

COMMENT

When the new round of multi-party talks started, it got called Son of Codesa. This was not just sexist language - it showed the alarming absence of women from the negotiations on the future of South Africa. The recent budget shows the present government's insensitivity to millions of black women in South Africa who are battling to survive against rising unemployment and costs.

Although the budget removed VAT from some basic foodstuffs, it increased VAT on other items to 14 percent. Petrol and fuel have gone up too, which will make everything more expensive.

Every day more government corruption is exposed. It is shocking that government ministers are paid huge sums of money to live in their own houses, while millions of South Africans are homeless.

Some of the worst corruption is going on in the bantustans, but the budget is giving them even more money than before.

Obviously, the men who have been running South Africa undemocratically for so long cannot be trusted with the purse-strings any more.

One woman, Maxine Cainer, has decided she would rather go to jail than pay taxes to a corrupt government. She says the government cannot make her pay tax when it does not take responsibility for how the money is spent.

South Africans need to come together to demand an end to government corruption before more millions are wasted. The voices of ordinary women who are struggling to feed their families must start to count. It is time these women take part in deciding how the resources of the country should be used to build a South Africa that cares for the needs of all its citizens. ●

Talk back

Sarafina should not be discredited

I wish to reply to Masepeke Sekhukhuni's comment on *Sarafina* (SPEAK, March 1993). It is wrong to discredit the whole film or label it "unSouth African" simply because Leleti calls Mr Nelson Mandela by his first name. We have to admit that Mr Nelson Mandela IS "Nelson" or simply "Mandela" to all township kids. And this, to them, does not lower his dignity, and we can't blame Hollywood for that! If offensive, it was up to Mbongeni Ngema, the scriptwriter, to correct that. I wonder too, which is "the American way" of teaching. I am a teacher myself and I hate stereotypes (for example, seeing someone as inferior just because she is a woman or is black). A teacher is a teacher regardless of the country of origin. We have

South African teachers working overseas and I wonder if they are "teaching the South African way". I for one, do not teach "African students" but people with goals, aspirations and dreams. Masepeke should learn to look at both the positive and the negative. This would teach readers to do likewise and be better people.

Mrs Sina Mhinga
Giyani

What do others think?

Taxi drivers: think of your passengers!

I will be very happy if I can see my letter published in your SPEAK magazine.

I want to tell the taxi drivers about the things which are boring the passengers.

You drivers of the taxis must stop talking the way you like to the passengers.

Please just try to talk very well



with your passengers in your taxi.
 Communication is needed among the people of this country.
 Please check your speed limit. I don't want to see so many deaths caused by the drivers who drink while they drive. May I request the taxi owners to try by all means to check the drivers.
 Lastly I would like to congratulate our magazine. Carry on giving knowledge. It is an interesting magazine for our community and to our fellow comrades.
 May god bless our Editor.
 Yours in arms

*William Maabane
 Witbank*

Thanks for your praise! Perhaps some taxi drivers would like to respond?

**Thanks to all readers who have written. Please keep your letters flowing in. We are often forced to shorten letters because of space. Send your letters to:
 SPEAK,
 PO Box 261363,
 Excom, 2023
 Johannesburg
 South Africa**



WINNERS!

Congratulations to the lucky winners of *SPEAK's* competitions!

Book **Competition**

Gladys K Teme
 of Orlando East, Soweto is the winner of the book, *Don't be afraid, Gringo*

Ekhaya Fashions Competition

A H Mangqu
 of Tuinplaas won the beautiful outfit from Ekhaya Fashions

