

SPEAK

THE VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY



SPEAK
needs your
support and
participation

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Can we survive the high prices?

RECENT price increases has raised sharp concern over the general rise in the cost of living and its effect on the vast majority of the people.

At a time when most people are already suffering tremendous hardship and are struggling to survive, the increases come as a crippling blow.

Mrs. Albertina Sisulu, President of the United Democratic Front, asked how people could be expected to live.

'How can we live when everything goes up yet salaries remain the same?'

She said nobody — especially oppressed blacks — was happy at the increases.

Items affected by increases include basic foods, transport, petrol, General Sales Tax, water and hospital fees.

Community and worker leaders slammed this further attack on the living standards of people.

Six unions sent an open letter to the Minister of Finance

demanding GST for all foodstuffs and basic necessities to be scrapped.

'The decision to increase GST was made with no regard for its effects on ordinary people,' the unions said.

They said the increases represent a substantial cut in income for the working class and poor who have to spend most of their income on necessities.

The Metal and Allied Workers Union said workers' real standard of living has dropped more and more with inflation, unemployment and the loss of agricultural land.

Mrs. Sahabodien, a housewife in Lenasia, said it was becoming impossible to survive.

'You can't keep up with one man's wages. The money just comes and it goes,' she said.

Mrs. Mthomboti, a working mother from Tembisa said she had to work for the family to make ends meet. But she was upset at what she had to pay in tax under the new tax

laws.

'They used to tax me R17 before,' she said. 'Now R51 is taken out'.

'I thought they were cheating me. It's even better if you are divorced.'

A spokesperson for the Soweto Civic Association said the increases, put together with high rents and service charges, high prices for school uniforms and high school fees, unemployment and low wages will inevitably lead to conflict.

The increases are also seen as meaning more than just having to pay more.

●High food prices mean people eat less and do not eat enough of the right foods.

●Not eating good food does not allow people to stay healthy.

●High transport costs will make things very difficult for most people. Many more people would walk. This is not good especially for old and sick people. People who have families in the rural areas will not be able to travel home as often.



For this construction worker the high price of food actually means having to eat less.

●Transport costs would raise other costs like coal. This would bring increased hardships to people as winter nears.

●The doubling of hospital fees might force people to go to hospitals only when they are very sick. By that time it could be too late for them to be helped.

●GST affects the

poorest most. 7 per cent takes out more of a pension or a small wage than a bigger wage.

It is becoming clear in communities that while the Government cuts back expenditure on essentials like bread and housing, it is increasing expenditure on the military, police and Apartheid bureaucracy.

'Clearly the people

are being made to pay', a resident of Noordgesig said.

'The money needed to work the new constitution, pay the salaries of three times as many MP's, and used by the Department of Community Development for removals is coming from us.'

'They talk of change for the better — what change?' he asked.

Alex signs Putco petition

THE Alexandra Commuters' Committee has already collected more than 10 000 signatures for a petition against the Putco bus service.

The petition follows a month long boycott of Putco buses by Alexandra commuters when fares were increased in January.

The petition drive, launched at a mass meeting of 500 people last month, is being carried out door to door, at bus stops and on the buses.

Commuters' grievances against the bus service include:

- The high bus fares.
- Untidy, dirty and leaking buses.
- Careless and reckless driving.
- Lack of toilets in Wynberg, and uncared for ones at 7th Avenue.
- Inflexible season tickets.

A member of the Commuter's Committee said the petition was important.

'Putco has indicated it is willing to consider our grievances. We will make them consider our grievances much more seriously if they can see that very many people are dissatisfied.'

He said it would also show that the committee had the support of the community and the legitimate right to represent the community on this issue.

Another member of the committee said a few people had been intimidated by recent police action and were scared to sign the petition.

'The petition is lawful and there is nothing to be afraid of,' she said.

'10 000 people have already signed. There is nothing which can be done to them.'

The petition is to be presented to Putco in May.

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Council tries to take over burial society

Residents defend their organisation

COMMUNITY councillors in Katlehong are making things difficult for residents who want to build their own organisations to take up problems in the township.

A Burial Society formed by residents early last year has since its formation been interfered with by the councillors.

Challenged

Councillors tried to stop the first mass meeting called to form the Burial Society. They said the organisers had no right to hold the meeting on open ground.

But residents stood firm and the meeting went on. They challenged the councillors to call the police as they had done a few weeks before

at another meeting. A month before elections for the new town councils, a former chairperson of the Burial Society and a money collector stood for elections.

"They realised the Burial Society has credibility with the people and tried to use it to build a community council," one resident said.

Residents again defended their democratic organisation and told the council candidates to call their own meetings.

The Burial Society was then told not to have any meetings before the elections because it was against the law which had been passed in Pretoria. Residents resisted and went ahead with an open air mass meeting.

The councillors began spreading stories that the society was illegal and that anyone collecting money in the name of that organisation was a "criminal".

Collectors' wives were secretly visited and told their husbands would get into trouble if they worked with the organisation.

Finally at a meeting with some of their supporters, the councillors took a resolution saying the Burial Society did not exist. All collection books were to be handed in and a new collection system under community council control was adopted.

For residents, the councillors actions prove they are doing the work of the Government and that they will try to stop democratic organisations

developing in the townships.

Democratic

The Burial Society was formed to meet a particular need of residents and it is run in a democratic way.

The people themselves control the organisation. They do its work and they direct it.

The idea to form a democratic burial society which will not rob people, came out of house meetings, held to discuss other problems residents face in the township. Problems like stagnant sewerage water, high rents, the school shortage, and no electricity.

Residents realised that only by standing together and helping each other, could their problems be

properly taken up. The Burial Society is one way in which residents are helping each other.

"The establishment of such a burial society which can help to bind our community is seen as a threat by the community councillors," a resident said.

They will use all kinds of tactics to try and stop the growth of the democratic organisations in our township," he said.

"In this way they hope to keep control over our people."

But he said the councillors actions only made more people see the need for democratic organisations.

"Like an independent worker-tenant association

which is controlled and run by the people and which encourages their maximum participation," he said.

"Without such an organisation the opportunistic manoeuvres of the councillors will go unchallenged."

Promises

He said the Katlehong Community Council exploited the situation in which the working class found itself.

"They have created an organisation called the Katlehong People's Association and charge people a membership fee."

"They promise residents all sorts of things if they join, like not being evicted if they

have not paid the rent, or allowing family members who don't qualify to be in an urban area to live in the house."

At a recent meeting of the Burial Society, residents decided to:

- demand the Community Council stop interfering in the people's organisation.
 - reject the council's resolution
 - continue the work of the organisation as before
 - call a meeting of all residents to clear up the confusion caused by the councillors.
- And as the work of the Burial Society turns into a struggle against the community councils system, residents show they are determined to protect the organisations they painfully build.

Students reject prefect system

THE demand for democratic Students Representative Councils (SRC) is growing in Tembisa schools.

"Students in Tembisa reject the dummy prefect system," one student said.

"We demand an SRC which will bring unity among students and create understanding between students and teachers."

He said principals with the assistance of the Department of Education and Training was ignoring student grievances and demands.

"They are causing division among students and teachers by introducing the prefect system. Prefects also carry weapons at school and this is ignored by the administration," he said.

"We cannot allow principals to cheat us and tell us that there is no difference between an SRC and a Prefect Council. And Pretorius, the circuit inspector, tells us that the SRC is an illegal body."

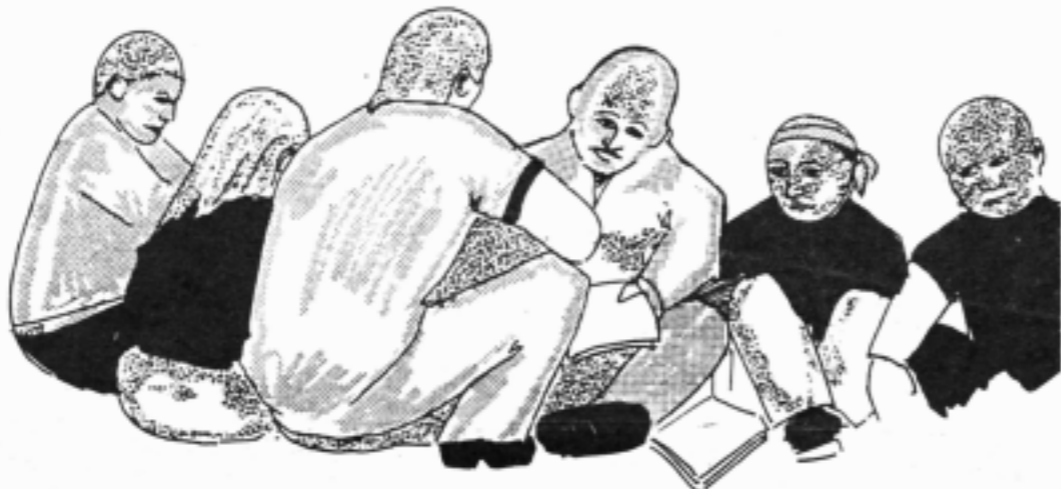
"Their attitude has already led to class boycotts in Tembisa."

Students list among their grievances the fact that teachers fraternise with young students and visit the shebeen during school hours. They also complain the lunch break is much too short and demand it be extended to one hour.

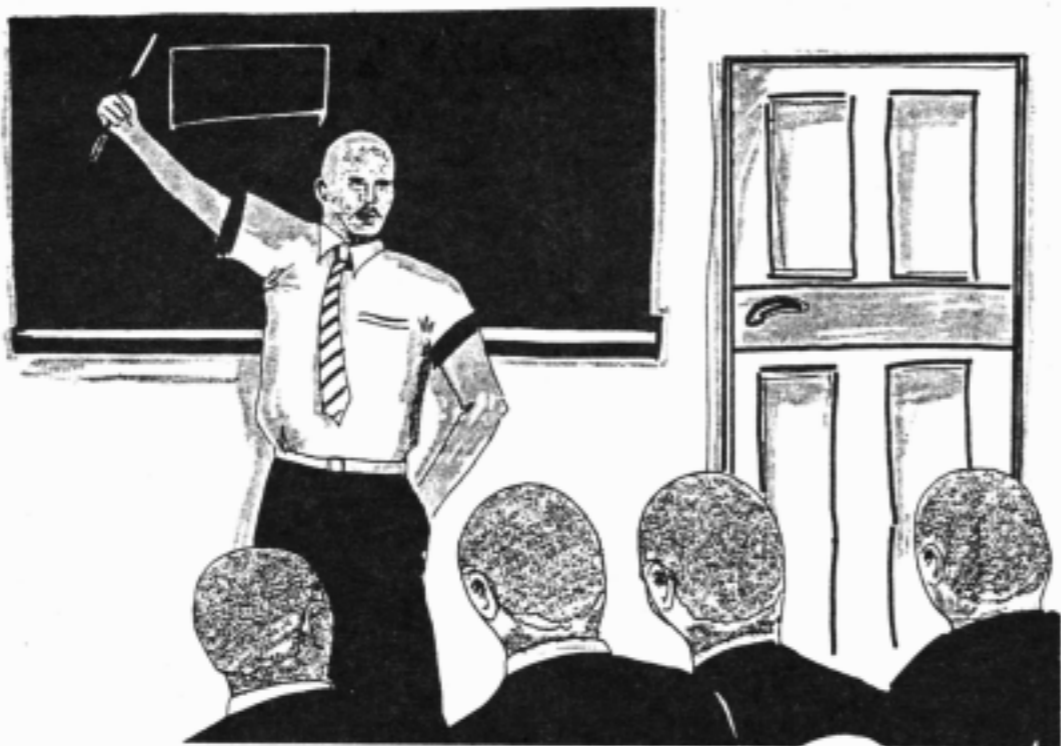
"We plead with students who want to be prefects to stop carrying weapons and to support our demands for genuine representation," the student spokesperson said.

"Teachers should also join hands with us and unite for democratic rights in school and a single non-racial, democratic education system for all," he said.

Neusa believes in learning together



Teaching methods which encourage pupil participation (above) are more successful than dictator — like ones (below)



THE National Education Union of South Africa (Neusa), a UDF affiliate was established in the Transvaal in 1980 in direct response to the education crisis as students all over the country boycotted classes.

Neusa is a non-racial organisation aimed to:—

- establish a forum for people involved in education, with no distinction on the grounds of race, colour, creed or sex.

- use all available resources to work for a single and democratic system of education for all South Africans.

- develop in teachers and students an awareness of their oppressive situation which will inspire them to change it.
- encourage in teachers

a progressive outlook towards their teaching methods and their attitudes towards pupils. Neusa members believe no real change in education can take place until the political system has been changed.

"We are confronted with the fact that the racist and inferior nature of the education in South Africa is directly related to the policies of the Nationalist Government and the needs of the economy," one member said.

"By making this link evident, our activities will be linked to broader political struggles in the country."

He said the necessity for joint action is made clear by the events witnessed early this year.

"It is 1984 and the education system is no

less inadequate than it was a decade ago. The De Lange Commission turned out to be a senseless waste of time and money. The fraudulent matric results once again did not reflect the talents and abilities of black pupils."

"The recent death of Emma Satheke during the Atteridgeville boycotts," he said, "filled us with horror as we watched the calculated brutality of the police."

"We mourn the death of Emma and salute her fellow students for standing up against the age-limit laws which place grossly unfair restrictions on pupils," he said.

Anyone interested in joining Neusa can call Ian at 716-2368 (w) and 724-2675 (h) or write to Neusa P.O. Box 15833 Doornfontein 2028



The CMC's decision to break down all wood and iron structures before homes are sold to tenants in Reiger Park could leave hundreds homeless.

Break shack — CMC

THE Coloured Management Committee (CMC) recently resolved that all wood and iron structures in Reiger Park be demolished before dwellings may be sold to tenants.

This was said in a letter sent to tenants by Mr De Beer, the Administrative Officer for Coloured Affairs.

Angry tenants have asked why the CMC "always does the dirty work for the Council".

"I cannot believe that the CMC could be so stupid and inhumane to

call for the demolition of shacks without providing alternative accommodation," Mr Tillick, a resident said.

Mrs Ellen Lambert, chairperson of the Reiger Park Tenants and Ratepayers Association, said 3 207 families were on the official waiting list for houses in Reiger Park.

"Hundreds of these people are forced to live in 'afdakkies' due to the acute housing shortage."

"No one wants to live in a shack. Everyone

would like to live decently, but circumstances compel our people to build shacks," she said.

The secretary of the Association, Mr George du Plessis, said the CMC and Town Council were asking for "opposition and unrest".

"We must bear in mind that the 1981 riots in Reiger Park were caused by the housing shortage."

"We have a housing crisis that is eating away the soul and character of our community," he said.

Eldos youth programme

A Mini-marathon, a BMX cycle tournament, discos, camps, hockey tournaments, picnics, films and video shows are just some of the activities lined up for young people in the Eldorado Park/Klipspruit area.

This exciting programme is being organised by the recently formed Eldorado Park Youth Association (EPYA)

EPYA which already has an active membership of close to 50, carried out a survey to determine the needs and interests of young people in the area before planning its programme.

"The results of the survey have been used to plan an exciting programme which would interest everyone," a

spokesperson for the organisation said.

Through such activity EPYA aims to unite all the young people in the Eldorado

Park/Klipspruit area. "So as to do things which might be difficult for individuals or single youth clubs to do," the spokesperson said.

"We also intend developing the talent of the youth by providing drama and music lessons, and by showing people how to use cameras and make films," he said. "But all this can only be successful if the people of the area support EPYA and its activities."

"Including those who at present are involved in other organisations. They

can share their experiences with others and together work in the interests of the youth and ensure that EPYA continues to be successful."

He emphasised that EPYA does not intend competing with other established youth and social clubs.

"Rather we can supplement existing youth structures and attempt to work with them in catering for all young people in Eldorado Park and Klipspruit."

Since its formation EPYA has run a successful tuition scheme for high school students. The service helped many young people to pass their final exams last year.

Successful boycott in Alex school

STUDENTS at Alexandra's Minerva High School have had all their demands met after a recent six day boycott of classes.

The students now have a recognised Student Representative Council (SRC) with its own office, furniture, tape recorder, camera and typewriter. The principal of the school has been replaced, and other demands, like having the school gates open during breaks, have also been met.

Trouble at the school began when students were told to elect a Prefect Council. The students rejected the prefect system and called a meeting to demand a democratic SRC. They elected an SRC Steering Committee to represent them.

"The Prefect Council only represents the interests of the staff and principal," one student said.

After the school principal refused to listen to a student delegation, students took the grievances to a schools inspector.

Their grievances were:

- The locking of school gates during break.
- The prefect council system.
- Dissatisfaction with the way the principal ran the school.

Students blamed the principal for the low pass rate the previous year and for "bullying" and "bossing" them. He used to "brag about being rich, eating well and having educated children", they said.

The inspector promised to look into the matter and report back.

When the inspector failed to report back on the day promised, students resolved to boycott classes. 1 400 students were involved.

As soon as the boycott began, the principal disappeared. Inspectors intervened to solve the boycott.

While the SRC Steering Committee was busy negotiating with the inspectors, students elected a Committee of Concern to organise activities and discussions during the boycott.

On the fourth day of the boycott, the inspectors agreed to allow students to hold a meeting with their parents.

3 000 parents, students and some teachers attended the meeting. Parents supported the boycott and added their voice to the demand for the principals resignation. They said the principal was also rude to them.

The inspectors agreed to replace the principal on the fifth day of the boycott. However students refused to end

their boycott until their demand for an SRC was met as well.

When the inspectors threatened to close down the school, students staged a sit-in boycott. They felt this would make it more difficult for the authorities to close down the school.

When the demand for an SRC was finally met, there was jubilation at the school.

The SRC Steering Committee was also promised that no student would be expelled in connection with the boycott, and that the school authorities would protect students against detention. Students threatened to resume their boycott if these promises were not met.

"Due to our unity and oneness, we won our demands," a student leader said. He thanked students and parents for supporting the SRC Steering Committee during the boycott.

Apartheid election: We will not vote!



Ama Naidoo (above) and Father Mkhathshwa (below) salute the people of Laudium.



AS elections for the Government's three-chamber parliament draws closer, more and more people are showing their opposition to the new constitution.

At recent meetings in Laudium, Lenasia and Eldorado Park, thousands of people resolved not to vote in the elections. 2 000 people in Lenasia and 1 500 in Laudium endorsed a TIC resolution not to take part in the elections. In Eldorado 1 000 people supported the Transvaal Anti-PC's call to boycott the polls. Dr Allan Boesak, who addressed two of the meetings, said the new constitution would not change anything for the people. "The framework of Apartheid will be unchangeable by Rajbansi and Hendrickse," he said. "We shall stay away from the polls on 22 August," he called amid loud cheering.

Vaal Board hold church to ransom

CHURCHES which hire land from the Orange Vaal Administration Board could have their leases withdrawn if they allow non-church meetings to be held on their premises.

The Administration Board said it did not want organisations like the Vaal Civic Association (VCA), the UDF, Cosas, the Detainees' Parent's Support Committee and trade unions to use church premises.

The ban on community meetings in church halls has made organisations working in the area very angry.

"We regard churches as our sanctuaries and as belonging to the people," a member of the VCA said.

"The authorities are trying hard to obstruct the principle of the freedom of association in our communities," he said.

Organisations affected by the ban are meanwhile discussing what action to take. They have called on congregations to support them by condemning the Administration Board's actions.

But the Administration Board has not been able to stop the work of organisations in the area. The organisation have used other venues for their meetings.

A sub-committee of the VCA, the Zone 7 Action Committee, recently held a meeting at the Roman Catholic Church in Small Farms, Evaton.

The church is one of the few which does not lease land from the Administration Board.

Even though people had to come to the meeting from another area, it was well attended and residents talked of the many problems they have in Vaal.

The authorities have also given democratic organisations in Vaal other problems.

Many people in the VCA and the Bophelong Youth Committee of Van der Bijl Park have been intimidated or detained. The chairperson of the VCA, Father McCamel was fired from his teaching post in Bophelong without reason. The VCA feels he was fired because of his



Father McCamel — chair of VCA

work in the civic association.

In other townships like Soweto, Katlehong and Eldorado Park, democratic organisations also complain of problems in finding places for their meetings.

Church ministers are always making excuses, they say, and many are frightened by community councillors.

Farmer forces squatters to pay unfair rent

FIVE hundred people are being held ransom by a bankrupt farmer near Grasmere, Vereeniging.

Now he is making R3 000 per month demanding rent from ex-farm workers and squatters living on his farm.

If they refuse to pay, he threatens to burn down their homes and call the police.

The police would arrest many of the people, charge them or deport them to their "homelands" because they are living on the farm illegally.

However most of the squatters have nowhere else to go.

The squatters allege that the farmer, a Mr.

Wheeler is acting together with the police. It is also illegal for him to house squatters on his farm and charge them, yet the police leave him alone.

Mr. Wheeler charges high rents although he offers nothing in return. He did not build the houses.

The community is only paying for permission from Mr. Wheeler to stay on the farm.

Mr. Wheeler charges rents depending on what people earn. Workers must pay R20 per month while he demands R8 to R10 from pensioners.

To ensure pensioners pay him rent, Mr. Wheeler takes them to collect their money in his truck. He then demands the money immediately.

Mr. Wheeler will not give the people rent receipts. This means that he can ask for rent two or three times a month because the squatters have no proof that they have paid him.

When people have refused to pay rent, Mr. Wheeler has not hesitated to carry out his threats.

He has burnt down the homes of three people. One person was deaf and dumb. Another was lying sick inside and fortunately he was saved by friends.

The squatters on the farm have formed a committee which meets regularly. They hope that if they stand together, they will be able to defend themselves against Mr. Wheeler.

Concern over housing deal

CONCERNED residents in Lenasia are coming together in many different extensions to discuss the Government's new housing policy.

Pamphlets handed out by the Federation of Residents Association (FRA) on house to house visits called on residents to come together and discuss the new policy.

At house meetings held on every street in affected extensions, residents discussed what the new policy is, how it would affect them, and what they could do about it.

In some extensions

residents have organised themselves into associations and committees.

Residents first heard of the new housing policy when letters from the Department of Community Development told them their houses were being offered for sale. If residents do not buy their homes the letter said, they should expect big rent increases.

Most residents cannot afford to buy their houses nor would they be able to pay the high rents.

Residents also lashed out at other aspects of the policy, saying it would make the housing shor-



Ram Saloojee, FRA chair: "We will not accept this new policy"

tage and overcrowding worse, increase evictions and turn townships into

worse slums.

"What are we going to do?" A pensioner from Ext. 11 asked, "we cannot accept this lying down."

"They give us no choice but to come together and stand united.

"It's no use if I stand alone and complain. Maybe we can do something if we're all together," she said.

A member of the Ext. 2 Interim Residents' Committee said the new housing policy "is the real truth of the Government's whole new deal".

"This housing policy is

part and parcel of the new constitution," he said.

"To accept the Indian Parliament is to accept this housing policy and all the problems it means for us."

"We cannot let Dennis Pillay, Rajbansi and Dinky Pillay fool us into voting for a Parliament that will be responsible for making our lives worse," he said.

The FRA has already sent a letter to the Department of Community Development outlining residents' concerns about the new housing policy.

Forced out of Mogopa, the people remain determined:

“We will not go to Pachsdraai”

MOST of the people of Mogopa, recently forced by the Government to move to Pachsdraai, are leaving for their ancestral land in Bethanie.

They refuse to stay in Pachsdraai in small shacks and tents, where the water is salty, and the land dry and not good for farming.

Although they will not have farm land in Pachsdraai and will lose compensation for their land, schools and churches in Mogopa, the people prefer to live in Bethanie.

In Pachsdraai many fear the headman, Jacob More. While the Government thinks of More as

the Mogopa people's headman, the people allege he is corrupt, takes bribes, and makes them pay fines whenever he feels like it.

The people of Mogopa were forced to move from the land they bought 75 years ago because the Government said it was in a white area.

Police closed off the village early one morning and moved everyone to Pachsdraai, 120 km away.

This move came after many other attempts to relocate the Mogopa community in Boputhatswana failed.

The Government first

tried moving the community by getting the headman of the area to agree, but the people did not listen to the headman.

He did not have their consent, they said, and elected a committee to talk for them.

The people ignored Government deadlines to move and took the matter to court.

They won their case, but the Government took harder action. A special order allowing the police to move the community by force was soon issued by the State President.

The community then took its case to the

Supreme Court but lost. And while appealing against the court's decision, the police moved in to Mogopa.

One committee member, it is said, was surrounded by the police when he refused to move. He was handcuffed and taken to Pachsdraai in a police van.

The committee also alleges that people were hit with batons and that little children were moved without their parents.

Church organisations and others like the Black Sash and the United Democratic Front which drew local and international attention to the



A Mogopa family think sadly of their home in Mogopa as they build shelters at Bethanie

plight of the Mogopa people, ask how can the Government say that the removal was “voluntary” and “peaceful”.

This shows the

Government is lying when it talks about change, they said.

In the past the Government carried out forced removals in secret. Now

their actions are known. The organisations are now helping the people move to Bethanie and have asked for help with tents, trucks and money.

Jodac brings in signatures

THE Million Signature Campaign received a boost recently when prominent members of the Johannesburg community signed campaign forms at a press conference organised by the Johannesburg Democratic Action Committee (Jodac).

Anti-apartheid campaigner, Helen Joseph, Black Sash Vice-president Joyce Harris and Detainees Parents Support Committee member Dr Max Coleman were amongst those who signed.

The UDF's Million Signature Campaign is one of the important activities of the recently established Johannesburg Democratic Action Committee.

Jodac was formed to take up the campaign against the new constitution and related laws in the Johannesburg area.

To link up with hun-



The UDF Million Signature Campaign gets a boost as prominent Johannesburg personalities sign at a press conference organised by Jodac

dreds of other organisations taking up this issue, Jodac members unanimously decided to affiliate to the UDF at the end of 1983.

“Forced removals, the

continuation of Group Areas, harsh state action and increasing militarisation of our society are issues that need to be brought to the attention of the people of Johan-

nesburg,” Jodac chairperson, Joanne Yawitch said, outlining the main issues which the organisation plans to focus on.

Already Jodac has

tried to alert the people of Johannesburg to the plight of the Mogopa community.

The organisation joined with the Black Sash in distributing a pamphlet on the forced removal of the Mogopa community, exposing the “other side” of Botha's “new deal”.

At its Annual General Meeting in February a constitution was adopted and a ten person executive elected. Since then five branches have been established and education, culture, media and finance committees formed.

“The formation and growth of Jodac shows that within the Johannesburg community there are people who reject the Nationalist Government's proposals and who commit themselves to joining the majority of South Africans in working for a democratic and non-racial society”, Jonny Joffe, the publicity secretary said.

Tembisa youth called to serve community

THE Moya Youth Movement of Tembisa has called on young people in the township to take part in the community's problems and get involved in its cultural, worker, church and welfare activities.

“We are calling the youth to discover and nurture their talents and skills, to develop their leadership and organisational abilities. We are also calling the youth to strive for proper cultural and recreational facilities,” a member of the organisation said.

He said young people could play a positive role in the many problems Tembisa faced.

“The youth are energetic and capable, and in a position to spend time working in the community's interests,” he said.

“They are less commit-

ted in family problems and responsibilities.”

The Moya Youth Movement was formed in 1983 and has a membership of students, young workers and unemployed youth.

The organisation actively supported the community's rejection of the Black Local Authority elections last year.

“To the extent that the community council was voted in by less than 10% of our community,” the spokesperson said.

“By participating in community issues we hope democratic organisations will grow and democratic leaders of tomorrow will emerge.”

He called on parents, churches and trade unions to support the youth movement and to unite against the problems which affected Tembisa.

Court dismisses squatters' plight

“BLACKS who flock to the cities from rural areas and end up as squatters are an embarrassment to themselves and the Government,” said a Commissioner for Co-operation and Development.

The Commissioner was passing sentence in the court case of a squatter from Kliptown, Mrs Doris Zwane, who was charged with squatting

illegally. Mrs Zwane's lawyers argued she was forced to come to the city through poverty in the rural area.

“Mrs Zwane is just one of thousands of others who must eat and live everyday,” they said. “To be able to do this they must work and they have to move out of the rural areas to look for work. Mrs Zwane had no choice but to take a chance and risk being

arrested.”

The Commissioner however said it was the squatter's decision to leave their homes in the rural areas and live off remnants provided by city shopkeepers. Mrs Zwane was sentenced to R120 or 120 days. Five other people were fined between R30 and R60 for similar offences.

They were all arrested in Kliptown last year.

Their shacks were demolished and they were charged for being in an urban area illegally.

When they were arrested, the Witwatersrand Council of Churches came to their aid. The WCC paid bail money and put up tents for the dwellers. They also helped them contact lawyers.

But Mrs Zwane's case is not unique. Hundreds

of people are in urban areas without permission and living in shacks.

Some are arrested and charged. Others are simply given a train fare to a bantustan — often to a place they do not know.

If they are charged and found guilty, they have to pay fines or serve jail sentences. Yet, people will come back again because, like Mrs Zwane, they have no alternative.

Football crisis in Tembisa

FOOTBALL in Tembisa has ground to a halt following the suspension of the township's entire football executive.

The executive was suspended by its mother body, the Transvaal Football Association (TFA), over an internal wrangle in one of the Zambuk League's senior clubs, Eastern Brothers.

The executive was accused of recognising the wrong faction in the club and slapped with a 5 year suspension, subsequently reduced to 3 years after an appeal was lodged.

When clubs in Tembisa were to resume fixtures, they found the stadium under lock and key.

It was closed by the Local Town Council who claimed the executive was 5 years in arrears with ground rental.

The TFA meanwhile called a meeting in Alexandra to elect an interim executive.

Tembisa clubs sent a delegation to the TFA before the meeting and demanded:—

- the meeting take place in Tembisa and not Alexandra

- full reasons be given for the executive's suspension

- members of the TFA's sub-committees, the Fixtures Committee, Disciplinary Committee and the Referee's Union, act as an interim committee.

The delegation was told TFA had the constitutional power to hold elections anywhere, and that Tembisa clubs were acting unconstitutionally by holding meetings.

The clubs decided they had no option but to attend the meeting in Alex-

andra and exercise their votes.

At the meeting, there were allegations of cheating when voting took place by secret ballot. After heated argument, voting took place by show of hands.

It is now more than a month since the interim executive was elected, but still the grounds remain closed.

“And this after repeated calls and promises,” a resident of Tembisa said. “Use of facilities which belong to the community are being withheld,” he

said.

“It is also rumoured that some people who were campaigning for office to the executive are supporters of the local town council, and their defeat has something to do with the closure of grounds.”

“Tembisa is experiencing one of its bleakest years in sport for a long time,” he said.

The interim executive is being frustrated by the council's condition that talks can only take place if they produce a constitution.

Handicapped find problems at ordinary schools

THE Society for the Care of the Mentally Handicapped is an organisation catering for mentally handicapped people in the Coronationville, Eldorado Park — Klipspruit area.

A training program depending on the pupil's handicap is provided on a daily basis — assessment of the pupils potential for growth is an integral part of the program.

The society also learnt that problems were being experienced in placing pupils back at regular schools in an adaptation class.

The society drew up a questionnaire which was sent to principals of 22 primary schools in the Coronationville, Bosmont, Westbury, Riverlea, Eldorado Park and Klipspruit areas.

The purpose of the questionnaire was to discover whether prin-

cipals and teachers of adaptation classes found the system effective.

None of the principals or teachers who responded, felt that the adaptation classes were effective.

Respondents felt strongly that the adaptation class was inadequate and that more qualified teachers, improved psychological services, services of a social worker and an increased number of adaptation classes were needed to improve the service.

The society is concerned that many schools did not complete the questionnaire — lack of time, interest or fear of reprisals?

The society has made many recommendations and has called on principals to encourage the community to identify its needs and make representation to the relevant authorities to act on those needs.

Unions left out of unity talks

THREE unions which were told to leave discussions on trade union unity and the formation of a single federation, are still committed to unity and the formation of a federation of independent industry based trade unions.

The unions, SAAWU, GAWU and MGWUSA, said at a recent press conference their commitment to unity was shown by their willingness to take part in the unity talks.

Urgent

In a statement issued at the conference, the unions said: We wish to reiterate our sincere commitment to unity.

"We believe the need for unity among workers is more urgent than ever.

"Throughout the unity talks we became known for our consistency in calling for unity which develops out of struggle.

"We committed

ourselves to the formation of one progressive trade union federation because we see this as a step in which unity would manifest itself in the end."

The unions were expelled from the discussions after refusing observer status.

"Individuals operating in some unions maintained we are blocking progress because of the way in which we are structured," the unions said.

"They then suggested we be given observer status in the talks. We declined because it was not in keeping with our mandate.

"Our mandate was that we should be at the meeting as full participants. They then moved for our expulsion from the talks.

"We were asked to go and restructure ourselves while other unions are continuing with the talks.

"We do not see this as a healthy way of sear-

ching for a common denominator upon which unions can unite."

The three unions felt their expulsion was deliberate.

"It happens to be a fact that unions participating in the Unity Talks are structured differently.

"Some are general unions, others are federations whilst some are industrial unions.

"It also happens to be a fact that current history is calling upon existing federations and general unions to disband in favour of one progressive trade union federation.

Federation

"However, we see the transformation of existing federations and general unions as a process which entails a number of factors. We cannot see this process as something that proceeds in a single line, without deviations and problems.

"It is a process that requires immense human and material resources to make an ambition into a reality. We harbour no illusions about this.

"We can only suspect that those individuals who are setting deadlines are deliberately trying to leave certain unions out of the Unity Talks."

The unions condemned "some in the commercial press and others in trying to sow seeds of disunity among workers".

"Some hostile people started to come up with phrases like 'newly-emerging unions' and 'small community unions'.

"The real content behind such phrases was a manoeuvre to exaggerate differences and thus drive a wedge amongst unions.

These people have defined the situation in the labour movement in very wrong terms — magnifying whatever petty differences there were amongst unions.

"Their input had the effect of bringing our commitment to unity into disrepute."

The unions said they had no intention of forming a parallel federation and hoped their expulsion would be reconsidered so that they could play a full role in working towards unity.

MORE and more committees and associations are being formed in Lenasia as residents organise themselves against problems in the community.

In Extension 11B, residents have formed the Ext. 11B Residents' Association after numerous house meetings called to discuss the Government's new housing policy.

Most residents cannot afford to buy their homes and face higher rents



Women from the Vaal meet to launch Vaal Women's Organisation.

Women organise in the Vaal

A WOMEN'S organisation has been formed in Vaal.

At a meeting held on March 11, residents decided to form the Vaal Women's Organisation which would be part of the Vaal Civic Association (VCA) explained why it was important for women to come together in a women's organisation.

"We women from the Vaal," she said, "need to

form an organisation which will be strong enough to stop this evil system and free everybody."

"We need to fight our problems by uniting. If children are expelled from school, it is ineffective for only their parents to complain. But if all the mothers stood united and demanded why, expulsions would not happen so readily."

She said people should

not just stand and watch when their neighbours were evicted.

"You would not want that if you were in that person's place. We should all go and demand an explanation," she said.

Father McCamel, chairperson of the VCA, welcomed the idea of a women's organisation which would bring women together to take up common problems.

"If we have problems, we cannot merely sit and lament about them," he said.

"We must try and find solutions to them."

"For example how many children have drowned in little 'dams' built in the township by the Administration Board," Father McCamel asked.

"Women know about this problem yet women's organisations have not stood up and organised to oppose these dams," he said.

Guest speaker Amanda Kwadi from Soweto also welcomed the formation of a women's organisation in the Vaal area.

She said people in different areas, needed different organisations because they face different problems.

She joined Greta Neaphayi of the Federation of SA Women in inviting the Vaal Women's Organisation to a meeting of Transvaal women.

The Federation of South African Women, an umbrella body of all women's organisations, united women of all colours around the country in the 1950's. One of its most important activities was a march by 50 000 women to Pretoria to protest against passes for women.

The meeting was reminded that 1984 is the 30th anniversary of the Women's Federation.

Other speakers at the meeting included a youth speaker and Aubrey Mokoena of the Release Mandela Committee and UDF.

Resolutions taken at the meeting condemned the high food prices and the price of school uniforms.

The Vaal Women's Organisation also resolved to affiliate to the UDF.

Residents' Association said.

At various other meetings in Lenasia, residents discussed the increase in GST, food prices and transport.

"The increased hardships facing us is becoming a living nightmare," one resident said.

"Our associations under the FRA face new challenges. It is only by coming together and taking up these problems as one that we can fight for better living conditions," he said.

Bosmont takes JCC to task



MORE than a thousand Bosmont residents recently signed a petition demanding the Johannesburg City Council do something about a foul-smelling, mosquito-infested swamp in the area.

The swamp, which borders the St. Barnabus College in Bosmont, has long been complained of by residents.

"The mosquitoes are unbearable and the smell seems to be getting worse, particularly when it's windy," one resident said.

Another resident said she removed all the carpets in her home thinking that was where the stench came from.

The swamp is also a health hazard, residents say.

A local doctor is reported to have treated many patients for septic mosquito bites, sore throats, ear infections and even gastro-enteritis.

According to the Medical Officer of Health for the area, the swamp was sprayed with larvacide to kill the mos-

quitoes after Mr Leslie Sawyer, a resident, handed in the petition on behalf of the community.

But this has not solved the problem.

Mr Corke, principal of the St. Barnabus College, said the Council had sprayed the area on several occasions, but still the problem persists.

Pollution of the fresh water stream has been traced to a factory in Industria. The sewer is unable to take the load and it is spilling into the stream.

Residents feel that only by coming together and voicing their grievances, will the authorities act on them.

"The petition has in one way shown that the people of Bosmont can stand together," one resident said.

Mr Doug Matthews, a community leader, said it is through the unity of the people "speaking with one voice that our needs can be met".

Residents are discussing the idea of forming a residents' association in the area to tackle other community problems.

UDF signature campaign moves ahead

THOUSANDS of people all over the country are showing they reject the Government's new constitution and the Koornhof laws. They do so by signing their names to a form which declares support for the UDF and rejects the Government's new laws. This is the UDF's Million Signature Campaign which was launched in Pretoria on January 22.

In the Transvaal, signature committees have been formed in many areas and organisations. These committees have organised local events like mass meetings to launch the campaign in their areas.

Signature campaign T-shirts and forms have found their way to places as far as Tzaneen in the North, Mafeking in the West, and the Vaal area in the South.

Thousands signed at the UDF People's Music Festival, the Wits Free People's Concert, and the BP Cup Final in Soweto.

In the Western Cape, the Campaign is going strong with 'signature blitzes'. In these, UDF supporters from all over get together to collect signatures door to door in

an area.

Natal and Eastern Cape UDF regions have also enthusiastically launched the campaign and begun collecting signatures.

The UDF sees the campaign as educating and informing people about the front and its struggle.

"The campaign also aims to strengthen local organisation," says one of the Transvaal UDF secretaries, Moss Chikane.

"This can happen by organisations using the empty space on the signature form to make their own demands against Apartheid."

"They can put in specific demands aimed at their own constituency, and link these demands to the UDF's national political demands," he said.

"For example Azaso has added to the form their demand 'The doors of learning and culture shall be opened. Forward

with the Education Charter'."

UDF's Transvaal region began the campaign with a media night for affiliate organisations and supporters.

"People from all walks of life and organisations took part in printing T-shirts and signature forms and painting banners," one UDF supporter at the media night said.

After producing its media, the Transvaal UDF held an education workshop. "We discussed how to run the campaign so as to ensure the best planning, publicity, organising and fundraising," Valli Moosa, a Tvl. UDF secretary said.

The UDF is also raising funds to employ a fulltime worker for the campaign.

"We are moving ahead fast and making huge gains along the way. But with our Transvaal target of signatures, we still need all the help we can get."

Civic bodies grow in Lenz

when the housing policy comes into effect on July 1.

In Greyville, Extension 2, residents have formed an Interim Residents' Committee and recently campaigned against rubbish dumping and unhygienic conditions in the area.

Over 2 000 people signed a petition demanding the Johannesburg City Council clean up illegal

dumping sites within a month.

Leaflets distributed door to door and posters put up all over the area, called on the Council to meet residents' demands.

The principal, teachers and students at a high school in the area led a protest march through the streets and demanded urgent action from the Council.

The City Council was

forced to clean up the area.

In out-lying extensions 8, 9, 10 and 11, residents are stepping up demands for postal and telephone services.

"The absence of these services often results in further problems, like electricity being cut off because accounts are received late or problems in getting medical help," a member of the Ext. 10

SPEAK

THE VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY

The truth of the matter

The Government, its agents Hendrickse, Rajbansi, Poovalingam and Tshabalala, the commercial newspapers and TV, are trying to present a picture of change in this country.

The Black Local Authorities, Indian and coloured parliaments, the opening of some Central Business Districts and beaches, a commission looking at the Immorality Act, the new tax laws and the Nkomati Accord are all highlighted in a way which presents this Government and its initiatives as sincere and meaningful.

Reality

But the reality in this country is different.

Thousands continue to die from starvation, removals and evictions are intensifying, rent and service charges are going up, the waiting list for homes grow longer, the price of basic foodstuffs is rising all the time, retrenchments continue and unemployment grows.

The Government's new laws do not in any way address the real problems of our people. More than that, this Government is in fact following policies which will make our day by day existence less bearable.

The tightening of influx control laws, the new housing policy, the move towards autonomy at local government level, cutbacks on state expenditure - are just some examples which tell the true story of the 'new deal'.

Domination

This Government is committed to white domination and privilege for the few of this there is no doubt.

Its initiatives hold no relief for our people. There is no move towards full political rights and an equal distribution of the country's wealth and resources. Instead the Government is strengthening its hold over political power and economic wealth.

The truth behind the 'new deal' and the effect it is to have on the daily lives of our people is deliberately ignored by the media and those who support the Government's plans.

Distortion

Such a presentation of the Government's plans is a deliberate distortion of the truth in this country.

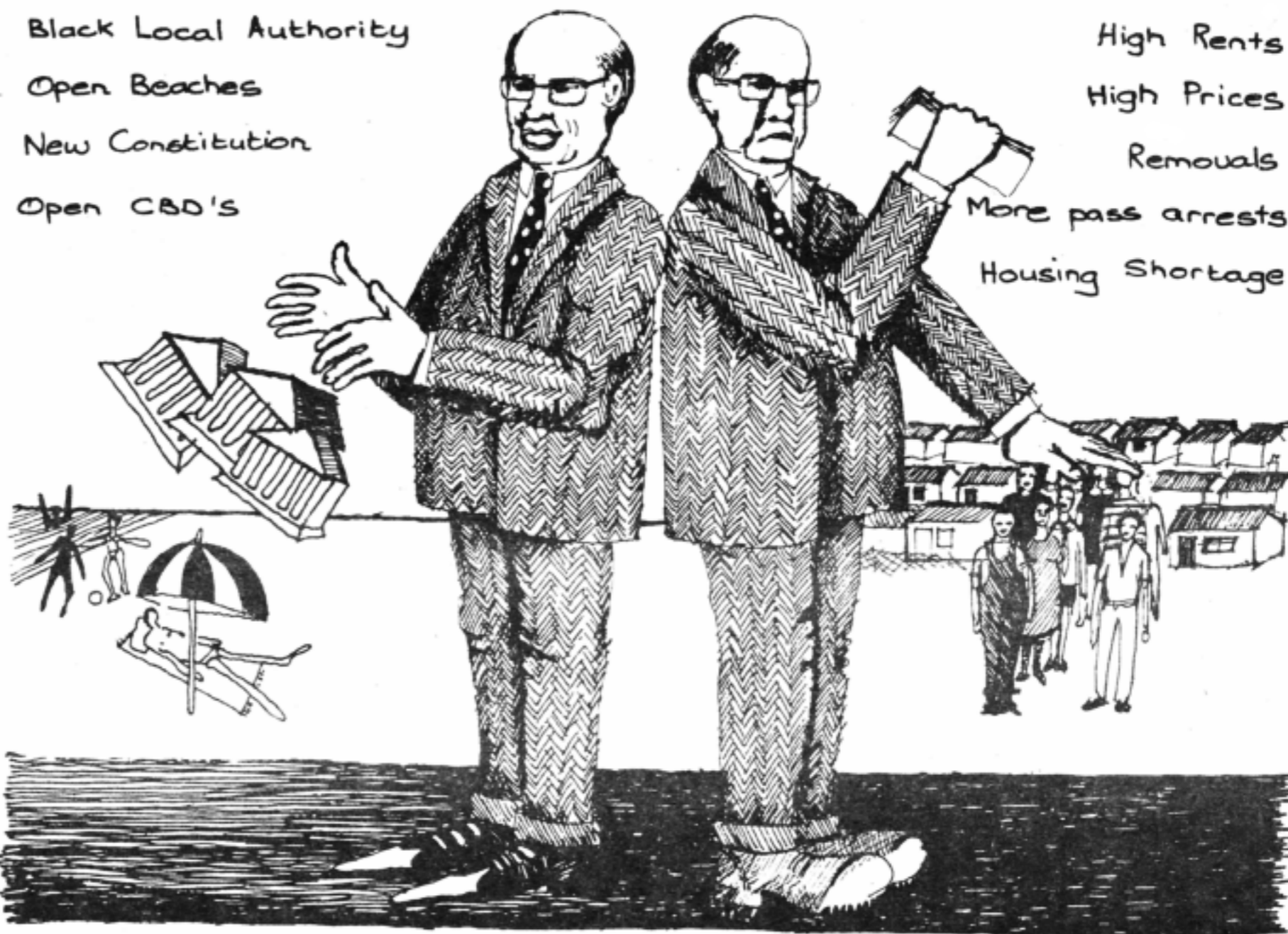
At such a time, the role of a community newspaper like Speak has added importance.

Through these pages, we will continue to highlight and relate the day by day experience of our people and express the reality in our country.

ends

Black Local Authority
Open Beaches
New Constitution
Open CBD's

High Rents
High Prices
Removals
More pass arrests
Housing Shortage



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Constitution - up to no good

I AM grateful for our own newspaper which makes sure the letters we send in are printed and allows us to give our views.

I am not a politician. I am a simple working man, but I am very angry about the new constitution. I am angry most of all about the way the government and all these new "leaders" coming out of nowhere, are trying to fool us.

And I am sure the constitution is up to no good simply by looking at the kind of people who want

us to support it. Believe me, I know a lot of these people. I know who they are, where they come from and what they've been up to.

I am sure the only good this new constitution can do, is to fill their pockets. My feelings are very strong, and I am definitely not going to vote in the August elections.

Not Fooled West Rand

How can we survive rising costs?

THE other day while shopping I was amazed when paying up at the cash counter. The price of food these days is unbelievable!

I am a widow with four children and I barely manage to survive. With my small widow's allowance and wages, I have to pay high prices for school books and clothes, rent, lights and water, transport, plus food.

How can one survive these days when the cost of everything is rising?

Already I've stopped buying meat and fresh milk so often. Soon, I am sure, I'll have to cut down even further.

As a mother I have to see to it that all my children are healthy, but how can I do this when I know that the good healthy food is so expensive?

I don't know what can be done, but something must be done.

Distressed Coronationville

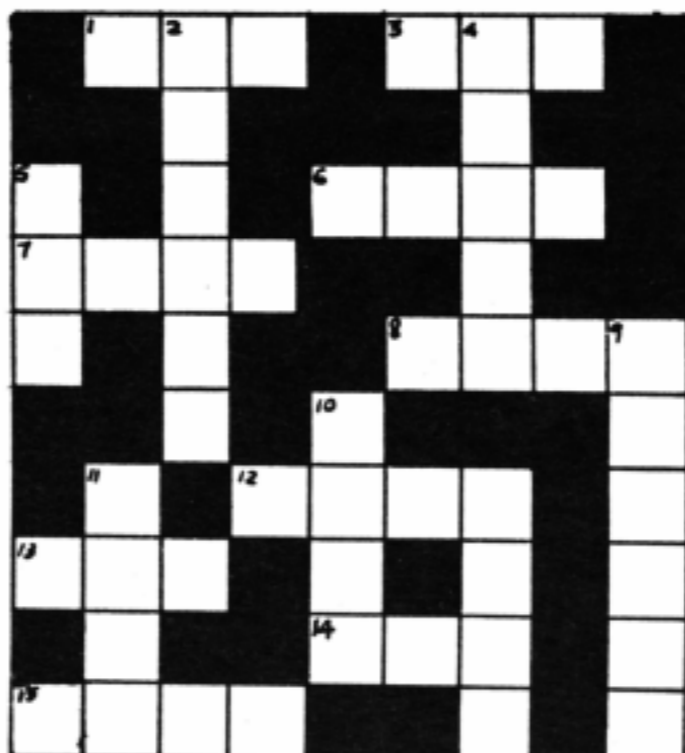
PEOPLE'S FESTIVAL



RECENTLY the UDF held a very successful People's Festival attracting 20 000 people from all parts of the Transvaal.

People danced to the music of Juluka, Hotline and many others. Speak was there too. The Speak stall attracted many people who supported the community newspaper by taking out subscriptions.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- This organisation is threatening to demolish shacks in Reiger Park.
- The abbreviation for the recent campaign of the UDF.
- A youth movement in Tembisa.
- In some areas people have been going door to collecting signatures for the UDF.
- Because of the drought the price of has increased
- Mine workers want trade unions because the mine bosses pay them very lows.
- Married women are going to be worse off under the new . . . laws.
- . . . sniffing is becoming a big problem amongst children.

DOWN

- People were recently forcibly removed from this settled community in the Western Transvaal.
- A youth organisation in Soweto.
- This organisation held a People's Festival to raise funds.
- This detainee's support organisation as well as the UDF, Vaal Civic Association and unions have been barred from holding meetings in churches in the Vaal Triangle.
- A new women's organisation was formed in this area recently.
- This popular sport, foot. . . was stopped in Tembisa.
- With the high cost of living, it is difficult to make . . . meet.

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Who is to blame for the increased cost of living

THE price of bread has gone up. Canned food, sugar, eggs, and General Sales Tax has increased. Fuel costs more and transport costs are greater. The price of maize, poultry, rice and tea are soon to go up also. All these increases mean an increase in the cost of living.

At the same time thousands of workers are being retrenched, school leavers cannot find jobs, migrant workers are not having their contracts renewed, and wages remain the same or do not keep up with the rising costs.

These are all signs of the recession South Africa is in.

At the moment the Government does not have enough money to run the country the way they want to. So they are trying to raise more money by increasing taxes, the cost of services they provide and by reducing the amount of money spent on subsidies.

There are many reasons why the Government is short of money.

Due to the drought and floods, farmers have not

On the April 1:

●Petrol rose by 1,5 cents a litre in the Transvaal.

●Railway and air fares rose an average of 9,4 percent

●Post office tariffs rose by 9 percent.

●Water tariffs on the Witwatersrand rose by 23,5 percent.

●Transvaal hospital fees doubled.

Since January:

●Brown bread has risen from 43c to 50c and white bread from 53c to 60c.

●Canned foods have

increased by about 9 percent.

●Mealie meal and other maize products are to be increased by at least 25 percent. This increase will also affect the price of other foods such as chicken.

Other things which are going to increase soon are:

- Rice,
- Soap, washing powder etc
- Bisquits
- Coal.
- Sugar

been able to grow enough food to feed all the people. The Government is having to spend large amounts of money importing food.

In addition the Government has not been able to tax farmers on their profits. Instead they have had to spend large sums of money on drought and flood relief.

Bosses are also not making as high profits as they have in the past, which the Government can tax.

A recession occurs when too many goods — clothes, cars, machines etc are made but not enough of them are bought.

The companies which make these goods start to make less profits, and are forced to make fewer goods.

They do not need as many workers and so we see thousands laid off, and school leavers can't get jobs.

Unemployed people also do not pay tax. So

with high unemployment, the Government gets less money from workers' taxes.

The Government has had to look for ways to raise more money.

One way of raising money is to increase the price of services it provides like train fares, or raise taxes.

By increasing General Sales Tax from 6% to 7%, the Government will raise an additional R700 million a year.

Another way is to reduce the amount of money they spend on subsidising transport, the price of bread and other essentials. This is why train fares were increased in March.

A third way is to reduce the amount of money spent on things like medical care, care of the old and handicapped, pensions etc. The Government has always provided very few social and welfare benefits to black people and now they want to provide even less.

The Government is also trying to encourage business men — "the private sector" — to take more responsibility for providing houses and



other services which the Government provided in the past. This is why they now allow the private sector to build houses in the townships.

Then they want the town councils or management committees to finance and fundraise themselves. The Government will no longer provide money for community facilities like libraries, parks or clinics, and are allocating less

money for building and maintaining homes.

This means that to provide these facilities, local government bodies will have to raise rents and service charges.

In all these cases, an increasing burden falls on the people themselves — and the poorest are hit the hardest.

The Government could reduce the amount of money they spend on the army, homeland ad-

ministration, resettling people, implementing the new constitution and administering the pass laws.

Huge amounts of money are spend on running the apartheid system. Last year R345 million rand was given to homeland governments and R400 million rand was used by the army.

However the Government instead decided to ask the people to foot the bill.

GOVERNMENTS are not entirely powerless in the face of an economic crisis. In the past the British, American and European Governments dealt with these crises by

- lowering the price of bank loans so that money was available for struggling companies to keep their workers employed and to stave off bankruptcy

- taxing the rich, borrowing or printing money to subsidise food and provide wages for working people rather than retrench them.

In this way these governments eased the burden of working people, the poor and the unemployed.

Today the Reagan and Thatcher Governments reject methods that are

sympathetic to the problems of the people. Their solution to get their economies out of a recession is to:—

- Cut government spending on housing, medical aid, food subsidies, education and pensions

- Force unprofitable companies to go bankrupt

- Encourage firms to replace outdated machinery with new machinery which can do the work of several workers in shorter time.

- Decrease the tax on the profits of the rich so

that they can invest more and take over bankrupt businesses.

The South African Government is using policies like those of Reagan and Thatcher to deal with the economic recession here.

The price of South Africa's export viz agricultural products, gold, diamonds, iron ore, iron-alloys and platinum has dropped.

At the same time the price of machinery and industrial equipment that South Africa imports has risen. This means that the

Botha follows in the footsteps of Reagan and Thatcher



South African Government spends more inter-

nationally than it earns. Other big factors that

contribute to the financial trouble that this Government finds itself in, is the drought which has almost destroyed this years agricultural produce and the huge amount of money spent on running Apartheid.

Instead the Government passes the bill on to the people..

- It has increased General Sales Tax (GST).

- It has made the people responsible for providing their own houses.

- In real terms, the Government spends less on education.

- Medical bills have increased.

- The price of food and transport increases almost daily.

- Workers are retrenched in their thousands. As more family members are out of work, one persons' wage has to support more people.

- The people the Government no longer wants responsibility for are dumped in the homelands after being retrenched or forcibly removed from their homes and communities.



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INFORMATION



One of the demands during the campaign to oppose the Black Local Authorities last year was for housing, security and comfort for all.

Township residents are being pressurised to make a very difficult decision — to buy or not to buy their houses.

Most residents have always been denied this possibility in the past. But in July last year, in a change of policy the government announced a 'big housing sale'.

Eager to sell these houses, they announced discounts if the houses were bought before July 1984. But they warned that rents of the unsold houses will be significantly raised.

July 1984 is only a few months away — yet not even 10 percent of the 500 000 houses have been

People just do not have the money to buy their houses. The 'big housing sale' is turning into a 'big housing flop' for the government. They have now been forced to extend their deadline for raising rents for another year.

People are asking many questions. Why is the government pushing us so hard to buy our houses? What will we gain? Many people do not have houses or adequate accommodation — how will the sale of houses help them?

In this article SPEAK looks at the government's new housing policy and some of its implications.

What is the housing policy?

● The government will not spend money on building houses anymore. Instead it will only spend money on buying land and providing services like water, roads, sewerage for this land.

● People who need houses will have to build houses themselves with their own money.

● All tenants who earn more than R150 per month must buy the houses they live in. Even flats are to be sold.

● The government says that if te-

nants do not buy their houses, rents will go up.

● The government says all illegal shacks and shelters must be demolished. People are not allowed to build backyard shacks without the permission of the town council or the municipality.

● The government will build some houses for pensioners and people who earn less than R150 per month. These houses will be of a much lower standard than the houses the government has built in the past.

REAL HOUSES

The government is admitting that the match box houses they have built for so long are not real houses. Recently the West Rand Administration Board announced they were making serviced stands available for people to build 'real houses' in Naledi, Dobsonville and Kagiso.

MAKING MONEY OUT OF THE HOUSING SALE

'We are not going to force anybody to buy. We are encouraging them because of the advantages of buying, and probably selling at a high profit in the future. Besides there is no better investment than property' — Mr. David Thebahu, July 1983.

Advantages for who, Mr. Thebahu?

The advantage seems to be for the rich people — speculators — who can afford to buy houses now and because of the housing shortage sell them in a year's time at a higher price.

WAITING FOREVER

People who have had their names on waiting lists for years will probably never get homes allocated to them.

In Soweto, the community council is making serviced stands available for people on the waiting lists. They have a 30 day option to decide whether or not they want a stand to build their own houses. Then the stands will be available to anyone who has the right urban qualifi-

A new housing policy which shifts the burden onto the people, bringing no comfort, no security and . . .

NO MORE HOUSES



Despite the severe housing shortage, officials are constantly tearing down shacks.



Under the new policy, the government will no longer build houses for people

Why we face a new housing deal

For years now people have organised against the housing shortage, high rents and bad maintenance. People have marched to city council offices, demonstrated at the offices of management committees and Community Development, and the community councils. They have demanded houses at rents people can afford and the right to make decisions concerning their own lives, the right to live and work where they choose and the right to a share of the wealth they help to create.

In this article SPEAK looks at the government's new housing policy and some of its implications.

Civics

They have joined together in democratic residents associations and civic associations to make these demands. This has made the government very worried. They do not want the people to be united. They do not want to provide houses for everyone, or to allow the people's organisations to govern the townships. They want to control where people live and work. They do not want the people to have an equal share of the wealth they help to create.

The new constitution does not mean real change. It does not give all South Africans the vote in a united South Africa. Instead it offers some

people the vote in racial parliaments, and excludes others.

The new housing policy is just the same. It does not offer all people houses at rents they can afford. Instead it offers some people a chance to buy a house. This will not end the housing shortage. It will not end shack demolitions. It does not give people the right to live with their families where they choose.

Responsibility

The government's propaganda tells us that it is not their responsibility to build us houses. It says that we must build our own houses with our money.

The government hopes that in future we will not blame them for the housing shortage or the bad condition of our houses. We will own these houses and so we will have only ourselves to blame.

The government says it does not have enough money to build houses for the people. The government takes taxes from our wages and from GST. But it does not spend all these

taxes on housing. Instead it spends most of this money on the police, the army. The government spends more than twenty times as much money on the army as it spends on housing.

Last year the government cut the amount of money it spent on housing by R500 million. And increased the amount it spent on defence by R200 million.

The government says the bosses will spend more money on building houses for their workers. The bosses do not want to see their profits on shacking houses for all their workers. They are only prepared to use a little of this money to build houses for skilled workers and supervisors.

The government does not want to spend money on building houses because it wants to control the number of people who live in the townships. For many years the government has tried to use the pass laws to prevent people from living in the townships with their families. It has also used the Group Areas Act to force people to live in racially segregated townships where living conditions are bad.

The new housing policy does not change any of this. Even if people are able to buy their own houses they will still live in racially segregated townships.

When rents increase life in the townships will be more expensive as well. By washing its hands of any responsibility to pay for housing, the government is also trying to force people who are unemployed or if they do not have enough money to build their own houses they will not be able to afford to live in town.

Homelands

They will be forced to move to the homelands where there is no control over what kind of houses people build, and where rents are cheap.

The government hopes that shack demolitions will also help to force people to leave townships. When shacks are pulled down, only legal residents are allowed to apply to build their own houses. Illegal people are told they must go back to the homelands.



The government is encouraging people to build their own houses — which is like working overtime for no extra pay.

What does the housing policy mean for us?

● The housing shortage will get worse.

Already there are many people who do not have houses. Most of these people now have even less of a chance to get a house. The government will only provide houses for pensioners and for people who earn under R150 a month. People who earn more must build their own houses. Most people do not earn enough to build their own houses.

● There will be more slums.

Overcrowding will increase, housing standards will drop and shacks will develop.

With a bigger housing shortage there will be more overcrowding. More people will squeeze into little houses and live in wendy houses, garages, backyards and even fowl runs.

For pensioners and people who earn under R150, the government will build houses of a lower standard. These houses will not have ceilings, electricity, hot water, or floor coverings.

Most people who are forced to build their own houses will not be able to build houses of a good quality. They will have to make use of cheaper building methods and materials.

To 'help' people build their own houses the government has three kinds of self-help housing schemes: Core housing which is only a bathroom and/or a kitchen — the rest must be built by the tenant; shell housing which only has an outside wall and roof with no inside walls and ceiling; assisted self-help housing which is only a plot with electricity, water and sewerage connections.

How long will people live in half a house before they have worked long and hard enough, committed themselves to adequate loans etc. before the whole house is built?

People who buy the houses they are presently renting will have to maintain the houses themselves. Most of the houses are old and badly in need of repair — leaks, cracked walls, broken doors and windows.

In houses of poorer quality, which are badly built, overcrowded, without electricity etc. — there are more dangers from gas and paraffin, and illness from cold and damp.

● Rent will go up.

People who cannot buy their houses will have to pay more rent. The maintenance part of rent will increase. The Department of Community Development is also raising the interest rate it charges on the money it lends to township authorities. Rent will also be worked out on the present value of the house and not what it cost to build the house originally. The government might also work out rent on the whole family's income and not just the head of the family.

● We will pay more for less.

Rent or the buying price of a house will be worked out according to what it would cost to build that same house today, not what it cost originally.

The present value of the house will include the geysers and walls we put in ourselves and have already paid for — we pay double for those things.

Rent paid over the years will not be taken as part of payment for buying a house — that rental is lost.

We even have to pay for the government's survey which is used to assess the present value of the house and their big advertising campaign. If the breadwinner of a family gets even a small wage increase, he will fall into a different income bracket and have to pay much more in rent. People who take out loans from

their bosses, building societies or banks will pay high interest.

Even after people buy their houses, they still have to pay service charges. In areas where houses are sold under 99 year leasehold, people have to still pay a site rental which makes up 75 percent of the rent. People will pay more for the house than when they rented it.

● We will have to work longer and harder.

Families will be forced to build their houses in their own time, after work in the evenings and over weekends.

● There will be more evictions and greater insecurity.

People who have borrowed money from their bosses to buy their houses, or from banks and building societies, could lose their homes and all the money and labour they put into it if they lose their jobs or cannot pay back the loans.

People who have problems with payment of rent or loans, could lose their houses to someone else and be forced to live in lower quality homes or one of the self-help schemes.

● There will be more corruption.

With the big housing sale, speculators could buy many houses and resell them at big profits or charge very high rents.

With the housing shortage getting worse, more and more people will want shelter and be forced to pay high rents for little rooms and garages.

● There will be more removals to the townships.

People who want to live in an urban area must have section 10 rights, a job and a house.

As more people have difficulty in finding a house, or lose the ones they have, they will be forced to leave the urban areas.

DID YOU KNOW THAT . . .

Most people will not be able to afford to build their own houses and thus will remain homeless. Meanwhile rich people will be able to acquire one, two or more stands.

BUILDING MORE FOR THE RICH

Previously the government would build the same houses for everybody. But today there are houses for higher, middle and lower income groups.

It looks as if they might be spending more money on building homes for the higher income groups

In Chiawelo the community council recently gave the go-ahead to build 420 flats for a total cost of R6,2 million. That's R14 700 approximately for one flat.

RENT TODAY, SINK TOMORROW

In Bekkersdal, Wab is building 400 houses for rent. Why, when everywhere else they are no longer building houses?

Some say that it's because surveys have found that most of the area is flooded and can not be used for 99 year leasehold.

TWICE AS MANY SHACKS

To get an idea of how severe the housing shortage is, look at Kashiwong 204 000 people live in shacks while only 100 000, half that number, live in houses.

And the East Rand Administration Board has no intention of providing housing for them. They claim that

20 percent of the shack dwellers are legally allowed to be in shacks. To these people they are promising site and service houses.

DEVELOPMENT OR SOME MEANS OF VICTIM FOR THEM?

In Alexandra houses were demolished and people were moved

into disused buses and an old hospital to make way for 'redevelopment'.

However the houses being built in the redevelopment project are far beyond the means of the people who were kicked out.

'SECURITY'?

People who can afford to buy such houses will move in, and the poor will be worse off than before.

The government has often said that if tenants don't want to buy their houses they will be forced to move.

But an article in a government magazine recently stated that 'local authorities must assist people to agree to exchange houses prior to purchase for those who wish to remain as tenants.'

NO MONEY FOR HOUSING

The South African government only spends 2.2 percent of its budget on housing. This is when there is a massive housing shortage.

In Soweto alone, the official number of people waiting for houses is 23 000. And Wab has built 2 200 houses in the last four years.

PAYING FOR THE PROPAGANDA

To persuade people to buy their houses, the government has

launched a massive propaganda campaign. There are advertisements on TV, in newspapers and in magazines. Many people have been receiving letters in the post.

And who will pay — the cost of the sales campaign is being added onto the cost of the houses!

LOCAL AUTHORITIES WILL GAIN

Mr. Dinkie Pillay, chair of the Lenasia South East Consultative Committee has personally intervened to encourage people in Lenasia South East to buy their houses.

One wonders why it is so keen. Local authorities will get half of the sales money.

Children's Page

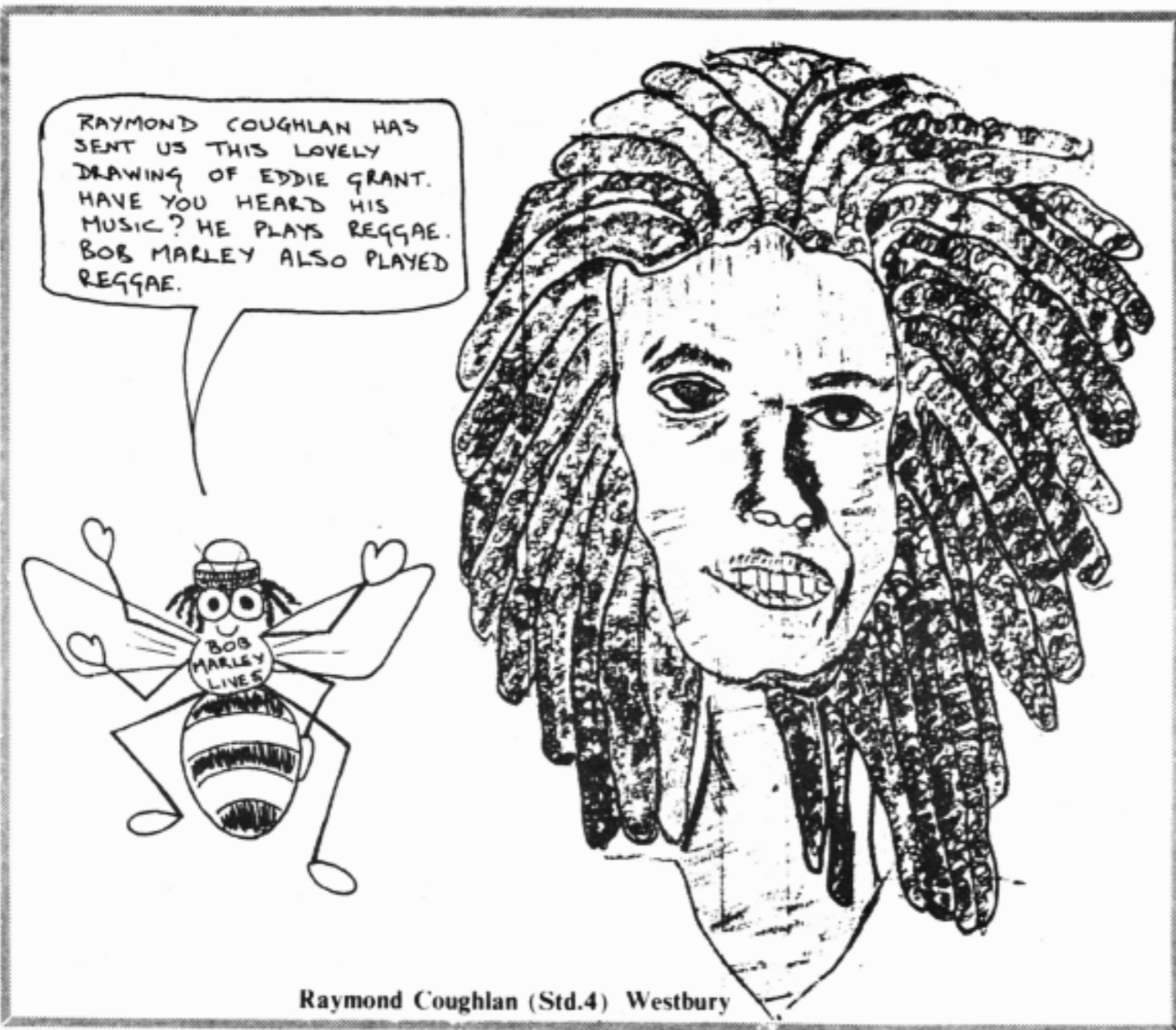
SEND YOUR LETTERS, DRAWINGS AND STORIES TO THIS ADDRESS. REMEMBER, ALL DRAWINGS MUST BE ON PLAIN WHITE PAPER.



Story of a Staffrider

One day when I had finished my Saturday grocery shopping, I went down Hoek Street to Park Station. I got on board the train going to Soweto. Inside the train there was a champion staffrider. He was called Amanayombolo, and of course I really did not know what his name meant. Women in the train were shouting "Our child, our child!" He did all his styles climbing on top of the train and climbing down. The train reached New Canada and the S.A.R. Police chased Amanayombolo. He did all his tricks and he wasn't caught!

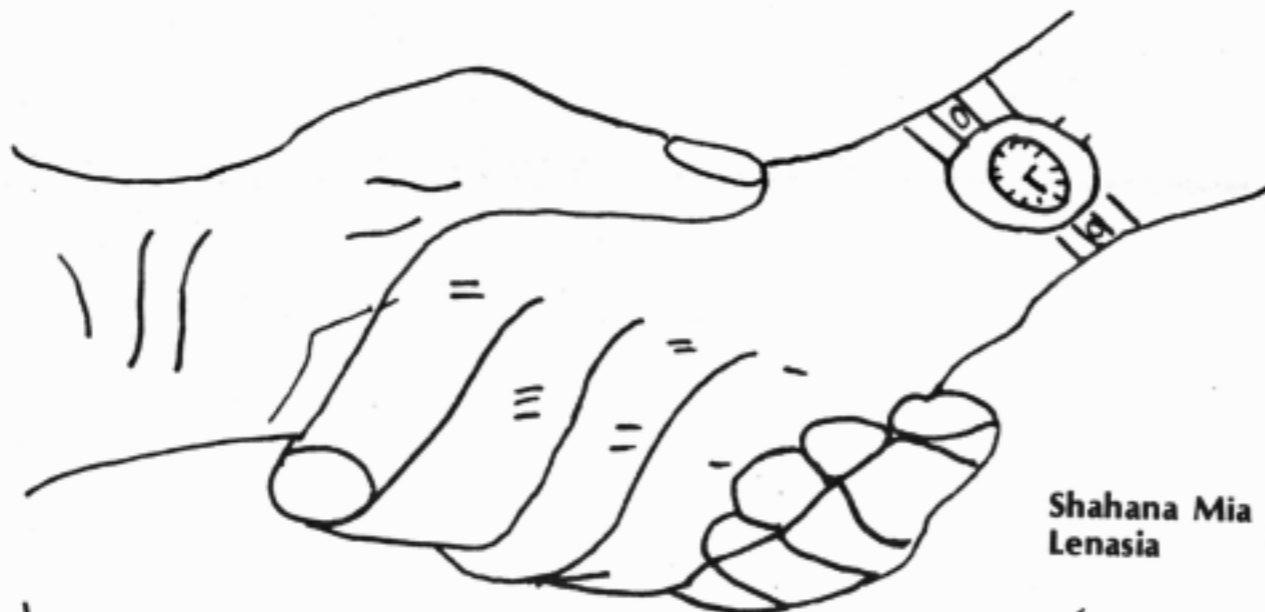
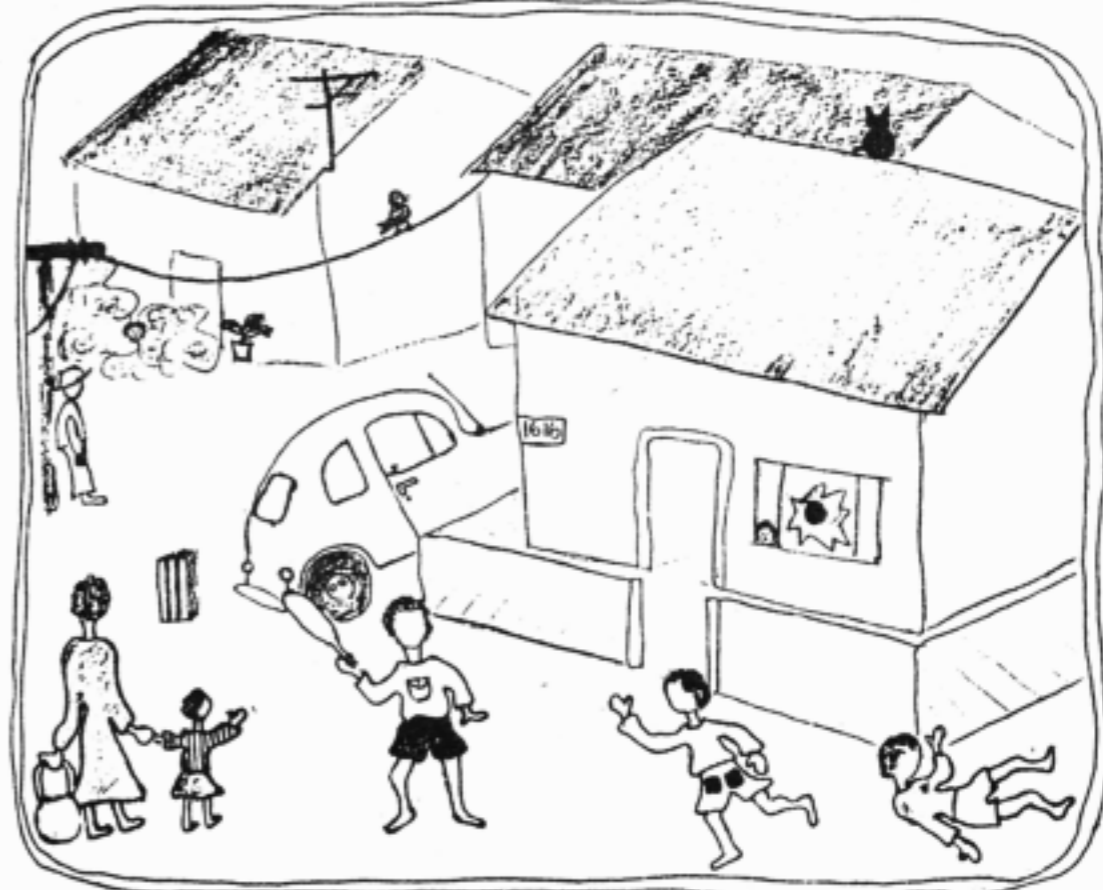
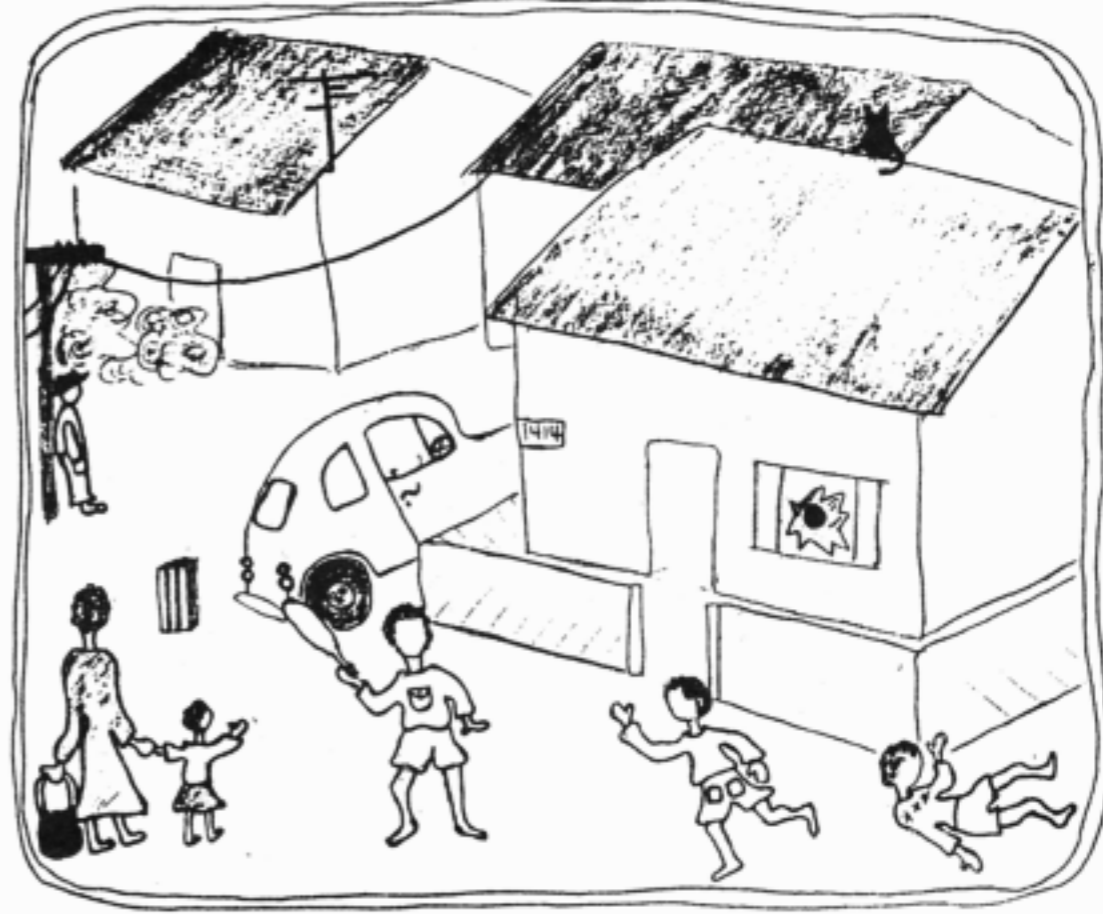
Joyce Keute (14) Soweto



Raymond Coughlan (Std.4) Westbury

Spot the difference

Here are two pictures of children playing in the streets. They look almost the same but there are 20 differences? Can you spot them?



Shahana Mia Lenasia

HUMAN RELATIONSHIP

WIN R.10.00



Hi! I still don't have a name.

Think of a name for me and send it to us on the form below. The best entry will win R10,00. 2nd prize is R5,00. 3rd prize is R3,00. Hurry!

You may send in as many entries as you like either on a postcard or in an envelope. Send your entries to 'SPEAK', P.O. BOX 26 1677; EXCOM, JOHANNESBURG, 2023.

----- ✂ ----- CUT -----

YOUR NAME _____

YOUR ADDRESS _____

✂ YOUR AGE _____ for "good try!" prizes

NAME FOR BEE _____

REASON FOR CHOICE _____

_____ ✂

WE MAKE THE WORLD

A page of music, dance, plays, films, books and poetry.



Freedom at last! — Nicaraguan people rejoice after the defeat of dictator, Somoza.

Journalists under fire in Nicaragua



UNDER FIRE
Starring: Joanna Cassidy, Nick Nolte and Gene Hackman.
Director: Roger Spottiswoode

The Film is set in Nicaragua in the final days of the Somoza regime. Its main theme explores the neutrality of journalists. When we first meet the leading characters, a reporter (Cassidy) and a photographer (Nolte), they seem hardened and untouched by the suffering around them. They jet from Africa to South America looking for that major scoop or front page photograph which will gain them international acclaim. They take pictures and notes, not sides.

In Nicaragua they come face to face with Somoza, a corrupt, brutal dictator who lives in magnificent luxury while the Nicaraguan people grovel in poverty. Both the army and

legislative machinery are under this man's control.

His family came to power with the sanction of the United States and grew very wealthy by confiscating the rich farm lands of German immigrants and through the corruption and abuse of state power.

They ran Nicaragua like a giant factory in which they exploited the people as much as they could. The police and army dealt with anyone who dared challenge the authority of Somoza.

In the face of the brutality of the Somoza regime, the journalists cannot help but become sympathetic to the cause of the Nicaraguan people.

They do eventually take sides and inadvertently become involved in the struggle.

The film reaches an exciting climax with the photographer hunted in the streets of Nicaragua by the army.

See the film, you'll like it!

POETS CORNER

Mother, Woman

Mother, woman:
 Walk and raise your fist,
 Affirm your desire to be free.

You are soil. You are sap.
 You are strength. You are work.
 Thus you are life.
 In the fields,
 In the factories,
 In the home,
 You have the truth of your strength
 From your life-giving bosom.

Don't walk three yards behind
 Your comrade and the Revolution,
 Walk in front of them.
 It's your place by right.

And when they want to exploit,
 prostitute, violate your naked body,
 refuse them,
 fighting, refuse them.
 Mother, woman: the Revolution is you.

Like a stillborn child an attempt at peace — a prayer is offered for my people know you not it is cold and lifeless? The meek shall never inherit the earth and still-born children have no peace only cold dark graves, from whence they come white crosses marking attempts at reconciliation with life.

Do not enslave my mind with talks of "Heaven— hereafter" and "turn — the other cheek" I am here and now and the force I feel in the marrow of my bones lusts not towards God but equality and freedom.

Elaine Mohammed

Mozambique.

Music school captures kids' many talents

BY 10 o'clock on a Saturday morning the Founders Memorial Congregational Church in Coronationville is abuzz with life.

Nearly 200 children, clutching lunch packages in one hand and precious music instruments in the other, mill about in a jostling, shrieking chaos.

They come from far and near, Coronationville, Newclare, Riverlea, Klipspruit-West and Eldorado Park, to take classical music lessons for the day.

A whistle shrieks, and the children grow gradually quiet, take their places in neat rows of chairs grouped all over the church premises. There are about ten such groups, each in the charge of a teacher.

Although the children in each class are of similar age, the classes are more or less defined by a particular level of musical education.

In the beginners class, children learn the basics of music theory and start on their first instrument, the descant recorder.

"The children must be able to read, write, speak and play music," Mr Alexander the principal says.

The emphasis is on discipline. Students must practice diligently for up to an hour each day and be prepared to work hard.

Most children join the school at the instigation of their parents, but soon become enthusiastic themselves.

They progress from the beginners' class into individual instrument classes of their choice like the violin, piano, guitar, flute, cello or trumpet, and take official music exams through Unisa.

Their record is good. Last year nine students achieved distinctions and five received merits.

The school was started by Mr Alexander in 1981 with the help of his wife. He is a pianist and self taught classical guitarist.

He felt a great deal of musical talent was going to waste in the community. Day schools do not provide children with adequate musical training. A programme involving very formal and intensive music study was needed, he felt.

He approached Rev Constable for use of the church hall, who was thrilled with the idea, and soon the school was off to a flying start.

South African contemporary writings

Book Review Telling it like it is

FORCED LANDING
 Contemporary Writing,
 Edited by Mthobisi Mutloatse.

STAFFRIDER
 SERIES NO. 3
RAVAN PRESS.

Telling it like it is . . . at home, in the hostel, the township, the town and the shebeen; . . . during the bus boycott, the pass raid, the war and the school boycott . . . that's **FORCED LANDING**, a collection of short stories.

The preacher, the religious, the struggling musician, the old who remember freer times, the worker, the down and out, the revolutionary,

and the teacher . . . all have their stories to tell.

A Worker:
 "Everyman is born with a certain amount of pride in his humanity. But I have come to believe that this pride is only a mortal thing, and that there are many ways to destroy it. One sure way is to take a man and place him in a Soweto hostel."

From To Kill A Man's Pride by Mtutuzeli Matshoba.

A Revolutionary
 "Somebody has got to sacrifice so that others may be free. The real things, those that really matter are never acquired

the easy way."

From The Point of No Return by Miriam Thali.

An Ordinary Man in the Township.

"Must be six o' clock already. Brr! How cold it is. Only the skollies will be on the street tonight. They are immune to the cold. This is what District Six does to us, hardens us. Hearts as empty as the shop windows in Hanover Street."

From Waiting For Leila by Achmat Dangor.

This is **Forced Landing**. Our experiences, our struggles, our lives and our history.



FORCED LANDING
 Edited by Mthobisi Mutloatse



Courage in rural areas

MAKGOTO is a village near Pietersburg in the Northern Transvaal. In 1979 the Government told the Makgato people to move to Kromhoek. The people refused. When Government officials came in with their trucks and soldiers, the people ran away. The officials destroyed their homes and schools.

For a year the Makgato people lived in nearby villages. Slowly they went back to rebuild their village.

After a long and hard struggle, the Government agreed they could stay.

The Makgato people had to sacrifice and organise to win. They formed committees, organised meetings, sent delegations to the authorities, and made their story known through the newspapers.

Today most of the people are home again.

A woman school teacher from the village tells us of their fight against forced removals and the battle to keep their homes.

Where will they move us next?

SINCE 1960 as many as 3.5 million people have been moved to the Bantustans.

Boputhatswana, Venda, Transkei, Ciskei, QwaQwa, Kwa-Zulu, Lebowa and Gazankulu are all Bantustans.

The Government wants 80% of South Africa's people to live on 13% of the land, in the so-called "homelands". These are not single pieces of land but many separate little pieces.

In the Bantustans there are no jobs, health care, food, water or land for farming.

When people leave the Bantustans for towns and cities where they might get a job and money for food, the Government forces them back.

Those who cannot find places to stay in the city, put up shacks to live in. The Government breaks down these shacks and moves people back to the Bantustans. Others have been forced to move from white farms.

Whole communities have been moved off the land they own because the Government says they are "black spots" in "white areas".

Whole towns have been moved and settled communities uprooted because the Government wants to join little pieces of Bantustan together. This they hope will im-

prove the Bantustan's image as 'independent states'.

When people fight against forced removals, the Government tries all kinds of things to get them to move.

They try to divide the people between those who have urban rights and those who don't.

They try to win over chiefs by promising them a house or business licences.

In some areas services have been stopped to make it difficult for people to live in the area. One community says that petrol was poured into their water supply.

When all else fails, the Government moves in with its trucks, police, guns, dogs and batons.

For the Government the Bantustans are used as dumping grounds for people who have no jobs. It is used to control and direct cheap labour.

The Government also wants to keep control by dividing the people into separate nations, like Xhosa, Zulu etc.

The African people must carry out their political rights in the 'independent states', the Government says.

It refuses to recognise the African people as South Africans, and give everyone full political rights in a united South Africa.

When did you hear that you were going to be removed?

The chief never organised our people. He just told us one day that he got a letter from the Commissioner that we must move from this place to an unknown place.

It was rumoured for years. Our chief agreed, I think because he was not educated. He thought what the Government says no-one can be allowed to answer. We were not allowed to give opinions. One can say the Government was helped by the chief.

What did you do?

We gathered to talk about it and think of years back. We understood that years back Paul Kruger was helped by the Batlokwa with his wars. We started to think and went to our long ago papers. We said: "We know this place was given to us by Paul Kruger. We said we were not moving."

Did all the people want to stay?

This place is divided into two. Some staying with the chief and some not. Those who stayed with the chief are those who agreed. Others were taken by force.

How did the removals happen?

First, the Commissioner sent Government officials to write numbers on our houses. They came back later and got identity numbers from everybody.

We tried to refuse but we couldn't.

Then other officials came to evaluate the houses. They came to my house and asked me how much I paid for it. I asked myself, were they thinking of compensating me if I agreed to go?

Before the removals started, a Special Branch came to my office at school. He threatened me; "You mustn't be here on Monday, otherwise you will go by force".

I told him to go to my husband at the secondary school but he refused. He was directed by his seniors; "Don't go to the husband, go to the wife". We talked and talked and talked but I told him we were not going.



What happened on the day you were meant to move?

The officials began moving those who wanted to move. They loaded all their things nicely into trucks. Only to discover that only about 40 families agreed to move.

The chief got angry. We don't know whether it was the chief or not, but what we heard was that it was the chief who told the Commissioner that he must bring soldiers and dogs to bite the people.

So after discovering that many people did not want to go, they started to take them by force.

If they found the owner of a house they would get him and hold him. Then they would get chains break the house

and load everything into trucks.

They would hold the owner all the time so he wouldn't run away. Because most people ran away to stay with others in nearby villages. That is how we fought the removals.



How did you manage to run away?

When we saw the trucks in front of our house we would flee to the bushes. In the evening when the trucks had gone to sleep, the people just came from the bushes and took their things. They would take them on the heads and run away to neighbouring villages.

There was no fighting. Only the boys fought with the dogs. One was badly bitten and taken to hospital.

We went to the people at Matoks Ramaokgapa and other nearby places: "Can I build a shanty next to your house?" They said yes, even if they were not relatives.

We stayed at Matoks for about a year. Then from October 1980 we started moving back.

What was life like at Matoks?

Some things were interesting. For example, no school. And one day the children in the villages said they were not going to classes unless the Makgato children also go to classes. Children from all the schools marched.

When they got to Kwadi, the teacher did not like the march. But they just pushed the doors and said: "Come on, let the

children out, we are marching to the Circuit Office".

"We are going to tell the Circuit Inspector that we can't continue when the Makgato children are not at school." After that we were told to gather the children and they had to go to classes in the different schools.

Did you have a committee?

Those who remained had a committee where they talked about what to do and what not to do. Otherwise we would have fought and killed one another.

We just said, "No, we are not fighting, let them do what they want but we are not fighting."

In 1980 we decided to send a delegation of four people to Cape Town to talk to Mr Botha.

Koornhof gave us the green light to return. He said: "We haven't settled your matters yet, but go back and rebuild". We are pleased you didn't fight".

Actually what made Koornhof not to be so strong is that our people did not fight, and on the Government's papers it was written that those who wanted to go were allowed to go and those who didn't were allowed to remain.



With what money did you start rebuilding the village?

With our own money. That's why the place is half built. There are no beautiful buildings here because they never com-

pensated us. Everything was demolished.

What role did the women play?

Before you couldn't get into the Kgotla (meeting) and say anything. If you had something to say, you would tell a man to go and say it. Now we attend.

Women were brave. I remember one day when the Commissioner came to remove some people. Women got hoes, spades, forks stones — anything. They went to the road and stood in a row. They said to the commissioner if you cross, you die. Could they cross? Never! They also called the boys from the secondary school who came running.

The commissioner and his officials just got into the car and went away making poo-poo-poo noises.

From that time the women played an important role.

What would you say to other communities in the same situation?

Well they must first organise. If they don't accept the removal they must sit together and choose committees. And they must not fight.

If they say, "we are not going", they must remain, saying "we are not going". But if one starts to say "Ag" then they will move.

With us, we said, "we are not going" until the last. Instead we ran away carrying things on our heads.

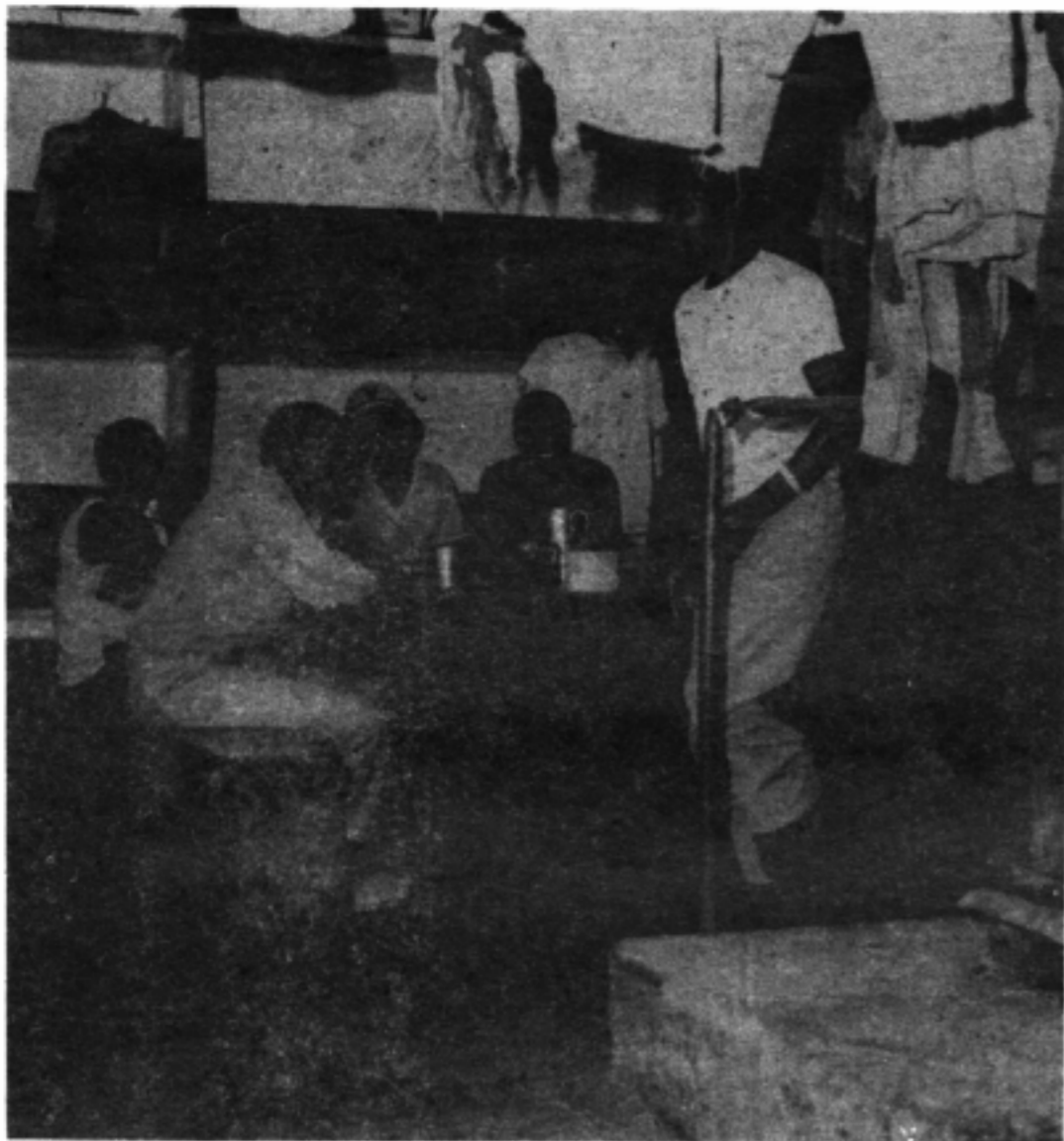
Also, we did not just sit, we talked with people, suggested this and that and even went as far as Cape Town to talk to the big one.



The people of Driefontein are fighting against being moved. Last year their leader, was shot dead. But the fight goes on.



Often people are moved to places where there is no water and have to suffer increased hardships. People travel long distances for water.



Workers meet in overcrowded rooms at a Durban Deep hostel.

Mine bosses do not like trade unions

MINE owners are the richest people in the country, but mine workers are the worst paid and live and work in very bad conditions.

Mine workers get paid very low wages but work long hours. Overtime pay is very little and many workers do not have the option whether they want

to work overtime or not. Most mine workers are contract workers and thus have no leave pay. Only a few workers can belong to a pension fund. Workers complain of deductions to their pay packets which they do not understand and were not consulted about.

At some mines workers

are made to contribute to a Provident Fund. They are not asked whether they want to, nor told how it will help them.

Many workers fall sick or are injured because of unhealthy and unsafe conditions. They do not get sick leave and are often fired after being injured.

HUNDREDS and thousands work in the mines. Until recently very few workers belonged to trade unions, although their conditions of work are bad and wages poor.

Last year a union called the South African Mine Workers Union was formed to organise mine workers.

A substantial number of workers in the Transvaal had joined unions such as the General & Allied Workers' Union and the Municipal & General Workers' Union. These unions together with other unions such as the South African Allied Workers' Union decided to form a special union for mine workers.

"One union for mine workers is stronger than having many unions organising in the mines," said Samson Ndou, Samwu's interim chairperson.

Since the formation of Samwu in January 1983, it has opened offices in Johannesburg, New Castle, Kuruman, Vryburg and West Rand. The union is preparing for its first congress where an executive will be elected. Presently a steering committee exists with Samson Ndou as Chairperson, Sisa Njikelana as Secretary, Sydney Mufamadi as Transvaal organiser, Phillip Masia as Orange Free State organiser and Matthews

Olifants as Natal organiser.

When Samwu began confronting the mine bosses, they discovered that the mine bosses did not like unions. The mine bosses only allowed certain unions to organise workers.

Samwu would write letters to the mine bosses representing their members. But the bosses would reply: "We have a well established procedure for handling complaints."

"This response is not good enough," commented Samwu's interim chairperson, Samson Ndou. "If their so-called well established procedure was adequate, workers would not have to join the union," he said. "Workers join unions for good reasons."

At Durban Roodepoort Deep Mines, Samwu members got impatient with this response from management. So they demanded to meet the mine management.

Samwu officials met the chief industrial relations officer, Mr Webster. Mr Webster said he was not prepared to deal with the union until they had been granted permission to organise on his mine by the Chamber of Mines.

The Chamber of Mines

is an organisation representing the mine bosses. The mine bosses said the Chamber must approve all unions before they can be allowed to organise the workers.

The union was angry. They feel that if workers have problems at an individual mine, the problem must be solved at that level. They do not want to ask the Chamber of Mines' permission first.

"Mine bosses are trying to force us to take the issue out of the hands of the workers," said Samson Ndou.

Samwu is presently discussing the issue with its members. "If the workers want us to meet the Chamber we shall do so," they say.

Mine bosses also have other ways to hinder unions they do not like. There are many guards and fences around mines and mine compounds where the workers stay. It is difficult for union organisers to meet workers and tell them about the union. "But Samwu has its own way of getting to workers," says the Samwu organiser, Patrick Tsholetsane.

Mine bosses try and discredit Samwu and urge workers to join other unions. However this attempt often backfires on the bosses.

More and more kids sniff glue

THREE out of every ten children in Riverlea have tried sniffing glue at least once, and two out of every ten sniff glue regularly.

This is the feeling of parents and teachers in Riverlea. They have become increasingly concerned about the number of children sniffing glue.

Why do the children do it?

SPEAK found out by talking to a group of children as they sat in the shadows of a precast wall in the area.

They were all young — between seven and eleven years old — still attending primary school.

Some spoke freely, others were reluctant. A few were openly antagonistic.

"Ek gebruik al glue van ek ses was," one child said. "My ma vra nie wat ek met die geld wat sy my gee doen nie. Sy is altyd weg."

Another child said glue took the worries away. "My father left us and my mother is always drunk. Nobody notices when I'm drifting. And when I've had a tube, I don't care."

Some children sniffed glue only to be part of the group.

"When we moved into these flats nobody would play with me until I sniffed glue. Gold gum is a habit already."

"As ek nie glue sniff nie gaan ek sonder vriende is. My vriende is soos ek," another said.

"Its better to be part of a group on a cold winter night. We all sniff together and laugh all the time. It makes old cars more comfortable to sleep in when you can't feel."

There were those who did it just for fun. "Dit gee my groot lekkerkry. Die timers drink wyn en ons sniff glue."

SPEAK learned the children graduate from glue to benzene, then possibly to alcohol and hard-line drugs.

"I'm sniffing benz already. Its better than glue. It doesn't leave a rim around your mouth."

The children said they got the glue and benzene from local shops.

"Ons koop hier by die winkels. Hulle worry nie, solank ons net betaal."

All the children spoken to agreed they sometimes felt ill and could not remember things from one day to the next.

None knew how to stop. Many did not want to. Their parents did not know. Some did not have parents to tell.

"Hoekom vra jy so baie vrae!" An older child asked angrily. "Jy's nou al die vyfde een die jaar wat hier so kom vrae's stel."

"Loop weg," he said. "Gaan terug na jou huis toe. Onse huis is die straat en ons is die familie hier. Ons gebruik onse eie geld vir onse gold glue, nie jou'ne nie."

And as SPEAK took its leave, a little boy who had not spoken a word, wiped his hand across

"Die timers drink wyn en ons sniff glue"

his mouth and said: "Ag auntie gee my geld vir brood toe."

Teachers at schools in the area said they knew about the glue sniffing, but did not know the specific children;

"The boys are loyal to one another," one said.

A resident said the children sniffed glue because it was "cheap and effective."

"Bostik, ordinary gum glue, anything that you can buy cheaply. Its availability is unlimited and legal, but lethal."

Glue destroys the mucous membranes in the nostrils and the user sniffs constantly. It causes dry throat and ultimately leads to throat and ear infections. Glue users also complain of numbness in the fingers.

A local doctor said this could be the result of nerve ends being destroyed by the toxic agents contained in glue and benzene.

Concerned residents did not really know what to do about the problem.

One resident said the children need security and the knowledge that they were important to the community.

"Not just another number in an overcrowded classroom."

"Perhaps the community can organise effective recreational alternatives for the children and parent effectiveness training groups," another resident suggested.

Vera Smith, a social worker and Director of Riverlea Social Services, said the sad thing was that the children could not really be helped in any way.

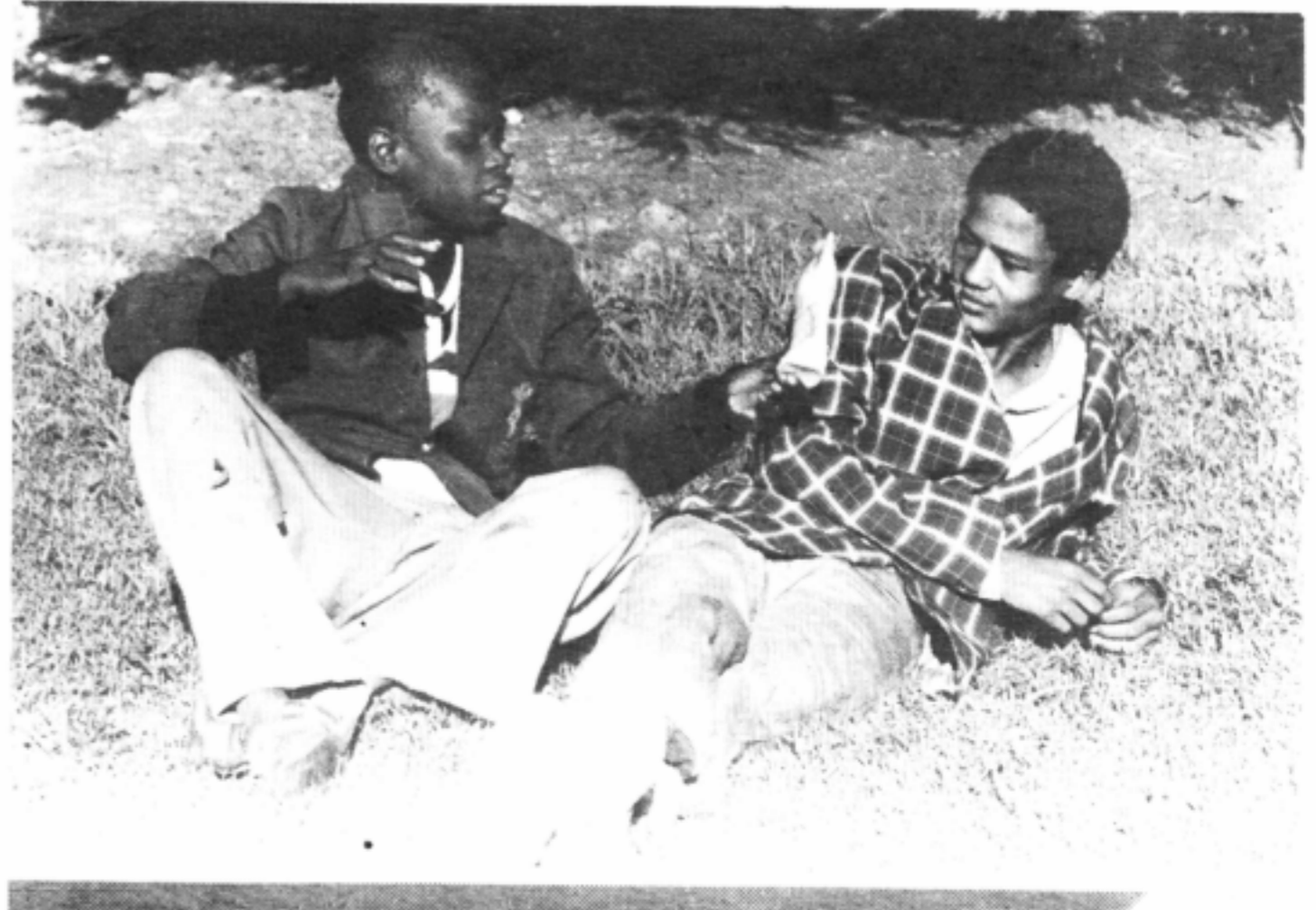
"What they need is possibly institutionalization and ultimately proper recreational facilities.

"Giving the children temporary help frustrated them more because they still went back to overcrowded homes or drunk parents."

A community worker in the area said the community should try to do something concrete in the short term.

"Something through which the children can also come to realise their rights and value as human beings — something through which they can develop their confidence and potential and a positive outlook.

"But in the long term, the environment of over-crowding, unemployment, poor education, facilities, living conditions and all that must also change.



All about the new tax laws

THE Government has made a new income tax law which will affect all African workers. SPEAK looks at the differences between the new law and the old law and explains the new law.

What are the differences between the old law and the new law!

There is one law for all workers.

Until March 1st 1984, there was one tax law for Africans and another for Indian, Coloureds and Whites. Now all workers will pay tax under the same law.

Everybody will not pay the same

Under the old law men and women with the same wages paid the same tax.

Under the new law the tax will not be the same for all workers.

● Men with wives and children will pay less tax.

● Single people will pay more tax than married men.

● Married women will pay more tax.

Taxes will be collected in a different way

Every month the bosses took part of the workers' wages and sent this money to the Government. This kind of tax is called "Pay As You Earn (PAYE)". Workers never heard anything more from the Government about their tax.

The forms are sent to the Government tax collector — called the Receiver of Revenue — who will look at the forms and decide again how much tax a worker should pay.

Sometimes workers will get some money back from the Government if the Government thinks they paid too much tax. But sometimes workers will have to pay more tax.

How does the new system work?

You will be asked by your boss to fill in a form called an "IRP 2" form where you will have to say how much you earn, whether you are married and how many children you have.



The Government has "tax deduction tables" which it sends to the bosses. The tables tell the bosses how much tax a worker should pay each month.

Every month your boss will then take part of your wages and send this money to the Government.

At the end of February each year you will get another form

This form is called an "income tax return". If you earn more than R8 000 a year — which is R154 per week — you must send a tax return to the Receiver of Revenue.

Married women do not have to fill in this form.

The Receiver of Revenue looks at your form. They look if you are married or single, how many people you support, and your medical and insurance expenses.

They deduct these from your total income to work out what they call your "taxable income" — the amount of money you earn on which you must pay tax.

People who earn a lot of money pay more tax than those who earn a little. People who earn a lot pay a greater part of their wages to the Government.

People who earn very little and have to support a lot of people, have to pay very little tax. Sometimes they do not have to pay any tax at all.

Some months after you have sent in your tax return form, you will get a reply from the Receiver of Revenue.

Sometimes he will tell you to pay more tax. Sometimes you will get some money back.

What do you need to remember?

● If you earn over R8 000 per year you have to send a tax return form to the Receiver of Revenue. You can get a fine if you do not.

● If you earn less than R8 000 per year you do not have to send a tax return form. But if you think you have paid too much tax every month, then you should fill in a form. If you do not fill in the form you will not get any money back if you have overpaid.

● Your boss may want to fill in the IRP 2 form for you. You should check that your boss has the correct information. For example if he thinks you only have two children when you really have five, then he will deduct too much money.

● Your boss should tell you how much money he is deducting from your wages to pay your tax. If you want to check that your boss is deducting the right amount of money you can look at the tax tables. The tax tables are difficult to read. If you want help you can go to your union, the Black Sash or the Industrial Aid Society.

● If you do not receive a reply from the Receiver of Revenue you should contact the local office of the Receiver of Revenue. In Johannesburg it is at No 4, Rissik Street, South.

How much will you have to pay?

How much you have to pay depends on:

- how much you earn,

● whether you are married or single,

● how many children and other people you support — called dependants.

The new law puts people into three main groups which are:

● single persons — men and women,

● married men,

● married women

Each group pays different amounts depending on how much they earn and how many children they have.

We will look at how much tax each group had to pay under the old law and how much they must pay under the new law.

Single people



For example: old law
Thami Mna-reng gets R350 every month. He is not married and he has two children. Under the

For example
Themba Mazibuko gets R500 every month. He is not married and he has no children. Under the old law Thembi paid R20.82 each month.



Under the new law he will pay R28.80 each month.

Single people with no children will pay more tax but with children will pay less tax under the new law.

Married people

The new law calls a lot of different people "married persons". They are:

- a man who is married by custom or by law
- a widower
- a widow
- a man or a women who looks after children mostly from their own wages.

A married woman is not regarded as a married person. chart and examples



For example: Mthethwa gets R300 every month.
Susan

Her husband is dead and she has three children. Under the old law she paid R4,34

tax each month. Under the new law she will pay no tax each month.



For example: old law, Mandla Ndlovu gets R700 every month. He is married and has four children. Under the

new law Mandla will pay R6,71 tax each month.

Most married persons will pay less tax.

Married women

The law says married women are women who are married by custom or by law.



For example: Under the old law she paid R1.94 each month. Under the new law Maria Mofokeng gets R250 every month. She is married with three children. Maria will pay R11,42 each month.

Married women will pay much more tax under the new law. They won't pay less tax because they look after children.

What do you need to remember?



● If you are a married women and your husband has no job or earns very little, you should ask you boss if you can pay tax as a "married person". Then you will pay less tax. You must ask your boss to write to the Receiver of Revenue and tell them that you will be taxed as a married person.

What are the disadvantages of the new system?

It discriminates against women

- Married women will have to pay more tax

● Married couples who together earn less than R8 000 may pay more tax unless they fill in a tax return form, — which they do not need to do in law.

Migrant workers will be worse off.

Migrant workers will have to pay taxes twice. Their bosses will deduct money from their wages and when they go home, they will be asked to pay tax to the Bantustan authorities.



● Migrant workers have to send their tax returns to the Bantustan authorities. They may have to wait a long time and have problems because Bantustan governments are not very efficient.

The new system is more complicated

● The bosses can confuse and cheat workers if they do not understand the new system. Workers who cannot read or write will find it difficult to fill in the tax forms.

Workers do not trust the new system

Workers are worried they will not get back the money they are entitled to.

What are the advantages

Some people especially if they are married and have many children will pay less taxes.

Families who have had to pay high medical and insurance costs or who have to support many other people will also pay less. However they will still pay more each month and will only get the money back the next year after they have sent in their tax return form.

What other problems do people have with the new tax system?

People were not consulted

When the Government made the new law it discussed it with the bosses. The Government did not talk to the workers. So workers will not trust the law.

Equal taxes but not equal rights

Black workers now pay the same tax as whites yet they do not have the vote. This means they do not have a say in how their taxes are spent.

People do not like the way in which their taxes are spent

The Government does not spend the same on blacks as it does on whites. The money from the people's taxes are used to pay the town councils, the police and the Bantustan authorities. People do not want their money to be spent on these things.

Young people speak out



I would never serve in the SADF. The SADF is the military wing of Apartheid. One needs to look at the influence of the military in the government. The 'total onslaught' ideology is a fake. If the problem inside South Africa can be solved, then no threat exists externally.

Gordon Mathibe
Soweto



Like any other law, if conscription becomes law, one has to obey it. But if there are means of evading this law in any form, I will be inclined to do so. I am opposed to fight for a country whose laws are wholly unjust.

Jaswant Gopal
Lenasia



If we are part of the army we would be part of the oppressor who is enforcing oppression.

Ebrahim Variava
Lenasia



The SADF's role is primary to maintain and entrench racist policy through force. If I am unable to leave the country, I would have to go to jail.

B.M. Kirkman
Bosmont



Apartheid is an unjust system, therefore it is wrong to participate in defending this country. It is also obvious army call-up will affect many aspects of my family, social and personal life.

Jay Junkoon
Lenasia

Voting today means call-up tomorrow

As elections for the Government's three chamber parliament draws closer, more and more people are showing their opposition to the new constitution.

In the campaign against the constitution an important issue for the community has been that of the conscription of Coloured and Indian youth into the army.

With this vote comes a gun, many have said, and organisations leading the campaign have clearly exposed the government's intentions to conscript Coloured and Indian youth.

As early as 1974 it was reported that the Commandant General of the South African Defence Force (SADF) met with member of the SAIC 'behind closed doors' to outline proposals for the military training of Indian people.

Gen. Viljoen of the SADF has also said the SADF intended introducing conscription for Coloureds and Indians because the Government was 'preparing to counter the threat of insurgency and conventional warfare'.

P.W. Botha at a press conference in November 1983 said military national service would be extended to Coloured and Indian people.

But the Government has been vague about its intentions and side-stepping the issue as it tries to win support for its plans.

'They know we will not defend the borders for a scheme which in no way gives us equal rights in the land of our birth,' a member of one youth organisation said.

'The conscription issue is part of their whole plan to divide us and protect Apartheid.'

He said it was precisely because of the Government's commitment to Apartheid that thousands of young people had left the country to take up arms.

'How can anyone say South Africa faces an external threat. The people on the other side are sons and daughters of this country,' he said.

Organisations leading the campaign against the new constitution, like the Transvaal Indian Congress (TIC) and the Transvaal Anti-PC Committee, have also exposed what individuals like Reddy, Poovalingham and Hendrickse think of conscription.

'They support conscription of our people and also present the issue as if we face an external threat,' a member of the TIC said.

'To do so is to in fact accept that the Government's initiatives meet the demands of all South Africans.'

'Like the National Party tells its followers, they are saying 'you can't ask a man to fight for his country if he cannot vote.'

'What kind of vote are they giving us? Quite clearly one can't even remotely connect this vote to true democracy.'

'As long as all South Africans don't have a say in a genuinely non-racial and democratic society, there will be strife and conflict,' he said.

Conscription is rejected also because of the army's role in destabilising neighbouring countries, the illegal occupation of Namibia and in suppressing legitimate protest within the country.

Reasons why the Government wants to conscript Indian and



People throughout the country are convinced the Government intends conscripting Coloured and Indian youth once its new constitution is implemented.

Coloured youth include:
●The military situation demands greater manpower.

●The economy cannot do without white men for

longer periods. It would harm the existing skill shortage.

●People other than whites in the army is good propaganda material to

show the war on the border is not between South Africans, but against 'communist agitators'.

●To pacify NP followers.



for water wasted through pipes that burst.

Azaadville waiting list ignored

THE Azaadville Consultative Committee wants to auction 228 stands instead of allocating them to residents on the waiting list.

These stands will be snapped up by rich businessmen and not go to the 600 families who badly need homes and have been on the waiting list for up to ten years, said the Azaadville Township Ratepayers Association.

The Association wants to apply to the Supreme Court for an interdict to put a stop to the auction.

The Association also claims that some consultative committee members own more than one property in Azaadville and "it was the rich whom the council gave first preference to".

They called on the Krugersdorp City Council to allocate the stands to applicants on the waiting list, giving priority to families who have been in the queue the longest.

Wrab raises rent without permission

RENT increases in Bekkersdal had to be postponed because they had not yet been approved by the Minister of Co-operation and Development.

Before Wrab is allowed to raise rents, the increases need to be approved and published in the Government Gazette. Wrab also has a responsibility to discuss the increases with the local community council.

Wrab claimed the increases were given the nod in July last year. However this is denied by some councillors.

But the reprieve is short-lived, rent will be increased this month.

Fury over new road

A DECISION to widen a road in Evaton has already made the new Town Council of Evaton unpopular.

Although some compensation has been promised, stand owners will be heavily affected as houses and other structures will have to be demolished.

Residents are angry with the Council as the plan was never discussed with them. They will also have to walk further to catch buses using the new road.

The church of Father McCamel, chairperson of the Vaal Civic Association, will also be affected by the new road.

Stand owners at a meeting called in February to discuss the issue, formed a committee to investigate legal steps they could take.

TTL beats problem subjects

THE Lenasia Youth League affiliate, Time To Learn, began its tutorial classes last month.

It is ten years now that Time To Learn has provided this voluntary service to school students.

Tuition is offered for all standards in all subjects. Films on networks are also screened and regular lectures cover problem subjects like maths and science. The organisation also hopes to dramatize set works this year.

Classes are held twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays from 4 pm to 7 pm at the Jiswa Centre in Suikerbos Street.

Organisers appealed to individuals who could assist with tutoring to contact them at the Jiswa Centre.

No water — four weeks

KATLEHONG and Thokoza residents were without water for four weeks because of careless planning by the East Rand Administration Board.

The problem began after the completion of a new water reservoir. They underestimated the pressure from the reservoir which caused the asbestos pipes to constantly burst.

The water supply had to be cut off.

Water tankers were provided by Erab while contractors replaced the asbestos pipes with steel ones.

However again Erab underestimated the demand for water and did not supply enough tankers. Many residents went without water after queuing for more than six hours — and that was after some had walked 4 km or more to the tankers.

It took another week of public outcry and protest for Erab to consider switching on the water at night and only off during the day when contractors were working on the pipes.

And now residents fear that they will have to pay

Putco buses drove empty through Alexandra as commuters said

“We will not ride”

TODAY some people in Alexandra still walk to work or hitch lifts.

This is so even after the boycott of buses has been called off and the bus fare increase implemented. All of them feel very strong about Putco's treatment of the people.

“I still don't want to see myself in a Putco bus,” says Mrs Ntingane, “even though the boycott has been called off. Putco has not met our demands.”

Most don't travel by bus because they simply cannot afford to. They continue to ‘foot it’

Putco raised its fares on all Reef routes by 12.5% in January. It was about the fourth increase in as many years.

People in many townships protested against the increase. In Alexandra, the community rallied together and demanded they be heard.

“We wanted Putco to know our complaints,” one resident said.

“We have to pay the rent and for food. If people could all come together that is good. Putco knew that the whole of Alex was striking — young, old students teachers.”

Hostel dwellers, shopkeepers, the youth, women — all united. The Taxi Association came out in support of the boycott and dropped their fares. People who owned cars gave lifts to workers every day of the month-long boycott.

Messages of support poured from affiliates of the United Democratic Front (UDF), and from as far away as Hammersdale and Ciskei.

Shouts of ‘Azikhelwa’ and the chanting of freedom songs rang through church halls as thousands attended meetings called by the Alexandra Commuters Committee.

For many it brought back memories of the 1957 bus boycott when workers walked for three months in protest against a 1 penny increase.

This time Putco said the increase was necessary because of inflation.

But for commuters it was exactly because of inflation, the rising cost of living, unemployment,



high rents and low wages that they could not afford the increase.

The increase also came at a time when people could least afford it — just after the festive period and when people faced other immediate expenses like school funds.

The increase also hit hard at pensioners and the unemployed.

“We'd like to ask Putco what's the work of that 50c,” one resident said.

“If I could go and talk to that person who's called Putco, I'd ask him about unworking people who don't have a boss to ask the money now that the bus fare is up. What about the cripple, blind man, old man and women who are not working.”

People complained they were not consulted over the increase.

They supposed to tell us when they want to increase the money for the bus,” Mr Frank Sefara, a hostel dweller said.

“They supposed to ask us and tell us why. They just increased the bus fares.”

The community could not understand why the fares were increased when the price of fuel had dropped.

The fuel price decrease meant a saving for Putco of R1 090 000 from the time the fuel price dropped up to June this year. Residents had many other grievances about their transport service.



We went on boycott because people earn nothing. People have no money. Putco have not come to realise the people's needs. If fuel has gone down in price there is no need to raise fares. The situation in Alexandra is temporary. The struggle is not over yet. People are there to support the petition.
**Mr John Mathipa
Shopkeeper**



We are a poor community. We cannot afford the high fares. Its just too much for the poorest. We pay the same as everybody else for things like bread. Putco is exploiting us.
**Mrs Ntingane
Housewife**



I am not happy with the increases because the bosses at work do not raise the wage. I do casual jobs — washing, cleaning the house — in Parktown North. I travel by bus twice a week. The increase is too much for me. We were happy about it we must boycott the buses. It showed unity.
**Mrs Rika Molefe
Domestic worker**



I'm from the hostel. My wife and children are in Pietersburg. I just travel by foot to Sandton. I'm still walking since that time. I just walk because I couldn't manage to pay the bus fares. I'm going to carry on to walk. What about the one that's working in town.
**Mr Frank Sefara
Handyman**

- The buses are always dirty
 - Drivers are rude and careless
 - There are no toilets at bus stations
 - Routes travelled by Putco in the township are bumpy and dusty
 - Weekly tickets are not flexible
 - No shelters at bus stops
 - Buses are overcrowded.
- The impact of the increase and constant frustration with a bad service brought together people from all over the

township, determined to make their grievances known. But such was the spirit and unity of the community, that the police entered the scene, trying in many ways to break the boycott. People were arrested at random. Many were detained, most of them members of local organisations like Ayco, Cosas and the Alexandra Civic Association. Some 14 now face charges under the Intimidation Act.
Bruce Sebothe, a

youth, was shot. Boycotters were beaten and sympathetic car owners and taxis harassed. By this time 90% of Alexandra's 36 000 bus commuters were boycotting, and the buses were running empty. “Our township is like an operational area,” a resident said. “Our fight is with Putco, not with the police.” But the arrests and harassment continued. Roadblocks were set up and passengers made to get off taxis. “I saw the police tak-

ing people out of taxis and force them to use buses,” Mrs Ntingane said. Taxis were fined for all kinds of things — fire extinguishers, wrong routes, overloading, mirrors — amounting to fines of up to R3 000 a day. The heavy police action forced an emergency meeting of the community where it was decided to call off the boycott. “We do not want to see people being hurt and fired from work,” the commuters committee



Mike Bea — chair of Alexandra Commuters' Committee

said. In the interest of maintaining unity, the community called off the boycott, but vowed to continue the struggle other in other forms.

A petition was decided upon and scores of people took to the streets collecting signatures.

Over 10 000 signatures have already been collected. The petition is to be presented to Putco in May.

For the people of Alexandra the struggle continues. The actions of the authorities only proved the power of united action.

“When people began feeling the pinch of the law, it means Putco has felt the boycott,” Mrs Ntingane said.

“Putco now knows our feelings and they know they must take our grievances seriously,” another resident said.

Mrs Iris Baloyi, a housewife, said many people had made the boycott.

“That is a good thing for people to come together. If we don't fight for ourselves, he (Putco) won't care. We have to show him we are not satisfied. Maybe he'll change his mind.”

The chairperson of the Alexandra Commuters Committee, Mr Mike Bea, praised the people's united stand — both when they took the decision to begin the boycott and when they decided to end it.

“Only unity and co-operation can lead us somewhere,” he said.

Right now the people of Alexandra are busy making their organisations strong so that they can defend further attacks on their living standards.

PUTCO is a bus transport company. Putco has no competition and is the only bus company which the Government allows to operate in certain areas.

This is because the Government says a single company will be more responsible to the communities it is supposed to serve. But the grievances, protests and struggles of commuters against Putco show the opposite.

A company like Putco in which people have no say does not have to be responsible to anyone but those that own it. Why else are Putco fares difficult to afford, drivers

not properly trained, buses always dirty and seasonal tickets not flexible.

The Board of Directors controlling Putco are all big businessmen. Three of these are members of the Broederbond and two of these were appointed by the Government to look after its own interests. There is no one to look after the interests of the people who use the buses

One of the Directors was secretary of the Ban-

tu Resettlement Board in the 1950's He supervised the forced resettlement of 58 000 people from Sophiatown.

Putco belongs to a company called Carleo Enterprises. This company is part of a bigger group of companies called the Carleo Group. The Carleo Group is owned mostly (67%) by Mr Gaetano Carleo through a company called Carleo Investments.

Carleo Investments also owns a number of

other companies which are also involved in transport. Some of these “sister” companies are:

- Rapid and General Services which services the buses and supplies fuel.
- Africa Body, and Coach which supplies buses to Putco.
- Carleo Diesel Services owns property which Putco hires to operate from.
- Crown Body and Coach which repairs the buses. (Putco was involv-

ed in 7589 accidents in 1982 which is 25 accidents a day or 1 every hour). There are companies which provide insurance and maintenance for Putco.

All these “sister” companies make it very easy for Putco to show it is not making huge profits. This is done by making Putco pay more for the services provided by the “sister” companies than it needs to. The direct profits go to these “sister companies”. But Putco and

these “sister” companies are one group, so the group as a whole makes a big profit.

Putco then finds it easier to apply for an increase in fares and the inflated costs of the services provided by the “sister” companies, are passed on to the people.

At the same time Putco is also subsidised by the people through their taxes.

For every ticket bought by a passenger, the bus company receives money

from the taxes paid to the Government.

In the five years from 1976 to 1981, R55 million from taxes was paid to Putco.

Workers who travel the same route every day use clipcards. The clipcards can only be used for a certain number of days. If a worker does not use the bus on one of these days, he loses his money. Even if a bus is late, or had an accident, Putco still gets its money from the worker and the taxpayer.

This way Putco does not have to provide a service but still gets its profit.

Putco makes high profits