing for the very poor and do-it-yourself housing schemes.

People earning more than R150 a month would have to build their own houses, unless they were pensioners or disabled people.

The government spends much more money on its army than it is prepared to spend on housing.

It has been estimated that it could construct 220 000 units at a cost of R25 000 a unit from the money it used for the army every year.

But while the government is not too concerned about housing, big business is also to blame. Multinationals take billions of rands out of the country each year, money which could have been used on housing.

At the same time housing has become a multi-million rand industry, inspired by high profit motives, thus pushing decent housing out of reach of most workers.

But the exploitation of housing by the government and big business has had other effects.

Squatter camps have mushroomed in many areas and high rents for cheap houses has become a major issue throughout the country.

Government attempts to keep the cities white by not providing adequate housing for black workers, have failed. Attempts at forced removals have been resisted everywhere.

At the same time, communities throughout South Africa have started to challenge the payment of high rents for housing which was built with cheap labour and materials.

The government has also used laws like the Group Areas Act (land in hand with its housing policies). It has limited the availability of land and housing for blacks while housing housing for whites.

The government stopped spending on white housing from R10-million in 1980 to R40-million in 1986. They spent R48-million on black housing in 1986.

It has become clear that the housing crisis can only be resolved once apartheid and exploitation has been eradicated.

City Council waiting list goes on forever

ANY family who applies for a rental house from the Cape Town City Council now is unlikely to ever get a house.

The Council has between 43 000 and 42 000 families on its housing waiting list. The situation has remained nearly stagnant for many years.

The "community services" department (formerly Development Board) has a similar problem.

A spokesman confirmed that there was a "very serious backlog in housing" in the townships they served, like Langa, Guguletu, Nyanga, Crossroads, Khayelitsha and townships in Paarl, Gerys, Hermanus and Stellenbosch.

Both community services and the City Council do not seem to have any long-term solutions to the housing crisis. Much of what they can do depends on the money made available by the government.

Community service are making stands available where people can build their own houses, at Khayelitsha and Old Crossroads. They are also selling open sites to private developers who build houses "for the higher income group". But community services themselves are not building any houses.

The City Council has a number of small projects lined up.

Five-hundred houses are being built in Mitchell's Plain, 107 in Hanover Park, 220 in Pelican Park.

There is also the possibility of a further 300 houses in Mitchell's Plain, 136 in Pelican Park and 139 in Kensington.

The council is investigating the possibility of obtaining sites for 2 000 houses in Lavender Hill and 1 300 houses in Mitchell's Plain.

If all these plans materialise, it will still only make a small dent in the housing backlog.

Because of the high cost of building nowadays, it is possible that the houses could work out as expensive, if not more than, the houses recently built in Bo-Kaap. Those houses have been rejected by the community as being too expensive.



A typical housing scene in Hout Bay where residents have decided to do something about the problem.

Hout Bay does something about overcrowding

THE erection of embankments in Hout Bay last year did not come near to solving the housing crisis in the area. But one thing that did show was that a lot can be achieved through unity and organisation.

The people of the small fishing village for years struggled for decent housing and lower rents. They have been united under the banner of the Hout Bay Action Committee.

Mass meetings, petitions and delegations to the council met with little or no response.

In 1985, the Action Committee had a meeting where they consulted people on the kind of houses they needed in the area.

The people gave suggestions and decided to get their own architect to draw up plans.

The plans were drawn up and the people approved them.

They were handed in to the council who agreed to erect the embankments.

Today the 87 embankments at least provide some relief for the many families in Hout Bay.

However, the housing situation still remains serious in the small area and the Hout Bay Action Committee plans to continue the struggle for houses, security and comfort for all.

A spokesperson for the Action Committee recently told Grassroots that there was no more space for houses in the so-called coloured group area.

He said the action committee was going to demand that houses be built outside the area.



Mrs Denise Petersen and her son in the little shack they used to live in until they got a council house. Just one victim of the serious housing crisis.

New parks and pavements . . .

IT IS difficult to care around Bonteheuwel nowadays.

Around every second corner, council workmen are busy, fixing potholes in the streets, painting railings in many bright colours and improving recreational facilities.

But while the authorities are doing their best to make the area look bright and colourful, it is a totally different story behind the corrugated iron fences and inside the little matchbox houses in Bonteheuwel.

Here one still finds the story of doom and desperation. Stories of three families living in a one-bedroom house are life and increasing unemployment is taking a grip on the area.

Bonteheuwel is just one of the areas where the government's future plans for control over our people are beginning to be implemented.

Very soon they hope to have squatters called JMC's operating in all areas.

The public front for this will be management committees with lots of powers and lots of our money.

They will be given the responsibility of housing.

But will they be able to do anything? Judging by what is happening in Bonteheuwel, the answer is No.

While they are taking our money and doing a little patching up, they will not be able to address the real issue, like housing and unemployment.

The story of Mrs Denise Petersen of Bonteheuwel illustrates the seriousness of the Western Cape's Housing problem.

Mrs Petersen lived in no less than 21 different places in the last four years.

She has lived in old dilapidated cars, people's

CMC's rejected

THROUGHOUT the years, the government has tried to force many undesirable structures on our people. And these have always been rejected.

One of these is the coloured management committee. This is clear from the low polls they have - everyone there is a management committee rejection.

New housing has announced plans for the establishment of CMC's in six Western Cape areas - Mitchell's Plain, Woodstock, Retreat, Subotiche Kloof, Walmer Estate and Salt River.

The Cape Area Housing Action Committee (CAHAC), which has 22 civic affiliates, said CMC's were undemocratic and racist.

The 2,72 percent poll in the recent Atteridgeville election clearly indicated that the community rejected these puppet bodies, Cahaw will.

The Mitchell's Plain Co-ordinating Committee (MPCC), which represents civic organisations in the area, said the government planned to establish CMC's by its own local authority, who will be interested in housing and other needs.

The RSC's will be headed by members of these areas and the government hopes to implement the first one by July this year.

Progressive civic groups have condemned the RSC's and the CMC's.

The Rocklands Ratepayers Association said: "These committees have been rejected by other communities. They have never called for a lowering of rents, creation of jobs for the unemployed, seeing that there are enough halls and crèches for the people, nor providing better transport facilities."

The Portland Action Committee said nobody could trust a body not chosen by the people.

The Stornberg, Retreat Housing Action Committee said: "Who is going to move on these undemocratic structures? They will not serve the majority of the people but the apartheid system."

Community support for Cahac, WCCA

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CAHAC campaigned vigorously for Rent we can afford after the Council announced yet another rent increase in 1985. This followed a maintenance campaign when the poor state of houses in the City and Divisional Council areas came under the spotlight.

When the United Democratic Front was formed in 1983 CAHAC and WCCA both made a major contribution.

Today Mr. Zoli Mafeni, an executive member of the WCCA is the president of the UDF, Western Cape. Wilfred Rhodes of CAHAC is one of the vice-presidents.

WCCA and CAHAC continue the struggle for houses, security and comfort.

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Bonteheuwel: 'JMC's don't fool us'

"THE whole society should praise the State President. He has brought them something good. It is no longer necessary for people to take the wrong way or to become radical".

This is what Major Kotze, chair of a local JMC structure in Bonteheuwel, said about the "reforms" initiated by the JMC's. But the people of Bonteheuwel do not agree. "Firstly, these reforms are meaningless" a Bonteheuwel resident said. "We have people living in cars

and chicken hoks because of the housing crisis. They come and fix up a few roads, and think the people are going to be satisfied with this.

"Secondly, the JMC's are, not there to help the people. They are concerned only with controlling us, and destroying democratic organisation. They only give us a few meaningless reforms because they think this will keep the people happy and stop resistance".

The Bonteheuwel organisations became aware

of the JMC structure in the area last year, when a teacher was asked to go to a meeting. He was not informed as to the nature of the meeting.

At the meeting, he found a Station Commander of Bishop Lavis police station (Major Kotze), several school principals, security police, businessmen, and the local Labour Party MP., Pat Mckenzie.

The teacher said that the meeting was shown videos of local schools, and was warned about so-

called "ANC nests" in the area. Principals were asked to report any grievances at the schools which could lead to "unrest". He said that the meeting also claimed it was going to "break the back of resistance" in the area.

One of the ways it tried to do this was by setting up a mobile police unit in Bonteheuwel. It also set up 24-hour police presence at some of the schools.

In addition, the JMC started a process of upgrading some of the

sports and recreational facilities.

The Bonteheuwel Advice office said that there had also been an attempt to evict them from their office.

"We received a letter from the Director of Housing, Mrs Mulder. She said that Pat Mackenzie and the police had written to her, claiming that "all the unrest was planned from the advice office" and she should evict us. However, she refused to evict us because we were well-be-

haved tenants and we paid our rent," Office workers told Grassroots.

"The Labour Party has claimed this upgrading as their victory. But we know the Labour Party means nothing in the area. They have never done anything for the people, and the people did not elect them in the first place.

"The government is only implementing reforms now because of the struggles of our organisations over the years.

"But we are not fooled

by these reforms. They cannot address the real grievances, such as lack of housing, unemployment, lack of the right to choose our own leaders, police repression, detentions and the whole apartheid system.

"The JMC's is a desperate attempt to break our unity and spirit. They haven't succeeded, and they won't succeed. The people are not idiots who can be manipulated like sheep" a Bonteheuwel resident said.

APARTHEID'S SECRET WEAPON

Recently, more and more disturbing facts are coming to light about the government's shadowy 'National Security Management System'. GRASSROOTS looks at some aspects of the NSMS.

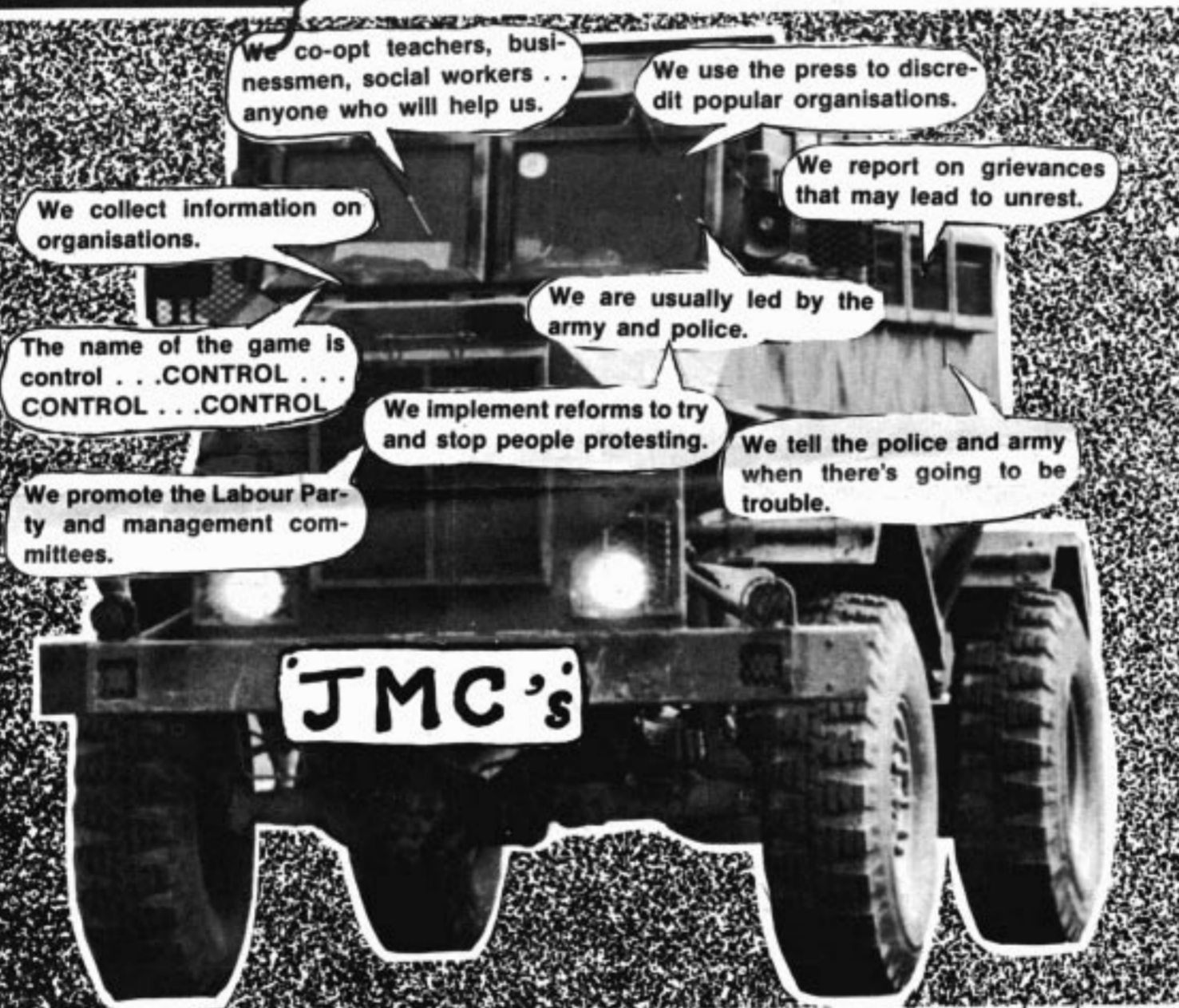
"To prevent (a) crisis, you will find the army, the police, and the JMC will co-operate" - SSC member.

It was a dark night in the country of Sad Aphrikah. A group of men sat around, talking in low voices, writing notes, tapping their fingers. They were dreaming up a plot to keep the people of their country enslaved.

"The army and police need more control" insisted General Mal Man. "They are the only ones who know how to control the people".

"True. But we can't just use repression," said the Leader, Botter, who was quite a clever chap. "We need to make people believe we care about their problems. We need to give them a few things - a new tennis court here, and electric light there - not much, but enough to keep them happy".

"We also need to promote our little dummy organisations, like the Labour Party, and the mismanagement committees," a junior officer said "They are rather useless, and the people don't seem to believe in them. We must do something to make them more attrac-



tive to the people - without giving them any real power of course" - he added hastily, seeing the others glare at him.

"And we must find ways of breaking this so-called United Democratic

Front" grumbled Mal Man. "Its ridiculous the way everyone supports it. It must be stopped".

The men talked and talked about this difficult task. But at last they came up with a master

plan - a plan that would co-ordinate all these activities from the government right down to every little town and village. And so the National Security System, and its sub-committees the Joint Manipulation Councils (JMC's), were born...

Sounds like a science fiction story? Perhaps. But it is not very different to the story of the real JMC's and National Security Management System (NSMS).

The NSMS is a huge, complicated network created by the South African government in a desperate attempt to stop the growing resistance of the people.

Before the NSMS, the government used repression and reform to control people, but the different departments worked separately. The NSMS meant that all the activities of government departments could be co-ordinated in a united ef-

fort to weaken the people's organisations.

The whole network is shady and secretive. It is not accountable to formal government structures, and it is not clear just what its powers are or who serves on the different structures.

At the head of the NSMS is the State Security Council, the SSC. This is chaired by the State President, and includes the Ministers of Defence, Justice, Police and other ministers.

Then there is the Work Committee of the SSC, the interdepartmental committees, the Joint Management Centres (JMC's) and the Sub-JMC's and mini-JMC's.

There are presently plus minus 11 JMC's, 60 sub-JMC's, and 448 mini-JMC's. Every JMC structure has three committees - the Joint Intelligence committee (GIK-Kom), which gathers information; the political,

'We'll try anything to stop protest'

THE following example, described by researcher James Selfe, shows how the JMC's work:

"The JMC's believed that the Atlantis Residents' Association (ARA) was creating a 'revolutionary climate' in Atlantis. They therefore decided to organise a counter strategy.

They organised food parcels for the hungry, and soccer tours. The communications committee organised pamphlets and newspaper articles, promoting the management committee and discrediting the ARA. And the PES Kom made sure that the management committee took the credit for the food parcels and soccer tours."

In addition, the GIK-kom would have collected information on individuals involved in organising the ARA. This information probably led to the detention of several ARA organisers.

The JMC's have been involved in thousands of other operations. A major operation was the attempt to break the nation-wide rent boycott late last year.

This operation included:

- Legal action against those who had'n't paid - especially tenants who were seen as "instigators" of the boycott.
- Encouraging employers to co-operate, and if possible deduct rent from the workers pay.
- Establishing police stations in each area to monitor and suppress political activity.
- Using the newspapers and radio to call for people to pay rent.
- Holding weekend camps for youth to encourage them to ask their parents to pay rent.

The JMC's have also been involved in a massive attempt to discredit progressive organisations through the media.

economic and social committee (PES-Kom) and the communications committee (KOM-kom).

All the chairmen of the JMC's are senior military or police officers. The other members may be policemen, school principals, civil servants and so on. They are not elected by anyone.

There is no denying a lot of influence is created by the military, because we military people are in the system and we are very proud of it' - NSMS official.

The JMC's work at the level of local areas. Their task is closely watch an area, note any issues that may cause "security" problems, monitor activities of organisations, promote local Labour Party MPs, management committees and so on.

The JMC's concern

themselves with anything that may be a security problem. A senior official explained how this works: "The lack of classrooms is not a security matter, but the lack of facilities can become a security problem. Nobody can tell a department to build a new school. But you can tell them if they don't, there is going to be a (security) problem".

Recently, the government has been streamlining the whole system to fit in with the State of Emergency. This will probably give it more power, and more ability to act on decisions.

The details of exactly how this system works are not clear. But what is clear is that the government has not succeeded. Even with this elaborate attempt to break the unity of our people, resistance continues in all areas. And will continue until our demands are won.

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CHILD ABUSE ON THE INCREASE

WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE:

This varies from children who are badly beaten for no real reason to children who are raped and ill-treated by parents.

Children are natural target for adults as they are physically weaker and unable to fight back.

Most abusers are known to the children - only a few cases are reported where a child has been abused by strangers.

HOW CAN YOU TELL IF A CHILD IS BEING ABUSED.

Sometimes the signs are clear. A child may come to school with

bruises which have not been picked up through normal play. Other cases are not as clear. Sometimes the child may become withdrawn and not laugh or play often. Schoolwork can be affected.

HOW DOES ABUSE AFFECT THE CHILD:

If a child has been abused at a very young age, she will be affected for the rest of her life. Children who are abused usually have learning problems and do not finish their schooling. These children feel different from their other

friends, who have not gone through the same experience as them.

Children can be physically injured. Their legs or arms are sometimes broken, and in cases of rape, develop venereal disease and other such ailments.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO HELP THESE CHILDREN:

Very few cases of child abuse are reported, especially if the child has been abused by a parent or relative. Sometimes, mothers cover up if their husbands abuse their children because they are scared

that he will walk out and leave the family if he is reported.

Other cases are picked up at school where a teacher notices a change in the child's behaviour or bruises and marks which have been caused by the abuse.

Most social welfare agencies and hospitals take up cases of child abuse.

Usually, the family is given an opportunity to sort out the problem through counselling, but if the offense is repeated the case is taken to court.

WOMEN BUILDING NATIONAL UNITY

ALL over South Africa women in organisation are discussing plans to launch a national womens federation later this year.

The federation will unite women from every corner of South Africa.

An exact date and venue for the formation of the national body has not yet been finalised.

For some time now, women in many parts of South Africa have expressed the need to build national unity. They say women need an organisation similar to the Federation of South Women (Fedsaw) which united women in the 1950's.

It is clear that the national organisation will follow in the proud tradition of Fedsaw.

Fedsaw led the struggles against the hated pass laws in the early 50's in the campaign which saw women defiantly burning their passes.

The organisation was led by working women, but Fedsaw organised women regardless of colour or class.

After a lull of many years, women again began organising during the last decade. Womens organisations played an important part in the formation of the United Democratic Front in August 1983.

The National women's structure that will be formed later this year will reflect the needs and aspirations of today's women.

A member of the United Women's Congress says: "Our national womens' structure will be a child of the 80's ready to face the challenges of Botha's repression and to build a non-racial and democratic South Africa where we can live together as new men and women in freedom, equality and harmony."

She said the new organisation will have to tackle crucial issues facing women like the troops in the townships, high food prices, high rents, no creches, rape and sexual harassment exclusion of women from leadership, lack of maternity leave and their children gutter education.

In the Western Cape women's organisations have made great strides towards unity. It is exactly a year since the United Womens Organisations and Womens Front united to form the United Women's Congress (UWCO).



Mrs Dorothy Zihlangu and Helen Joseph (on her left) were among the old stalwarts at the federations 30th anniversary in 1985. Left: a member of UWCO pays her final tribute at the funeral of Mrs Rose Mpetha last year.

Seven killed in Guguletu shootout remembered

ON March 3 last year seven young men were killed in a shootout with the South African Police in NY1 Guguletu.

They were John Zabonke Konile Christopher Piet, Themba Madiyane, Mandla Simon Mxinwa, Godfrey Jabulani Miya and Zola Alfred Swelani.

All were members of the Cape Youth Congress (Cayco).

Newspaper reports at the time suggested that they were ANC guerillas who were planning to attack a mini-bus carrying policemen on their way to work.

The killing of the seven shocked many people in the Western Cape and the rest of the country. About 40 000 people attended their funeral in Guguletu about two weeks after the shooting.

On March 3 this year, exactly a year after their death, members of the KTC branch of Cayco made requests to church ministers to ring church bells in remembrance of the seven.

Lights out

They also called on people in KTC to observe the day by lighting candles for the evening of March 3 as well as the following evening.

Members of Cayco in KTC told Grassroots that they had also planned a service and in addition to clean their comrades tombs but were unable to do so because of the state of emergency.

A Youth member said: "We asked the youth to wear black and khaki and put black armbands on

that day. We had to commemorate their death."

"We in Cayco, KTC branch say Their struggle is our struggle. We will continue to struggle."

After the incident the Cape Times quoted alleged eyewitnesses who claimed that one of the youths was shot while he was standing holding his hands in the air.

Another eyewitness alleged in the report that a policeman had walked up to an injured youth and shot him in the head at point blank range.

Charges in terms of section 27(b) of the police Act have been brought against the journalist who wrote the article.

An inquest magistrate found that no-one was to blame for their deaths.

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CHAMPS OF CHAMPS



Athletes battle it out in the girls over 17 relay event.



Western Province Senior Schools Sports Union (WPSSSU) officials were on the ball and ensured that the days events went off smoothly.

A VICTORY FOR SPORT



Competitors in the boys over 17 3000m final prepare for the final lap in the gruelling seven-and-a-half lap event.

The starter fires his gun and the runners thunder down the straight. Determination is written all over their faces. The crowd leaps up and cheers, shouting their encouragement.

The excitement which sweeps through the 15 000 crowd at the Athlone Stadium is breathtaking. The event? The Champs of Champs of course.

On Saturday 21 March more than 1 200 athletes representing 90 schools in the Cape Peninsula and parts of Boland competed at the

champs of champs. The spectators who jammed into the Athlone Stadium were treated to Athletics of a very high standard.

Three new records were established, two in the girls high jump and one in the boys under 15 discus event.

Tania Brown undoubtedly provided the meeting's highlight when she set a new girls under 15 high jump record, clearing the bar at 1,66m. Her jump was the highest ever in any age group, including the girls open.

Mitchells Plain schools like Westridge and Mondale did well through-

out the day while schools like Livingstone, Steenberg, Ravensmead, Belgravia, Sinton and Heathfield featured prominently.

Events ran smoothly - a tribute to the organisers of the Western Province S.S.S. Union.

But the final tribute should go to the athletes themselves who ensured that the champs was a victory to sport.

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Tania Brown of Marian High set a new high jump record.



In the boys under 17 relay event, there was a titanic battle for honours between Belhar and Livingstone. Belhar narrowly beat Livingstone to the post.

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