

NON - PROFIT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

grassroots

THE PAPER ABOUT YOU Vol. 8 No. 7 Sept. 1987 FREE

This newspaper has been censored in terms of the emergency regulations

STATEMENTS IN PARLIAMENT: ORGANISATIONS RESPOND

BONTEHEUWEL organisations affiliated to the UDF have reacted strongly to Adriaan Vlok and Peter McKenzie's statement in parliament that "radicals in the area have made it unmanageable".

Peter McKenzie, MP for Bonteheuwel, said it was a known fact that the ANC was trying to make Bonteheuwel highly politicized.

"It is the conditions in Bonteheuwel that make people radical. The high unemployment, the housing crisis - these things make people aware, not us", said a spokesman for the UDF area committee.

"During the past two-and-a-half years our community has been harassed constantly by the police.

"Young people have been persecuted. Some have not slept at home for more than two years.

He said that the harassment had an effect on the entire community.

He slammed Peter McKenzie for speaking on behalf of the Bonteheuwel community.

Nine percent of the registered voters voted for him in the 1984 elections.

"If Peter McKenzie is such a great leader why is he too scared to walk from one corner to another in Bonteheuwel", the spokesman said.

"We never see him in the township. He has no right to speak about anything happening in Bonteheuwel.

He said after the death of Ashley Kriel, McKenzie sent a letter of condolence to Ashley's mother in which he called him a "hero" and a "martyr".

"And yet it is a known fact that Ashley was a member of the ANC".

Another Bonteheuwel activist who helped organise the Ashley Kriel fune-

ral slammed Adriaan Vlok's allegation that the funeral was taken over by "Kerels".

"It is all lies. At the first service at the New Apostolic Church someone overheard certain persons saying that they were going to steal the coffin and take it straight to the cemetery".

"We had to virtually take the coffin and run down the road with it", the activist said.

He said police fired teargas at the mourners and this was the only reason why Mrs Kriel did not attend the second service.

"Mrs Kriel has a heart condition and she was afraid that the police would fire teargas again - which they did."

"They (the police) were the only reason why she did not attend the second service, not us.



Thousands of Bonteheuwel residents attended the funeral of ANC member Ashley Kriel who was shot by police in Athlone on July 9.



These residents went to the Manenberg rent office on September 1 to object about the latest rent increases.

AS anger and resistance to high rents spreads through townships in the Western Cape, many people have vowed not to pay the recent increases.

Residents of Manenberg, Heideveld, Hanover Park and Bonteheuwel have held regular meetings to discuss what they must do about the crippling increases.

Meanwhile in the New Crossroads area, the rent boycott has now entered its third year, having started in the first half of 1985.

On Tuesday 1 September, 50 tenants turned up together at the Manenberg rent office and paid the old rent. They had decided at a mass meeting about two weeks before that they would not pay the increased rents.

A spokesperson for the Manenberg Action Committee told Grassroots:

RENTS SHAME

"A lot of people did not pay their rent increases today. People are angry because rent has gone up for the second time in one year. Putting up the rent is a direct attack on the living standards of our people."

6 000 residents of Manenberg have signed a petition calling for the increases to be scrapped. An unemployed man, who identified himself as Mr

Applegreen, said: "I did not pay rent yet this month. I am unemployed and have to collect cardboard and plastic so that I can pay my rent. How can I still afford to pay the increase."

At the rent office housewife Mrs Du Preez said: "Today I am just paying R2 because I cannot afford more". Another housewife Marie le Fleur told Grassroots: "I

have lived in my house for six years. It is very wet. I have complained many times but they do nothing about it. They don't maintain the houses by they expect us to pay the increases. I am not paying the increases. I am very sorry."

The residents are determined to oppose the increases and continue the struggle for "rents we can afford".

3 000 attend Lawaaiikamp service

THOUSANDS of people from the Southern Cape streamed in to George earlier this month to attend a prayer service conducted by the Archbishop of Cape Town, the Reverend Desmond Tutu.

About 3000 people from areas like Oudtshoorn, Mossel Bay, Knysna, Plettenberg Bay and George packed the St Paul's Anglican Church in Conville to listen to the Archbishop as well as speakers from UDF affiliated organisations.

The rainy weather did not keep people away from the first gathering since the declaration of the state of emergency in June last year.

The service was an indication that the spirit of resistance to the evil system of apartheid was very much alive in the Southern Cape.

The service was organised by the South Cape Council of Churches for the community of Lawaaiikamp which has been threatened by removal for more than two years now.

Archbishop Tutu sharply criticised the Government for moving people around "like sacks of potatoes".

Prayers were also offered for four young men from Bhongoletu in Oudtshoorn who are currently on death row. They are Dickson Madikane, Patrick Magida, Desmond Majola and Michael Lucas.

Police kept a close watch on the service and policemen followed Archbishop Tutu



Archbishop Desmond Tutu

when he travelled from George to Oudtshoorn.

The residents of Lawaaiikamp have bravely resisted attempts by the Government to move them to the nearby township of Sandkraal.

They have received strong support from organisations in rural towns as well as in the cities. The residents have consistently stated that they cannot agree to move from one slum to another.

Workers tell their story

FOR MORE THAN A MONTH NOW, 600 WORKERS FROM THE SPEKENAM FACTORY IN STIKLAND HAVE BEEN ON STRIKE FOR HIGHER WAGES. THEY HAVE BEEN MEETING AT THE NG SENDINGKERK HALL IN BELLVILLE DAILY BETWEEN 8.30 am and 5.00 pm.

GRASSROOTS VISITED THE WORKERS AT THE CHURCH AND ASKED THEM TO TELL THEIR STORY. THE WORKERS GOT TOGETHER IN GROUPS AND WROTE DOWN THEIR FEELING ON PAPER.

ON THIS PAGE THEY WRITE OF THEIR HARDSHIP AND SUFFERING. THEY TELL THEIR OWN STORY - IN THEIR OWN WORDS.



Some of the 600 workers who have been on strike for more than a month stand outside the church hall in Bellville.

'AL DIE JARE SE GESUKKEL EN GESWOEG'

'N GROEP werkers verduidelik hier hoe die staking begin het:

"Deur al die jare se gesukkel en geswoeg met lae lone by Spekenam het ons later besluit om die unie in te roep. Dit het moeilik gegaan maar ons werkers het saam gestaan.

Die base was hard en het hard geprobeer om terug te baklei. Op Woensdag 5 Augustus het ons net mooi genoeg gehad en besluit om tot aksie oor te gaan.

Donderdag 6 Augustus het die base besluit hulle is ook moeg vir ons want dit was al ons sewende staking en ons almal afge-

dank. Ons het ons eger nie gesteur aan die afdankery nie en besluit om op die perseel te slaap.

Die base het toe ons planne gesien en besluit om die polisie in te roep.

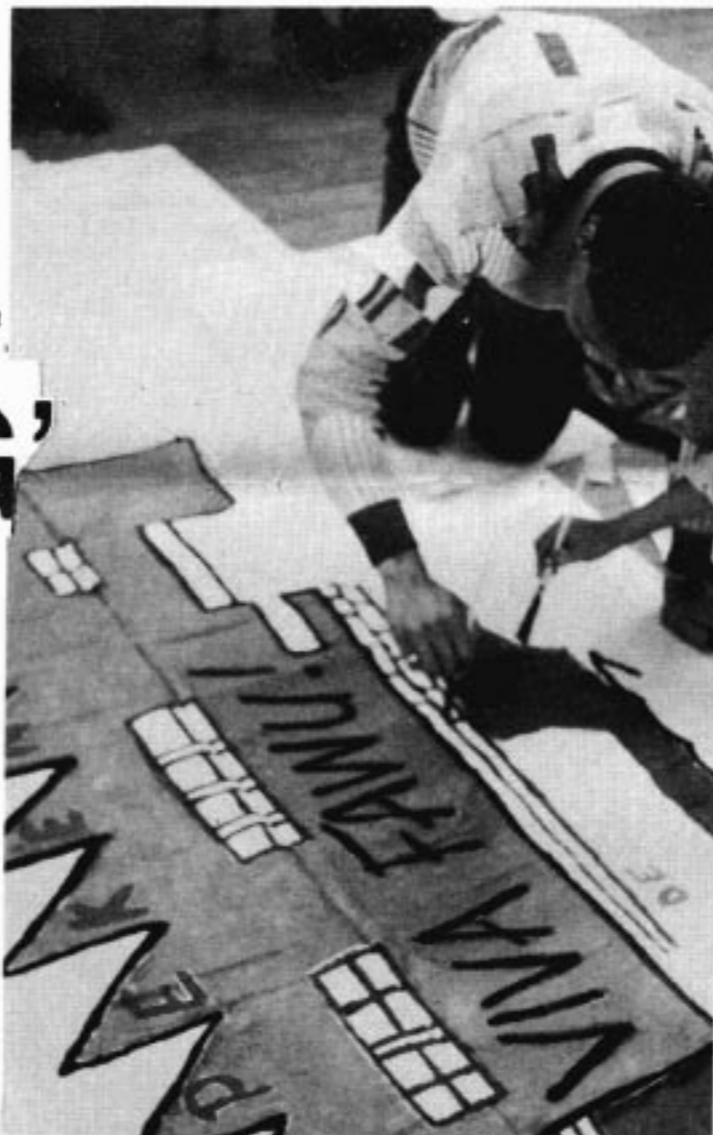
Hulle het ons met traangas bestook en met sjambokke uiteengejaag. Vrydag 7 Augustus het ons in Bellville-Suid NG Sendingkerk Saal byeengekom waar ons vandag nog is. Ons staan nog steeds saam en Cosatu veg vir ons".

'n Ander groep verduidelik dat die werkers vroer hierdie jaar 'n klein verhoging gekry het. Hul-

le sê dat die base onderneem het om in Julie oor 'n verdere verhoging met Fawu te onderhandel.

Hulle sê dat die base toe besluit het om nie met die unie te onderhandel nie en toe het hulle gestaak. Die groep skryf:

"Daar is baie mense wie vir die firma langer as 20 jaar werk. Die base wys geen respek vir hardwerkende mense nie... Die fabriek staan oor die 30 jaar en hulle is ryk. Hulle kan ons 'n leefbare salaris gee".



The painting of banners was one of the activities of the Spekenam workers at the N G Sendingkerk Hall.

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

THE strike at Spekenam is very similar to a strike at exactly the same factory 30 years ago. In October 1957, a four-week strike began at Spekenam in Stikland. 200 workers demanded higher wages and improved living conditions.

Management fired the workers. After four weeks, they could not recruit enough scabs, and the workers were reinstated. Although they did not win their demands immediately, their wages increased soon after.

The strike was organised by the Food and Canning Workers Union, the parent of FAWU. The strike formed part of the great "Pound a Day" campaign launched by SACTU, in which workers around the country took up the struggle for a living wage. Today's strike is being fought in the midst of COSATU's Living Wage Campaign.

The 1957 strike was a milestone for the non-racial struggle of the workers in

Cape Town - Coloured and African workers stood together in an unbreakable unity. Today once again, the Spekenam workers are demonstrating the principles of non-racial worker's unity.

Today the UDF has come out in full support of the Spekenam strikers. In 1957, the Congress Movement sent a delegation to management to demand that they meet the workers demands.

The delegation was led by Zollie Malindi, Secretary of the ANC in Cape Town - he is being held under the Emergency regulations at Victor Verster prison.

Today, the trade union movement and the democratic movement as a whole is far stronger than in 1957. The workers are confident of victory. And more important, we can say with confidence that the next generation of Spekenam workers will not have to suffer and sacrifice to earn a living wage.

Hoe kan 'n mens met R70 uitkom?

'N GROEP van vyf Spekenam werkers het gesamentlik die volgende geskryf.

"Ons salaris was R46 voordat ons in die unie gekom het. Nou is ons salaris R70. Ons moet ten minste R150 'n week verdien om van te lewe. Hoe is dit moontlik om met R70 'n week uit te kom. Hulle trek polis, busfare, tax, UIF af. Hulle wil boonop hê dat ons medies en pensioen moet join. As hulle alles moet aftrek, wat bly dan oor? Die rent moet betaal word plus lektriek, meubels, groceries en water.

My hele lewens loopbaan handel oor 'n bekommernis oor geld. Die kinders wil klere hê, naweek geld en skoolgeld." Een van die werkers van die groep skryf: "Ek is 'n border. Kom van die country. Ek moet vir my ouers geld stuur. Ek moet R30 'n week bord betaal en ek moet geld vir myself het. Ek kan dit nie afford nie".

The bosses don't like the union'

ONE group of workers wrote about their low wages and the importance of joining a union.

This is what they put down in writing:

"We joined the union because the bosses paid little money. We were paid only R47 per week before we joined the Food and Allied Workers Union (FAWU). Tell us what you can do with R47 per week? We must pay rents, buy food and clothes and also have families to support. The bosses do not like the union because they do not want

to pay people. They treat people like slaves. After we joined the union our wages went up to R70 per week. The bosses say the union is an enemy to them. They want to fill their pockets. They do not care about the workers.

They don't care even if you drink water and eat nothing as long as you come to work.

The only people they care for are the white workers. The only people responsible for violence in this country is Mr Botha and his colleagues in their Parliament.

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Support the Spekenam workers: Come to the Gumba organised by the UDF, Cape Town Region. Woodstock Town Hall. Friday 18 September, 8 till late... Admission R3 Live bands.

DETAINEES 'DISAPPEAR'

"THE worst thing about Section 29 is you don't know where your people are. They just disappear after they are detained", said the mother of David Fortuin, detained on August 23.

David, 22, of Elsie's River, is an apprentice engineer on an Irvin and Johnson ship.

He was detained at sea as the ship was leaving Table Bay harbour.

"We didn't even know until hours later that he was detained," his mother said.

"We don't know where he is being held."

David's brother-in-law Walter Rhooode was also detained two weeks earlier.

"Walter's two-year-old son Charles keeps asking us where his daddy is", said Mrs Fortuin.

"It is very unfair on the child to have his father taken away like that".

"We are just waiting patiently to see what happens", said Mrs Dora Scott whose son Leon has been in detention for two months.

Leon, 28, of Bonteheuwel, is a teacher at Lotus River Senior Secondary School.

"There is no information on Section 29 detainees", said Mrs Scott. "We don't know where they are held, if they are comfortable or if they are being treated well".

"All we can do is wait". Mrs Scott said her family has been strengthened by the support of the community.

"People are coming in and out of our house all the time", she said.

There are 21 Section 29 detainees in Cape Town at present.

They are: Ashraaf Karriem, Colin Petersen, David Fortuin, Patricia Smit, Niklo Pedro, Yasmina Pandy, Zuraya Abbas, Colleen Lombaard, Wal-

ter Rhooode, Anwar Dramat, Jeremy Veaney, Clement Baatjies, Nazeem Lowe, Karima Semaar, Donovan Jurgens, Leon Scott, Peter Jacobs, Vusuzi Nduwi, Mike Norton, Farida Khan and Ashley Forbes.

We want houses, not tents

ON the 25th of August KTC residents called a meeting to discuss the SADF tents that were erected in the open space near the squatter camp.

The people were very angry as no one knew who erected the SADF tents and why. After a long discussion the residents decided that the women should march to the Rent Office in Guguletu to inquire about the tents and demand houses.

The following day the women marched to the rent office and demanded houses and the removal of the SADF tents. When they met with the Board officials they were told that there is about R5,5m waiting for upgrading KTC and building houses

When they asked the board officials about the SADF tents they were told that the board requested the tents from the SADF because the people's houses were flooded with water from the rains.

The women's reply to

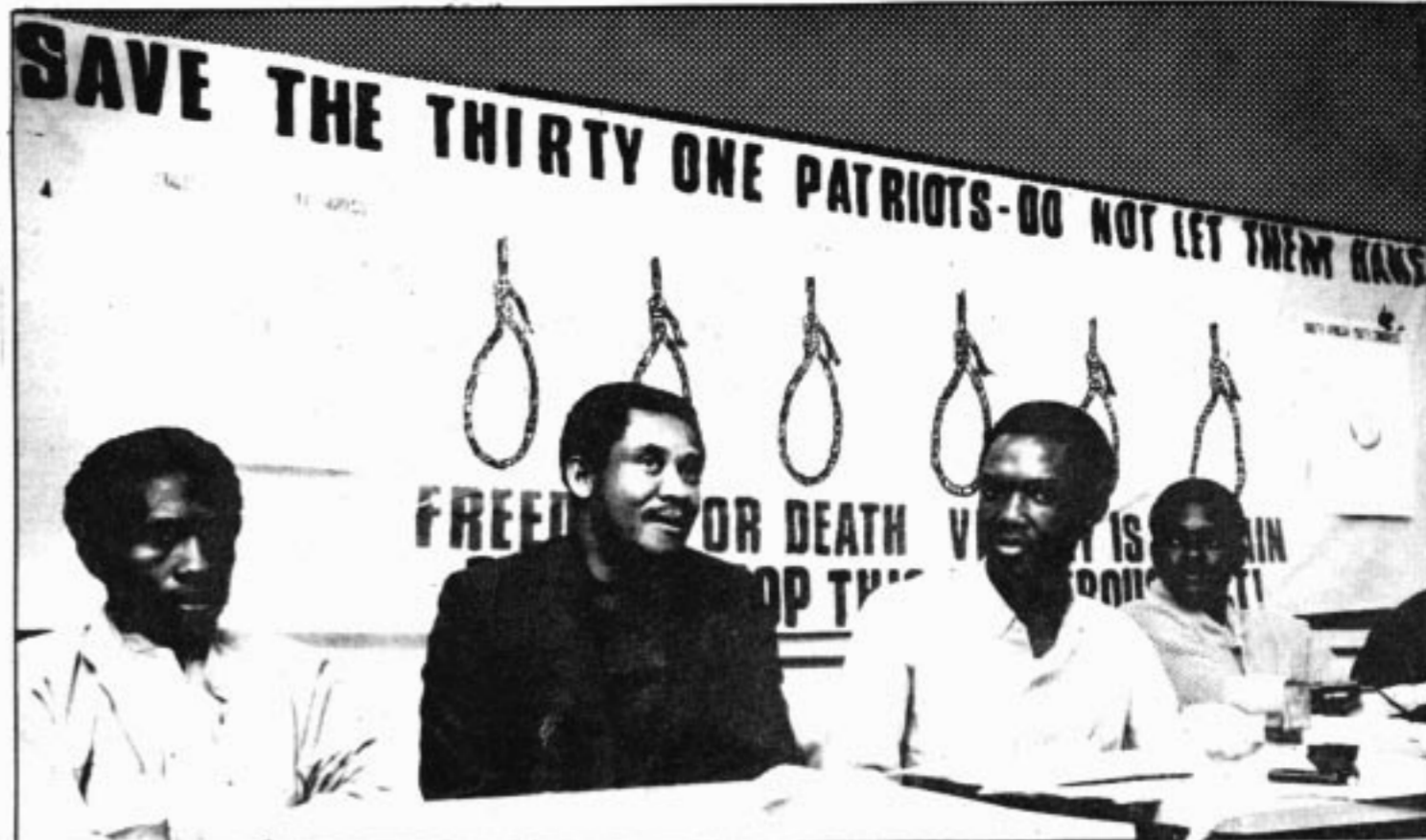
this was that proper houses must be built. The Board agreed to remove the tents. The following day all the tents were removed.

Since 1983 the people of KTC have stood together in their struggle to get houses. Men, women and children decided to squat in an open space and demanded houses.

In one united voice they stood by those who were supposed to be there "illegally". They were detained and charged for failing to produce their passes and some for squatting illegally.

After a long bitter struggle they won when they were given sites to erect their own shacks. They were promised that after three years houses would be built for them.

Scores of homeless people moved in to fill the remaining space during 1985 and 1986. Up to May 1986 there were about 20,000 families occupying KTC when many shacks were burnt by the "witdoeke".



There is a campaign to save the lives of those on death row. Here members of the National Union of Mineworkers, Sayco and the NECC address a press conference in Johannesburg.

Hangings continue despite appeals

DESPITE appeals from organisations inside and outside South Africa two young men were hanged in Pretoria last week for politically inspired offenses.

Hours later two more were sentenced to death for killing a policeman in Atteridgeville.

There are now 32 men and one woman on death row, awaiting execution.

Theresa Ramashamola, 32, of Kagiso, was sentenced to death after she was found guilty of the murder of a community councillor in Sharpeville in 1984.

She will be the first woman to hang for a political crime in South Africa.

Robert MacBride, convicted for his role in the Magoos Bar blast in Durban is the first coloured to be sentenced to death for terrorism.

During his trial he was described as a "soldier fighting for his people."

The South African Youth Congress, the

UDF, Cosatu, the NECC the Release Mandela Campaign and various other organisations have joined forces to form the "Save the 33 campaigns".

The campaign will be conducted worldwide in an effort to save their lives.

Last month 3 600 people signed a petition in Norway calling for amnesty for the Sharpeville six.

European governments have sent messages to Pik

Botha appealing to the government not to carry out the death sentences.

The save the 33 campaign is calling on the government to recognise the Geneva Convention which classifies members of liberation movements as prisoners of war.

In terms of the convention prisoners of war cannot be executed.

Federation launched

THE Federation of South African Women was relaunched in the Western Cape on August 27.

The organisation was first launched on April 4 1954, but could not continue with its work after the crackdown on organisations in the 1960's.

The national relaunch of FedSaw will happen in the near future with the Western Cape launch following the launching of the Federation of Transvaal Women (Fedtraw) in December 1985.

At the launch conference, Rape Crisis, The United Women's Congress (UWCO), Women's movement for Peace, the West Coast Women's Congress and the South Cape Women's Congress affiliated to FedSaw.

Mama Zihlangu, a FedSaw mem-

ber since 1954, was elected president of the Western Cape FedSaw.

"Womens organisations provide training ground for activists," said, Mama Zihlangu.

"Men's values have been shaped by society. And because of their socialisation women do not have lots of skills".

FedSaw intends embarking on a "Defend our Children" campaign and will link up with Cayco, the NECC and the UDF in the Save the 33 campaign.

Nozizwe Mdlala of the Natal Organisation of Women, Ivy Gcina of the Port Elizabeth Womens Organisation, Sister Barnard Ncube of Fedtraw and Noma India Mfeko of UWCO are all being held under the emergency regulations.

Build organisation - UDF executive

THE building and strengthening of mass based organisations is one of the important tasks facing the United Democratic Front.

This was the message from the executive of the UDF in the Western Cape to the organisations thousands of followers, activists and affiliate organisations.

A spokesperson for the executive said in an interview that the immediate tasks facing the UDF currently "are summed up in the watchword Defend, Consolidate, Advance".

"Ultimately this means organisation and more organisation. We are concentrating on building strong organisation at Grassroots level which operate democratically on the basis of accountability to membership.

"We have also adopted the

Freedom Charter which raises the struggle of the UDF to a new level. So, hand in hand with organisation goes politicisation.

The UDF is consciously encouraging affiliates to strengthen decision-making processes. The front does not dictate to its affiliates. It is the other way around."

The executive said that while we try to strengthen democracy in our organisation we should also build democracy in the struggle generally.

"All organisations in the democratic movement have the right to compete for the support of the people. It is the mass struggles of our time which will determine which organisation or organisations represent the people.

We respect the right of other

organisations to exist, to operate in the communities, to hold meetings without interference. We demand for them the same right as we demand for ourselves." Asked what the UDF executive's assessment was on the massive turnout of supporters at the four year birthday rally, the executive member said "We are not getting starry-eyed about it. We were however pleased at the massive turnout. This was despite the fact that many people had problems with transport.

Taking into account the very repressive conditions in which we are working and that a major part of our leadership is in prison and many activists driven out of the township, it was a major achievement. It indicates massive support for the front".



Even the stage was crowded at the UDF birthday rally. Seated are some of the speakers who addressed the rally. They are: (left to right) UDF Western Cape vice-president Mr Joseph Marks who chaired the meeting, Moulana Faried Esack of the Call of Islam, a SWAPO speaker and Jay Naidoo, Cosatu secretary.

grassroots comment

The truth the whole truth . . .

THE recent regulations in terms of which newspapers can be licensed for a period of three months is shocking, to say the least.

The Government has dropped any pretence of press freedom by introducing these measures. We must always remember that the regulations are not the first. They are to be added to a long list of press laws and emergency regulations which already govern this country's media.

The victims of such laws will of course not be the publications or newspapers who have come out in support of the Government. The laws are clearly aimed at publications which have consistently exposed the evils of injustices of apartheid. Newspapers, like Grassroots which has always articulated the need for democracy - not minority rule, for unity - not the divisions brought upon by decades of apartheid rule.

We in Grassroots believe that we are, and have always, reported in a responsible manner. We would reject any allegation that as part of the alternative media we are involved in a campaign to create a revolutionary climate.

For the purposes of reporting we have adopted a very simple guideline - the truth. When we say people are unemployed - it is the truth.

When we say our workers are exploited - we know it is the truth. When we say our people cannot afford the reasonable costs, it is that not true?

What then should we do but continue to write the truth.

Already we have had to water down our paper because of the Government's many press laws.

But whatever laws they make, whether they last as for 3 months or close down completely, this will not destroy the ideas and values we strive for. The truth cannot be destroyed.

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Incwadi yokucela umsebenzi kufanele ibonakalise:

- amava kumsebenzi woshicilelo okanye umla okufundisi ngoshicilelo.
- okuzingisa nokushicilela.
- kufanele azimisele ukusebenza amawesha amancinci okanye abesebenze nangempela-veleli.
- akwazi ukuziphatha nokuziphatha.

Shula incwadi wote umsebenzi usabelele amava akho, nembuzo owatho wakomo okanye okusizo kwakho. Nceda usikele amagama, idilesi, izimbalo yemifanekiso nokanye kanye nabantu ababizi abanokuncinane. Bhatela ku Nqobela, Eric, Bika Station Road, Observatory. Usuku lokugobela lukhulwa ngowe - 15 September 1987.



This is a common sight at mines throughout the country.

When life becomes an endless misery

"WHEN I go home at the end of the year my children do not recognize me as their father.

"I spend three weeks getting to know them and then I have to leave again to go back to the mines".

These are the words of a mineworker who was forced to leave his family behind in the townships and go to the mines to earn money.

"My children only know my wife. I have no say in bringing them up. They respect her more than they respect me".

There is no work in the townships. Every year thousands of miners trek to the cities in search of work, leaving their families to scratch out a living from the barren soil.

"Our salaries are very low - but it is better than starving at home".

Most miners working underground earn between R180 to R200 a month. R140 is deducted from their wages for board and lodging in the mine hostels.

"R140 is a lot of money. We live like animals here. In the compounds there are hundreds of men crammed into small quarters which are only big enough for half of us to live in".

"The food is terrible. We only get two meals a day. In the morning before we go down we get watery porridge, bread and tea. Lunch is bannocks, pap or samp and soup. We don't get any supper. But at night we are too tired to eat. We just fall on our beds and sleep.

Mine workers have dangerous working conditions with no workmen's compensation.



A policeman stands guard at a mine in Carltonville.

"There has to be a big accident and workers have to die before the bosses pay compensation.

"Sometimes we have to go down more than four kilometers underground and work in places which is only one metre high.

"When we are injured the bosses don't care about us any more. We get sent home with a little money even though we can never work again".

Once workers are employed by the mines there is little room for self-improvement.

"Our salaries are never enough to keep up with the cost of living.

"When white men come to work on the mines they drive smart cars after working here for only a few months. I have never earned enough money to buy a car. The bosses are getting richer and richer and we are getting poorer.

"We cannot go on like this. My family can't survive on R50 a month.

"We want better salaries. We work for nine-and-a-half hours every day in the most dangerous jobs.

"If I don't earn enough money to give my children a decent education they will also end up on the mines one day. And I don't want that to happen".

PROFITS BEFORE SAFETY

MINERS face extreme dangers underground. Tens of thousands of miners have perished while digging for gold and diamonds beneath the earth.

Only days after the end of the last months strike 72 miners died when there was a massive explosion at a gold mine in Welkom in the Free State.

In September last year, 177 miners died and hundreds more were injured in one of the most mining accidents in South African history.

The Klerks mine disaster focused international attention on safety standards on South African mines and the nature of compensation for accident victims on the mines.

Families of the victims were paid out according to the miners' salaries, but because of the mines' racist policies, white miners' families, the National Union of Mineworkers said at the time.

Cyril Ramaphosa, NUM's general secretary said: "We believe that this accident could have been avoided. It was completely unnecessary."

It has become clear over the years that the mine bosses put profits above the safety of the workers.

The bosses don't value the lives of the workers. The apartheid system has caused high unemployment which means that there are many more workers to take the place of those who have died, been fired or retired.

POVERTY IS THEIR REWARD

The story of South African miners



Oppenheimer - lives like a king while his workers suffer.

THE massive strike by well over 200 000 miners which ended after 27 days last month, put the spotlight on the most exploited and oppressed workers in South Africa.

While the mine bosses were trying to focus on side issues, like violence on the mines and death benefit schemes the real problem was clear to most South Africans.

Mineworkers are earning slave wages and apartheid capitalism has brought nothing but hardship, suffering and tragedy for the miners and their families.

In the past few months many miners have spoken of their miserable lives - lives of digging for gold, diamonds and uranium thousands of feet below the earth, lives separated from their loved ones who have been dumped in the townships and lives of always struggling to survive on slave wages.

On these pages Grassroots looks at the lives of those workers who produce the country's wealth and their struggle for a better life.

Now the miners are fighting back

HUNDREDS of thousands of South African miners, one of the most exploited sections of our society, are tired of living like slaves. They are fighting back - and fighting back with everything at their disposal.

Last month's strike which lasted for 27 days showed the mine bosses that they have a time bomb on their hands. The mine workers were getting organised.

The Anglo-American Corporation alone lost more than R30 million daily during the strike.

More than 345 000 workers on 45 coal and gold mines took part in the strike after employers rejected their demand for a 30 percent wage increase.

Workers decided that they would stay away from the mines "as long as it takes, as long as the strike lasts".

NUM SHOWS IT HAS POWER

To avoid confrontation, the strikers decided to return home rather than face confrontation with mine security officials and the police.

They decided that they would rather face a dismissal than break the strike.

The mine bosses refused to give in to any of the workers' demands.

Police and mine security officials worked hand-in-hand to disrupt the strike.

At least nine miners were killed in clashes with the police, more than 350 were injured and 1,000 arrested.

On some mines, police and mine security officials forced workers down the shafts at gunpoint.

The mining companies refused to negotiate higher wages, June 16 and danger pay.

resolution which stated: "Apartheid and capitalism are two inseparable evils that must be crushed".

The National Union of Mineworkers has grown into one of the most powerful unions in South Africa.

In less than five years NUM has organised almost 300 000 of the half-million black workers employed on the mines.

THE BEGINNINGS OF NUM

In August 1962 the Council of Unions of South Africa decided to launch the National Union of Mineworkers at their annual conference.

The mining industry had blocked African trade unions for years.

Most miners were migrant workers who lived on mine property where security was tight. Employers controlled where they lived as well as where they worked. Trade union organisers could be arrested for trespassing when they entered the hostels to speak to the workers.

By the time NUM held its first conference they had 14 000 members. Workers flocked to join - for the first time the workers on the mines had a voice which could speak for them.

The first wage talk between the Chamber of Mines and an African union - NUM - took place in June 1963. A few days before the talks began, the Chamber had recognised the union on eight mines where they had 28 000 members.

Ramaphosa vowed to start "a struggle for better wages and human dignity".

By NUM's second annual conference in June 1964 the union had 30 000 members - twice as many members as any other emerging union.

NUM announced that it would launch its first legal strike in September 1964. More than 43 000 workers voted in favour of stoppage.

The union began preparing for another wage war in 1966. By this stage workers were not only demanding higher wages, but were challenging their working conditions and other issues which affected their lives.

Workers demanded that May 1 be recognised as a paid holiday and demanded improved safety conditions in the mines.

The NUM showed their muscle through workers' stayaways. More than 300 000 workers stayed out of work when miners were killed in the Klerks disaster.

The union has not been shy of politics. They became the first Cosatu affiliate to adopt the Freedom Charter at their congress last year.

STRIKE A VICTORY FOR NUM

With the strike last month, NUM showed its ability to bring out almost half of all black workers and keep them out on strike.

"This was the result of five painstaking years of organisation in South Africa's most oppressed and exploited community", NUM assistant general secretary Marcel Gubbins said.

"They can kill us and remove all our shafts downwards but they will not defeat the union because the union is the workers", said one mineworker.



Now, under the NUM, miners are sharing their muscle.

WHAT THE CHARTER SAYS

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grassroots comment

The truth the whole truth . . .

THE recent regulations in terms of which newspapers can be licensed for a period of three months is shocking, to say the least.

The Government has dropped any pretence of press freedom by introducing these measures. We must always remember that the regulations are not the first. They are to be added to a long list of press laws and emergency regulations which already govern this country's media.

The victims of such laws will of course not be the publications or newspapers who have come out in support of the Government. The laws are clearly aimed at publications which have consistently exposed the evils of injustices of apartheid. Newspapers, like Grassroots which has always articulated the need for democracy - not minority rule, for unity - not the divisions brought upon by decades of apartheid rule.

We in Grassroots believe that we are, and have always, reported in a responsible manner. We would reject any allegation that as part of the alternative media we are involved in a campaign to create a revolutionary climate.

For the purposes of reporting we have adopted a very simple guideline - the truth. When we say people are unemployed - it is the truth.

When we say our workers are exploited - we know it is the truth. When we say our people cannot afford the reasonable costs, it is that not true?

What then should we do but continue to write the truth.

Already we have had to water down our paper because of the Government's many press laws.

But whatever laws they make, whether they last as for 3 months or close down completely, this will not destroy the ideas and values we strive for. The truth cannot be destroyed.

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It's a Question of Style!

MINI WOKUZOBELA USHICILELO NENKUPHO. (LAYOUT AND PRODUCTION WORKER)

Shuna umntu ozakuzobela ushicilelo nokubhushwa kwercwadana namanye amapheshwansamandla ngakumbi kubandakanyisa nembuzo yobandakanyisi.

Incwadi yokucela umsebenzi kufanele ibonakalise:

- amava kumsebenzi woshicilelo okanye umla okufundisi ngoshicilelo.
- okujingqa nokushicilela.
- kufanele azimisele ukusebenza amawesha amafuc okanye asebenze nangesipela-veisi.
- akwazi ukuziphatha nokuziphatha.

Shula incwadi wote umsebenzi usabetele amava akho, nembuzo owatho wakomo okanye okusizo kwakho. Nceda usikele amagama, idileni, izimbizo yemfundo-rofano kunye nabantu ababini abanokuxonima. Bhatela ku Nqobela, Eric, Bika Station Road, Observatory. Usuku lokugobela lukhulwa ngowe - 15 September 1987.



This is a common sight at mines throughout the country.

When life becomes an endless misery

"WHEN I go home at the end of the year my children do not recognize me as their father. I spend three weeks getting to know them and then I have to leave again to go back to the mines".

These are the words of a mineworker who was forced to leave his family behind in the townships and go to the mines to earn money.

"My children only know my wife. I have no say in bringing them up. They respect her more than they respect me".

There is no work in the townships. Every year thousands of miners trek to the cities in search of work, leaving their families to scratch out a living from the barren soil.

"Our salaries are very low - but it is better than starving at home".

Most miners working underground earn between R180 to R200 a month. R140 is deducted from their wages for board and lodging in the mine hostels.

"R140 is a lot of money. We live like animals here. In the compounds there are hundreds of men crammed into small quarters which are only big enough for half of us to live in".

"The food is terrible. We only get two meals a day. In the morning before we go down we get watery porridge, bread and tea. Lunch is bannocks, pap or samp and soup. We don't get any supper. But at night we are too tired to eat. We just fall on our beds and sleep.

Mine workers have dangerous working conditions with no workmen's compensation.

"There has to be a big accident and workers have to die before the bosses pay compensation.

"Sometimes we have to go down more than four kilometers underground and work in places which is only one metre high.

"When we are injured the bosses don't care about us any more. We get sent home with a little money even though we can never work again".

Once workers are employed by the mines there is little room for self-improvement.

"Our salaries are never enough to keep up with the cost of living.

"When white men come to work on the mines they drive smart cars after working here for only a few months. I have never earned enough money to buy a car. The bosses are getting richer and richer and we are getting poorer.

"We cannot go on like this. My family can't survive on R50 a month.

"We want better salaries. We work for nine-and-a-half hours every day in the most dangerous jobs.

"If I don't earn enough money to give my children a decent education they will also end up on the mines one day. And I don't want that to happen".



Oppenheimer - lives like a king while his workers suffer.

THE massive strike by well over 200 000 miners which ended after 27 days last month put the spotlight on the most exploited and oppressed workers in South Africa.

While the mine bosses were trying to focus on side issues, like violence on the mines and death benefit schemes the real problem was clear to most South Africans.

Mineworkers are earning slave wages and apartheid capitalism has brought nothing but hardship, suffering and tragedy for the miners and their families.

In the past few months many miners have spoken of their miserable lives - lives of digging for gold, diamonds and uranium thousands of feet below the earth, lives separated from their loved ones who have been dumped in the townships and lives of always struggling to survive on slave wages.

On these pages Grassroots looks at the lives of those workers who produce the country's wealth and their struggle for a better life.



Miners from the backbone of our country. But they never benefit from the wealth they create.

Now the miners are fighting back

HUNDREDS of thousands of South African miners, one of the most exploited sections of our society, are tired of living like slaves. They are fighting back - and fighting back with everything at their disposal.

Last month's strike which lasted for 27 days showed the mine bosses that they have a time bomb on their hands. The mine workers were getting organized.

The Anglo-American Corporation alone lost more than R30 million daily during the strike.

More than 345 000 workers on 45 coal and gold mines took part in the strike after employers rejected their demand for a 30 percent wage increase.

Workers decided that they would stay away from the mines "as long as it takes, as long as the strike lasts".

NUM SHOWS IT HAS POWER

To avoid confrontation, the strikers decided to return home rather than face confrontation with mine security officials and the police.

They decided that they would rather face a dismissal than break the strike.

The mine bosses refused to give in to any of the workers' demands.

Police and mine security officials worked hand-in-hand to disrupt the strike.

At least nine miners were killed in clashes with the police, more than 350 were injured and 1 really 300 arrested.

On some mines, police and mine security officials forced workers down the shafts at gunpoint.

The mining companies refused to negotiate higher wages, June 16 and danger pay.

Their offer was dismissed and workers decided to return to the mines rather than prolong the strike.

Although the NUM cannot win any of their demands, the strike is still a victory for the union.

Besides being the longest mine strike in the history of South Africa, the strike was also the most successful for the employers.

The NUM believes that a disruption of gold production is a blow against apartheid.

At their congress in February the union passed a resolution which stated: "Apartheid and capitalism are two inseparable evils that must be crushed".

The National Union of Mineworkers has grown into one of the most powerful unions in South Africa.

In less than five years NUM has organized almost 300 000 of the half-million black workers employed on the mines.

THE BEGINNINGS OF NUM

In August 1982 the Council of Unions of South Africa decided to launch the National Union of Mineworkers at their annual conference.

The mining industry had blocked African trade unions for years.

Most miners were migrant workers who lived on mine property where security was tight. Employers controlled where they lived as well as where they worked. Trade union organizers could be arrested for trespassing when they entered the hostels to speak to the workers.

By the time NUM held its first conference they had 14 000 members. Workers flocked to join - for the first time the workers on the mines had a voice which could speak for them.

The first wage talk between the Chamber of Mines and an African union - NUM - took place in June 1983. A few days before the talks began, the Chamber had recognized the union on eight mines where they had 28 000 members.

Rampheiso vowed to start "a struggle for better wages and human dignity".

By NUM's second annual conference in June 1984 the union had 30 000 members - twice as many members as any other emerging union.

NUM announced that it would launch its first legal strike in September 1984. More than 43 000 workers voted in favour of stoppage.

The strike threat worked and the Chamber of Mines made a new wage offer.

Thousands of workers joined up after NUM's victory. By the end of 1984 they had 130 000 members, by 1985 130 000.

The union began preparing for another wage war in 1986. By this stage workers were not only demanding higher wages, but were challenging their working conditions and other issues which affected their lives.

Workers demanded that May 1 be recognized as a paid holiday and demanded improved safety conditions in the mines.

The NUM showed their muscle through workers' stayaways. More than 300 000 workers stayed out of work when miners were killed in the Kromme River disaster.

The union has not been shy of politics. They became the first Cosatu affiliate to adopt the Freedom Charter at their congress last year.

STRIKE A VICTORY FOR NUM

With the strike last month, NUM showed its ability to bring out almost half of all black workers and keep them out on strike.

"This was the result of five painstaking years of organization in South Africa's most oppressed and exploited community", NUM assistant general secretary Marcel Gubbins said.

"They can kill us and remove all our shaft headstamps but they will not defeat the union because the union is the workers", said one mineworker.

Now, under the NUM, miners are sharing their muscle.



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A policeman stands guard at a mine in Carltonville.



Thousands of construction workers have united under the banner of CAWU.

Building workers unite

THE Construction and Allied Workers Union, Western Cape region was launched on the 30th of August in the Bonteheuwel Civic Centre. 168 delegates from 26 construction firms were present.

There were delegates from Basil Starke, Murray and Roberts, Pretoria Portland Cement, Dura Construction, Ian Stewart and many more.

Some of the workers were members of South African Allied Workers Union (SAAWU) and Transport and General Workers Union. The formation of Cawu is in line with Cosatu's policy of one Industry, One Union.

Cawu was formed in February this year.

It was the day the construction workers have been waiting for as shown by the spirit which prevailed. Cawu has more than 8000 paid up members and is an affiliate of

Cosatu.

Cawu aims at taking the workers struggle forward by taking part with other organisations in the living wage campaign. Cawu believes in worker control. It will work

"ON Saturday, Lindiwe Mangungu, 21, and a friend walked to the friend's house when some children in the street started screaming: "Hier kom die choclas" kitskonstabels.

And she said: "Laat hulle loop, ek het niks met hulle te doen nie.

When one of the constables Pieter Manzone heard her, he asked her what she had said.

She told him what the children said and what she had replied.

He then asked her who

shoulder to shoulder with other organisations in the struggle for a change in this country. Cawu does not believe that the struggle must take place on the factory floor only.

The workers called on

other workers to join Cawu under the banner of Cosatu. They adopted the slogan "ONE INDUSTRY ONE UNION, ONE COUNTRY ONE FEDERATION".

YOUTH KILLED BY KITSKOP

THE FOLLOWING REPORT WAS SENT TO GRASSROOTS BY A RESIDENT OF GRAAF-REINETT, OUTLINING THE ACTIONS OF KITSKONSTABELS IN THE AREA.

Graaf in the last two months.

The first five were wounded before one youth was killed. Before Lindiwe was shot, a youth was killed and another wounded.

The kitskonstabels are nothing but a terrorist force in Graaf-Reinett's black township. Through these forces, the Government is creating violence in our townships.

gave her the right to speak to him like that. She asked him what law gives him the right to speak to her that way. He said he was going to shoot her. She said that if she had done anything wrong, then he must shoot. He then shot her." This is just one of the incidents which enraged the people of Graaf-Reinett. For this is the ninth person to be shot in

HEALTH DAY FOR PARKWOOD AGED

65 PENSIONERS came to health day organised by the Parkwood Adhoc committee.

The Health day took place at the N.G. sending church and was filled with excitement and entertainment. But amid the festive feeling the Adhoc committee and volunteers from Health Care Trust looked seriously at the needs and problems of the aged.

"Our grandfathers and grandmothers have become forgotten people of our society. They experience the same problems that we do", an Ad Hoc committee member said. "They must walk long distances for little pension money that they find impossible to survive on.

The programme was organised to look at the problems that affects the lives of the aged. The day included exercises, discussions on health, and foot care. The pensioners were very pleased and asked for another activity to be or-



Two Parkwood pensioners are assisted by a community workers at the Health Day organised by the Parkwood Ad-hoc Committee last month.

organised.

The Ad Hoc committee also decided to open an

Advice Office to assist people of Parkwood with their problems.

KENSINGTON ADVICE OFFICE OPENS

UNEMPLOYMENT, evictions of families, coping with higher purchase - these are only a few of the many problems which our people face in the townships everyday.

In some communities, people have come together to work out ways in which they can fight against these problems.

In Kensington and Facticeon a group of people came together ear-

lier this year and decided to open an advice office through which people in the community could assist each other.

The Kensington and Facticeon Advice Office was launched in February this year and is run by volunteers from the community.

The office is open two nights a week - on Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 6 and 7.30. On a

Tuesday evening people can get advice at the NG Sendingkerk on the corner of Lugmag and Facticeon Avenue, and on the second evening at the AME Church.

The advice office deals with problems like higher purchase, non-support and maintenance, evictions, wills and testaments, unemployment and legal assistance.

NEWMAN STATES HIS CASE

Dear Grassroots

I read the July edition of Grassroots and for the first time I was disappointed in the way you have written an article. I am referring to the article on page 2, headed "One year's jail for ANC slogans". The article is on me.

I am mainly concerned about the last paragraph of the article which I would like to clarify.

You say that in response to a question whether I support the ANC I claimed that I support any organisation that is fighting apartheid.

I wouldn't deny that I said so but it was not in the context that you are putting it.

It would be crazy to say that you are supporting two organisations with completely different ideologies and plans in a post-apartheid system.

And I think that it is very unfair of you to make the people think that I will support an organisation like Inkatha because they are also "fighting" against apartheid.

I thought that the reporters from Grassroots, which is a progressive community newspaper, would know how to interpret certain statements made by different people and not put things out of context.

I therefore state that I am fully committed to the national democratic struggle towards a non-racial, democratic society where all South African can live in peace, prosperity and harmony.

I would appreciate it if you would publish this letter in your next issue to clarify uncertainties in my community. VIVA UDF

Yours in the struggle
Peter Newman



SEND ALL LETTERS
TO: grassroots, P.O.
Box 1161, Cape Town
8000

I feel pain in my heart

Dear Grassroots

After reading your paper I feel pain in my heart. Sir, the struggle is in my heart, as a result last year in September, I was detained for three months and released on bail of R500. So the case is still on.

On the 27th of next month it will be my third appearance at Cape Town regional court.

So my problem is I want some more knowledge about politics. You can either give me some lectures or tell me where to go or who to consult about this matter.

I like your paper be-

cause it tells me exactly what happens in our country. Everytime I see the casspirs and the SADF in our townships I feel like fighting but my biggest problem is that a stone will never help me.

The other thing is that I want to further my studies but my problem is that I lost my JC certificate. I tried to apply for a duplicate in Pretoria but all in vain. Is there any advice about this matter. If necessary I can come personally to your offices.

Samuel Mbuyiselo Yans

The Curtain King

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Ben's new record will be hard to break

THE new world record for the 100 metres of 9.83 seconds, set by Canadian Ben Johnson earlier this month, is likely to stand for many years to come.

Johnson himself has jokingly suggested that the record will not be broken for the next fifty years.

Johnson, born in Jamaica 25 years ago, left his opponents, including American speed merchant Carl Lewis, standing as he bolted from his starting blocks like lightning.

He crossed the finishing line 9.83 seconds later, well ahead of Lewis, Raymond Stewart and Linford Christie.

Observers have suggested that with time Johnson could even take more time off the record. Arguing that he could still improve his technique, they say that Johnson could still clip another one hundredth of a second off his new time.

Linford Christie, the Briton who like Johnson was also born in Jamaica, said that Johnson's effort would push other runners to new heights. He said: "When Ben got to five metres, there was nobody else there. He made five world class sprinters look ordinary and he has revolutionised the 100m metres. I think we will all go quicker now."

Johnson, who turns 26 in December was born in Falmouth, Jamaica, and has five brothers and sisters. Until the race that earned him the title of the worlds fastest man, Johnson had to play second fiddle to the formerly undisputed world 100 metres champion, Carl Lewis of the United States of America.

After the race, Lewis was so astounded that he thought Johnson must have false-started. He however later recognised Johnson as the fastest man in the world. He described Johnson's start as "unbelievable".

The 12 day World Championship in Rome where Johnson set up the new record produced athletics of a very high standard.

The track events especially, attracted a lot of interest, with countries like East Germany, the United States, the Soviet Union and many African countries putting up good performances.

grassroots SPORT

SPORTS DAY A HUGE SUCCESS

A non-racial sports festival organised by the Western Province Council of Sport (WEPCOS) was held at the Guguletu Stadium on September 6.

28 different sport codes participated in the festival, according to the chairperson of WEPCOS, Mr Donald Jethro.

He said that hundreds of sports enthusiasts turned up at the stadium for the day's activities which was rounded off with a big party.

They were treated to a day of exciting sport which started off with a marathon. Throughout the day there were soccer and netball matches. A martial arts display was also put on.

Many school teams, operating under the banner of WEPCOS, participated in the festival.

Asked why the festival was organised, Mr Jethro pointed to the social, economic and political needs of the oppressed people who have no privileges and as a result have no sports facilities in their areas.

"WEPCOS found it necessary to develop interest in sport by organising a festival. WEPCOS also wants to popularise itself in all the areas by uniting sports people under its banner", said Mr Jethro.

He described the festival as a huge success in that it achieved (what it had set out to do).

"Sports people from different areas are already working together by planning matches together".



These were some of the runners battling it out in the WP cross-country championships held on Saturday 5 September. The race was won by Martin Saayman of Bellville in an excellent time.

SAAYMAN WINS CROSS-COUNTRY IN EXCELLENT TIME

MARTIN Saayman of Bellville ran a good race to win the Western Province cross-country championship race in an excellent time at Zeekoevlei earlier this month.

Three runners - Saayman, Joseph Gysman and David Scheepers battled it out early in the race, sticking together

for the first 10km. They ran at a fast pace.

Gysman came in second while Scheepers took third position.

The junior men's 8km race was won by Desmond Pieteresen of Elsies River. Marco Diederichs of Boland and Laven Johannes of Titans

came second and third respectively.

Agatha Philander of Trafalgar won the womens 4km race in a time of 16 minutes and 1 second. Charna Mathee of South Peninsula came second with Gadija Dawood of Lavis third.

Should we name teams after our leaders? asks reader

Dear Grassroots
I was happy to read about the Oscar Mphetha XI soccer team. Like the youth of Mandela Football Club in Soweto, they are honouring our leaders. But I think we have to ask the question: "Should we name soccer teams after our leaders?"

I would say that it creates a certain problem - it means that half the players on the field are setting out to beat Oscar Mphetha, or Nelson Mandela. If Mama Mandela goes to watch Mandela FC, it is obvious that she supports them. This means that the other team

feel that the mother of the nation has taken sides against them.

I would suggest that it is better if we name soccer tournaments and cups after our leaders, not teams. All the football clubs in Africa (except of course South Africa) play every year in the African Foot-

ball Federation's Nelson Mandela Cup. All the teams strive to be worthy of this cup - the whole tournament honours our leader.

I say let us take our lead from the rest of Africa!

Yours sincerely
Football Crazy Comrade.



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- be prepared to work flexible hours and over weekends
- a drivers licence will be a recommendation.

Respond in writing giving full details of experience, stating past and present organisational involvement, as well as the names and addresses or contact numbers of two referees to: The Secretary, ERIC, 88a Station Road, OBSERVATORY, 7925.

All applications close 15 September 1987.

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR SAYCO

YOUTH organisation from various parts of the world have promised their full support to the struggles of the South African Youth Congress (Sayco) and the oppressed people of our country.

This was recently revealed by Sayco President Peter Mokaba and general secretary Rapu Molefane, in an interview with Grassroots.

Mokaba said that the concept of international solidarity was viewed seriously by Sayco. In a period of six months since the 700 000-strong organisation was launched in Cape Town, comrades from Sayco have visited countries like Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Britain, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

"We realise that our struggle is not an isolated one. We link it up with the struggling people of Africa and rest of the world. It is clear that Africa cannot be free until we achieve our freedom in South Africa," said Mokaba.

He continued: "When we go to the people in neighbouring states, we do not go there to ask them for favours. We regard them as part and parcel of our struggle.

No legal organisation before Sayco has taken this step. We have trust in the people. We have opted not only for support of Governments but support of the people in the neighbouring states. The nature of the solidarity movements is not something that the South African Youth want to impose - it is something we can achieve through discussion and working together.

Sayco executive members who have travelled abroad include Ephraim Nkwe and Simon Ntombela from Southern Transvaal and Natal respectively.

The response to the visits was "very, very positive", according to Rapu Molefane.

"The delegations were well received and other youth groups have

promised to put everything behind Sayco. They have also pledged to redouble their efforts to get their Governments to apply sanctions and disinvest from South Africa."

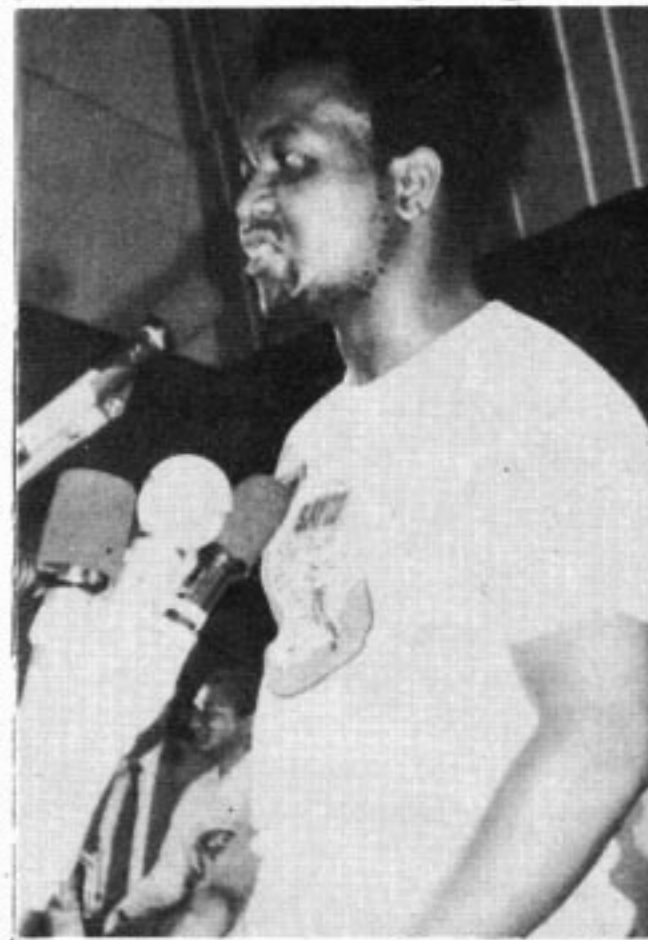
Meanwhile in the country, Sayco has grown rapidly, gaining a possible 100 000 members since its launch. At the time of the launch, held in Cape Town, Sayco had a membership of 600 000 coming from 1 200 youth congresses countrywide.

Rapu Molefane spoke at length about Sayco's growth. He said: "Presently most youth in the country identify with Sayco. We have had letters from remote parts of the country from youth groups who want to affiliate. We have also received word that comrades have formed branches of Sayco within prison. At least ten more youth congresses have applied for affiliation since Sayco's launch". Mokaba adds "There has been a proliferation

of village-based youth congresses in areas like Venda and Kwnadebele. Sayco and the UDF have even won the loyalty of chiefs and princes in certain homelands. The mine youth have grouped themselves and plan to form part of Sayco".

Since the launching a number of regional structures of Sayco have been formed. This has happened in the Orange Free State, Northern Cape, Southern and Northern Transvaal and Eastern Cape. The June 16 commemorations were mainly spearheaded by the youth congresses, a poster on the freedom charter has been produced and a campaign was launched to save the lives of 33 young South Africans currently on death row in Pretoria.

Sayco has developed a strong working relationship with organisations like the National Education Crisis Committee, Cosatu and the National Students Co-ordinating Committee.



Peter Mokaba, Sayco president at the UDF birthday rally at UWC last month.

THE first ever Communist elected to Parliament in South Africa was killed in a car crash last month. He died in exile, at the age of 76. Sam Khan was remembered by many Capetonians as a fearless fighter for the people's rights.

As a young Jewish law student at UCT in 1930. Sam Kahn turned his back on Zionism and joined the Communist Party of South Africa. For a number of years he worked as a trade unionist, and helped build up the national liberation movement in Cape Town.

In 1938, Sam Kahn was one of those elected to its Central Committee. He served along with Moses Kotane, J.B. Marks, Ray Alexander, Cissie Gool and others. He remained on that body until the Party was banned in 1950.

Sam Kahn was not only prominent as an activist - as a lawyer he defended activists who were

Sam Khan - a fighter to the end

being harassed, and also pass law and other apartheid 'offenders'.

He played a leading role in the campaigns of the 1940's, especially the great Anti-Pass campaign which ran from 1944 to 1946. Many an afternoon found him addressing crowds in Langa, Kaya-mandi, Blaauwlei, Windermere and other townships.

Sam Khan was always active, in great national campaigns and in small local struggles. Because he was so well-known and

popular, Coloured voters elected him to the Cape Town City Council as a Communist Party candidate in 1943.

Because Africans still had the vote in Cape Town, the Communist Party decided to put up Sam Kahn for Parliament in 1948. The voters recognised Kahn and his Party for their work among the people. They elected Sam Kahn as the first ever Communist Party MP in South Africa's history.

LOUDSPEAKER

Sam Kahn became a loudspeaker for the people's demands in Parliament. He was the only MP who called for full democracy and votes for all.

The Nationalist government feared the challenge of the Communist Party, which was organising mass united action for democratic rights. In 1950 they banned the Party.

Sam Kahn was one of the organisers of the great stayaway which shook Cape Town in 1951, to

protest against the attacks on the Coloured vote, and to demand votes for all.

SILENCE

The government decides to silence Sam Kahn. Even though he was an elected MP, they threw him out of Parliament because he was a communist. This did not help: the African voters elected another Communist, Brian Bunting, to replace Kahn. He too was thrown out in 1953. The voters then elected yet another Communist, Ray Alexander, to replace Bunting, but the government wouldn't let her take her seat. They soon scrapped the African vote.

In 1954 Sam Kahn was banned. But he continued to work tirelessly in the struggle in Cape Town. When the great clamp-down of 1960 began, Sam Kahn was one of those sought by the security police. He slipped their net, and left the country secretly. From 1960 to 1987, he worked in exile in London.



The bomb blast at Community House in Salt River caused extensive damage, but organisations are determined to carry on with their work.

Organisations back at work after huge blast

"THOSE responsible for placing the bomb at community house have failed in their attempt to intimidate the tenants or disrupt the work of the organisations housed in the building."

This was said in a statement issued by the administration committee of Community House on the bombing of the building in the early hours of Saturday morning.

The residents of Salt River were awoken by a massive explosion which caused extensive damage to sections of the building. The building had been officially opened by Dr Allan Boesak on August 23 less than a week before the bomb blast.

The building houses several organisations such as the United Democratic Front, the South African Railway and Harbour Workers Union, the Woodstock Advice Office, Community Arts Project,

South African Domestic Workers Union, Western Province Council of Churches, Cosatu and Churches Urban planning Commission.

The Administrative Committee said that other tenants were eager to move in.

The statement said: "Despite extensive damage to sections of the building, the immediate response of tenants ensured that the worse of the rubble had been cleared by midday on Saturday only 8 hours after the blast.

By Monday morning organisations were able to resume work as normal without losing a single day. This attack has only served to strengthen the resolve of all organisations concerned to continue work from this centre. We will take whatever steps are necessary to secure the building against any further assaults and intimidation and will continue to develop community house in its stated purpose as an asset and resource to thousands of people who built the organisations based here".

Mitchells Plain Parents form crisis committee

MITCHELLS PLAIN parents and families of detainees have come together to form a Crisis Committee to assist detainees and families with their problems.

Since the increase in people's resistance in 1985, many people from Mitchells Plain have been detained, some have been charged with Public Violence. Presently, there are 4 section 29 detainees, 1 emergency detainee and 7 youth charged with public violence in Mitchells Plain.

"At first, the parents and families of detainees tried to do things for themselves," a Crisis Committee member said. "We didn't know where to go to and often were not aware of detentions taking place in the area. But as we went along, we realised that we are all having the same feelings and difficulties. We now formed ourselves into the MITCHELLS PLAIN CRISIS AND RELIEF COMMITTEE, where we can work together and achieve much more."

The aims of the Crisis Committee are:

- to highlight detentions in the area;
- to give moral support to families and friends;
- for better co-ordination with lawyers and doctors;
- to raise money and give financial support to families.

If you have anything to offer - time or funds - then you can contact Mrs Oosterswyk - 31-6919; Mrs Davids - 32-3243; Mrs Hofman - 31-2221; of the Mitchells Plain Crisis Committee.

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