



Grassroots Special — National launch of UDF, 20th August 1983

Let us speak of freedom
Let us speak with one voice
Let us build unity

Ons praat saam

13 000 mense het op die oproep van die United Democratic Front (UDF) geantwoord. Hulle het van al die uithoeke van die land gekom met die boodskap van eenheid. Met een stem het hulle nee gesê vir die regering se grondwetlike planne en Koornhof-wette.

Die stigting van die nasionale UDF op 20 Augustus 1983 te Rocklands, Mitchell's Plain, was inderdaad 'n geskiedkundige gebeurtenis.

Mense is gevul met 'n hernieude geloof in die stryd vir vryheid in ons leeftyd.

Maar ons vergeet vir geen oomblik die jare sestig nie. Ons het in vrees gelewe en baie het moed verloor. Daar het 'n groot stilte oor ons gehang.

Maar vandag is die stilte verbreek. Ons het baie geleer gedurende die sewentiger en tagtiger jare. Vandag, weet ons dat die eenheid en organisasie van die mense ons mag is. Daarsonder is ons magteloos in ons stryd teen die fabrieksbase en die regering.

Stadig maar seker het ons ons aan ons organisasies gearbei. Dit is hieruit waaruit die UDF spruit. Dit is die vrug van vele jare se doelgerigte arbeid. Elke aksie van die verdrukke mense het die weg gebaan vir ons eerste nasionale konferensie sedert die jare vyftig.

Ons staan nie meer alleen nie. Die UDF snoer al die kragte van organisasies oor die lengte en breedte van ons land saam. Ons staan saam omdat ons glo in een,

onverdeelde, nie-rassige demokratiese Suid-Afrika.

Die UDF het nie in Rocklands begin nie. Dit moet ook nie daar ophou nie. Die jare wat voorlê, sal die belangrikheid van dié gebeurte bepaal.

Ons moet die boodskap en gees van die UDF met ons saamneem na ons werksplekke, huise, kerke, skole en kolleges. Die boodskap van die UDF moet in elke uithoek van ons land weerklink.

Ons moet die stryd voortsit en die mense organiseer rondom hulle alledaagse probleme. Maar bowenal, moet ons diegene organiseer wat nog nie georganiseer is.

Die grondwetlike bedeling en die Koornhof-wette is daarop gemik om ons eenheid te verbreek. Ons moet dit nie toelaat nie. Die regering beplan verskiesings vir die swart plaaslike besture en bestuurskomitees. Moenie om die bos gelei word en dink dat hierdie liggame mag het nie.

Ons moet voortbied wees op die probleme wat voorlê. Party streke is sterker as ander. Hoe kan ons die UDF veldtog voorsit en ons plaaslike organisasies opbou. Dis paar van die vrae wat ons onself moet afvra.

Die pad voretot sal nie maklik wees nie. Maar laat ons voortbou op die ervaring van die nasionale stigting van die UDF. Laat ons in dieselfde gees die uitdagings van die stryd aanpak.

Daar's 'n volk om te lei om ons land te bevry — daar's werk.

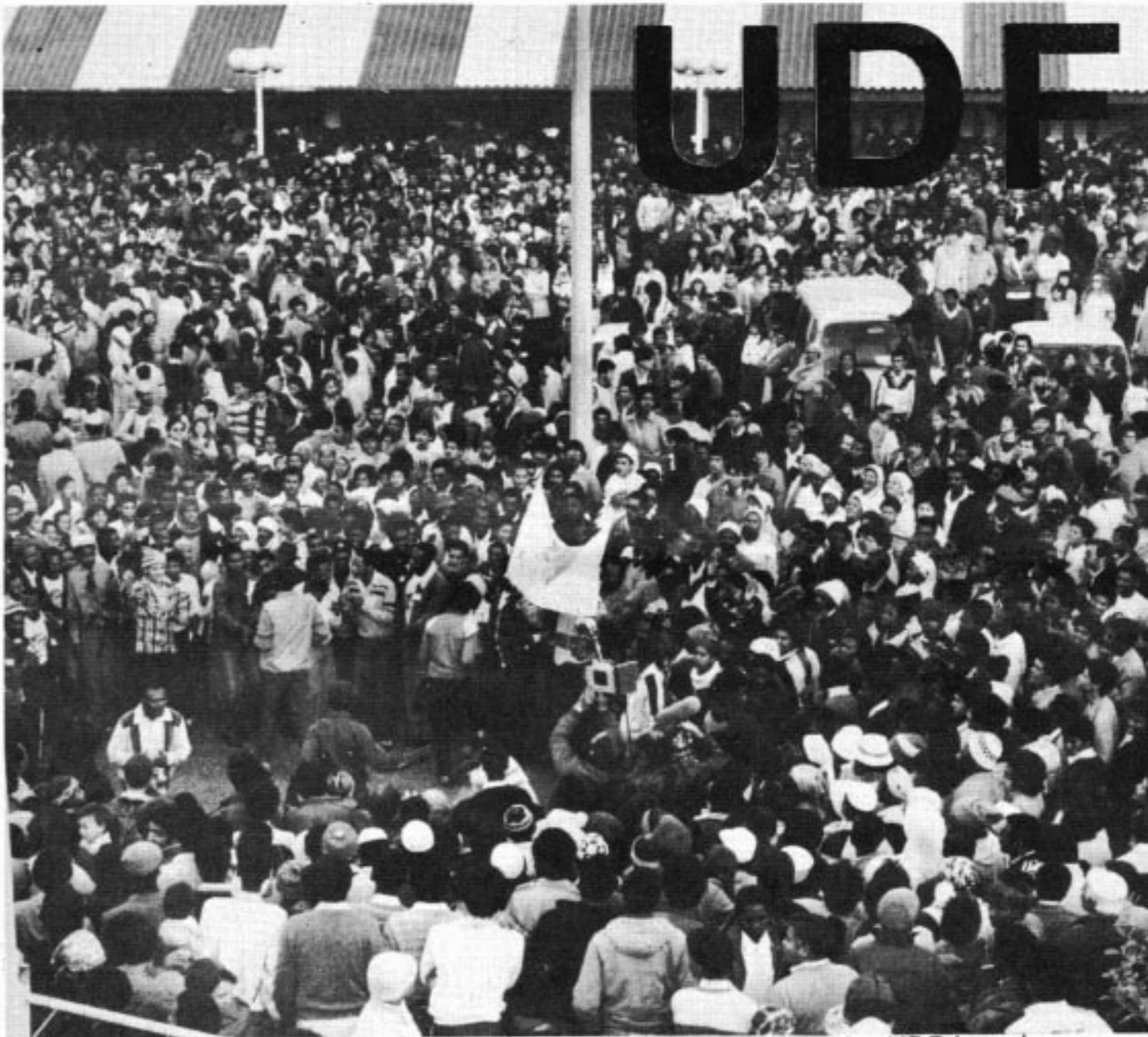


We represent organisations deeply rooted in the struggle for justice. I believe that we could be standing at the birth of what could become the greatest and most significant people's movement in more than a quarter of a century.

Allan Boesak

FREE Pull-out poster inside

GO WELL



Part of the crowd who did not get into the civic centre at the UDF launch.

Amandla IUDF

MAYELA ne 12 000 abantu abathe bayakwingqu Ngquthela ye United Democratic Front. Bevela kwindawo zonke zeli bephethe imiyalezo yomanyano. Ngazwinye bathi hayi kwi bunga lika mongameli (PC) nokoornhof ka Gunyaziwe (Koornhof Bills) sithi hayi kucalucalulo.

Ukumiselwa kwembumba yesizwe nge 20 August, 1983 Rocklands Civic Centre e Mitchells Plain, yoba yenye ye Imini ethe yengeza esinya isi qendu Kwincwadi esiyibhalayo. Ichaza ibali labantu nedabi ngomzantsi Afrika ongenacalucalulo.

Abaninzi, bakhuthazekile bonwabile bahlaziyeka bekholelwa ukuba sakuphumelela ukulwa inkululeko ngexesha lethu.

Abakhona amaxesha ukuvuyisa nokonwaba kwidabi, ukuvuyela ethe sayenza. Impumelelo yengqungquthela ye UDF isilelo xesha.

Kodwa zibeninzi, izigigaba, zeentlungu, nokuthicwaka nobumnyama kuleminyaka, sihleli ngoloyiko, abanye baphelelwa ngamanthemba leyo yayingo 1960s.

Kulemihla aphelile amathuba ukuthicwaka, sifunde izinto ezibalulekileyo, ukusukela ku 1970 ukuya ku 1980, sifunde ukuba ubunye, nemibutha isenza somelele

ngaphandle kwayo asina namandla singabinalizwi, lokulwa, abaqashi, norulumente.

I UDF yindibanisela yokubambana ngezandla kwemibutho-ngemibutho, kwinkalo zonke zeli sinenkolelo yesizwe esinye esingakhethi bala. Abakholwayo nabanga kholwayo, amadoda, nomama, abasebenzayo, nabangasebenziyo, abasezidolophini, nabasemaphandleni, abamnyama, nabamhlophe I UDF isekwe yimibuthongemibutho yonke ukubonakalisa incaso yocalucalulo. IUDF ayiqalanga eRocklands Civic Centre, kwaye ayizukuphelela khona, inyanisoyile, esi siganeko salembali, masiviwe kuleminyaka izayo, akakho kubuyamva. Masiwuthathe lomoya, nalomyalezo weUDF.

Umgaqo wePC nokaKoornhof ukhohlo ukohlula ubunye bethu. Masingavumi oku kwenzeka. Masingabhanxwa ludidi lwesithathu Lwevoti yabebala namadiya masinga qhatheki ngulomthetho kaKoornhof. Urulumente uceba ulonyulo longunyaziwe ezilokishini, nekomiti zomaziphathe. Masingabhanxwa sincinge ukuba ezi statuzinika amandla e okuziphatha nyani. Masijongane nengxaki ezingaphambili. Enkosi.

13,000 Thousand people raised their fists into the air as Dr Allan Boesak read out the declaration of the United Democratic Front (UDF). In a spirit of unity never before seen in Cape Town they repeated after him:

"We, the freedom loving people of South Africa say with one voice to the whole world that we,

- cherish the vision of a united, democratic South-Africa based on the will of the people,
- will strive for the unity of all our people through united action against the evils of apartheid, economic and all other forms of exploitation.

With one voice, the people declared, "we commit ourselves to uniting all our people; wherever they may be, in the cities and countryside, the factories and mines, schools, colleges and universities, houses and sports fields, churches, mos-

ques and temples, to fight for our freedom."

The entire declaration was read out at the Rocklands Civic Centre by Dr Allan Boesak at the end of the National launching of the United Democratic Front.

Twelve thousand people came from every part of our country, from Johannesburg, Durban, Pretoria, Mafeking, the South-Western Districts, the Eastern Cape and Bloemfontein, from Vredenburg and Saldanha on the West Coast, to join hands with the people of Cape Town at this historic event in our lives.

Many of the people will always remember Saturday, August 20.

Before the rally began thousands of people crowded around the civic hall, while organisers cleared the hall to make space for them.

The National rally started shortly before 6 p.m. after thou-

sands of people had packed the hall to capacity. More than 3 000 of the crowd had earlier filled a large tent which had been erected next to the hall by UDF volunteers.

Meanwhile outside the main hall, thousands sat on the steps and the tarmac, listening to the proceedings broadcast from the hall.

Some of the country's most respected religious and community leaders spoke at the rally. Archie Gumede, Dr Allan Boesak, Sheikh Gabier, Helen Joseph and Francis Baard all spoke of the evils of apartheid, exploitation and oppression. They condemned the government's Constitutional and Koornhof Bills, to loud applause from the people.

They spoke too of our need for freedom. "We have not come here to beg for our rights, but to claim them," said one of the speakers.



**UDF
UNITES
APARTHEID
DIVIDES**

ALL ROADS LED TO ROCKLANDS

13,000 attend
UDF launching

ALL roads led to Rocklands, Mitchells Plain on the 20th August, 1983. The national launching of the United Democratic Front was a truly historic day. It was a great step forward in our struggle for a free and democratic South Africa.

From West to East coast. From the north of our country to the south. From all corners of this great land they came. More than 10 000 people attended one of the biggest rallies in the history of our struggle.

They spoke with one voice; No to the government's constitutional and Koornhof Bills. No to apartheid. Together they pledged to fight side by side for freedom in our life-time.

'We won't vote for dummy councils'

700 people at a meeting held in Nyanga recently, called for a boycott of the community council elections which will be held in November. In Soweto and other parts of the country, many organisations have come together to form anti-community council committees.

A Soweto community leader said; "if we accept these bills and vote in these elections we are voting for separate development, squatter removals and homelands".

"The people will not accept government created bodies. First, it was the Urban Bantu Councils. Now, it is the Black Local Authorities. We will not be fooled".

The government wants to carry on ruling the townships. It wants to pretend to represent the people.

The Black Local Authorities Act is part of the government's new deal for African people.

Under this new law, community councils are going to be responsible for controlling the townships. But nothing will change. Influx control and pass laws will stay. Forced removals to Khayelitsha and demolitions at Crossroads will stay. It will only mean more elections, new names to learn and more confusion.

This Act is there to divide our people between 'legals' and 'illegals'. At the national launching of the United Democratic Front, 10 000 people rejected the government's Koornhof and Constitutional Bills.

The Black Local Authorities Act is part of this plan of the government.

A Soweto community leader said "we will not accept this lying down. We will stand up and fight the community council elections. We will never be satisfied with second or third class rights."

UNIVERSITY DEMOCRATIC
NATIONAL LA



Allen Boesak addresses thousands at national launch of UDF.

Support for Mountview pupils

THE boycott at Mountview Senior Secondary School in Hanover Park has gained wide support.

Students at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) and the Peninsula Technikon have also supported the Mountview pupils.

The Mountview pupils say their principal must go. They say he treats them badly and does not want to listen to the pupils.

He has already expelled four pupils and suspended 16 more.

The other pupils want all these pupils to come back to school.

They say: "An expulsion of one is an expulsion of all".

Many meetings have been held where pupils from different schools spoke about the problems of Mountview.

Pupils and students all over the Western Cape

have had two days of action to show their support for the Mountview pupils.

On two Thursdays pupils from the different schools and UWC have boycotted classes, held meetings and alternative educational programmes to show their support.

On the first day of action, about 4 000 people went to a meeting at UWC. The people said they agreed with the

Mountview pupils. They also supported the United Democratic Front (UDF).

Busloads of Mountview pupils and many pupils from other schools attended the meeting. They joined in a march around the university grounds.

All the pupils at Mountview have refused to go to class.

The Department of Internal Affairs (Coloured Education) has sent

letters to Standard Ten pupils. The department said the pupils will fail if they don't go back to class. The pupils have said they are not prepared to go back. They will stand together with the rest of the pupils.

At the time of going to press, the pupils had decided to go back to class. They said they would come out again if their demands are not met soon.

Grassroots special supplement on UDF

LABOUR FOCUS



Annual conference of the General Workers Union



Mwasa works out grievance procedure



Textile workers build their union

Workers join union of their choice

ON the morning of the 26th July, the machines at Table Bay Spinners stopped spinning. The night-shift workers were on strike. The workers are members of the National Union of Textile Workers. They were demanding a wage increase. The strike comes after representations had been made for a wage increase. Management refused to grant an increase. And so, the workers decided to go on strike.

The workers have not received a wage increase since 1979. Other than their annual increases in January, management had not granted an increase. The union officials and shop-stewards met with management. They settled for an increase of ten cents per hour. This was a great victory for the workers.

The Table Bay Spinners workers have waged a long and bitter battle with management and the Industrial Union of Textile Workers. They have now joined the union of their choice.

On this page they tell the story.

THE workers at Table Bay Spinners in Bellville South have dealt the Industrial Union of Textile Workers (IUTW) a major blow. The IUTW is affiliated to the Trade Union Council of South Africa. The workers were very unhappy with this union.

"This union of Norman Daniels did not do anything for the workers. We were members of this union since 1977. And, since then we have approached the union on many matters, but they did not do a single thing for the workers".

"So, we took the matter into our own hands. We resigned and joined the National Union of Textile Workers (NUTW). Now, we are standing together and fighting for our rights", said Mr Tini Sikota, a shop-

steward and executive member of NUTW.

NUTW is a young union in the Western Cape. Thousands of workers in other parts of the country are members of this union which is affiliated to the Federation of South African Trade Unions.

For years, the workers tried to have their grievances redressed, but nothing changed. Mr Sikota said that the workers had to pay for

their own overalls. The bad conditions at work but did not change and their wages stayed the same. These problems were taken to the union, but they did nothing.

"Since we joined NUTW, we have made some gains. Things are changing now".

Mr Sikota told Grassroots how they organised against the "union of Norman Daniels". He said; "in September last year,

the workers demanded a wage increase. They went on strike. Management asked them for a month's grace."

"When the month was over, there was still no increase. The workers were unhappy with the union for not supporting them. Then we started organising quietly". Mr Sikota told Grassroots what they did.

"There were six of

us who were members of the workers' committee. We told the workers about our plan and from September, we started signing up the workers. Within a few weeks we had a majority. The NUTW officials phoned management to ask for a meeting. Management was shocked. At first they did not want to accept our new union, but they had no choice".

GWU conference

LAST month the General Workers Union (GWU), held its annual conference. About 150 workers from all over the country gathered in Cape Town to discuss the affairs of the union.

The conference was opened by Oscar Mpetha, the well known community leader and national organiser of the Food and Canning Workers Union. Oscar had just come out of jail after three years.

In his speech, he stressed one important point: "the workers cannot wait for the bosses to free them, the workers must free themselves. They can only do this through unity and organisation."

This was why Mr Mpetha strongly welcomed the news that the unions were joining together in a new federation.

After Mr Mpetha, the general secretary gave his report. He spoke about the difficulties that workers in

South Africa and all over the world face from their governments and the bosses.

These difficulties are even greater than before with many workers losing their jobs in the recession.

In South Africa, we are facing the problem of the new constitutional proposals which are trying to divide the "Coloured" and Indian workers from the African workers. He is giving more rights to people with passes and taking rights away from the contract workers.

The only way to overcome this is through organisation.

"We in the trade union movement which organises "Coloured" workers, Indian workers and African workers, contract workers and workers with passes, have a special duty to defeat the government's plans to divide the workers".

Media workers have power to change things

WORKERS at The Argus Newspaper will soon be negotiating a grievance and disciplinary procedure with management. This comes after months of exchanging draft proposals. The workers are all members of the Media Workers Association of South Africa. They are represented by a workers committee on the factory floor.



In the past, workers had no procedures to follow if they wanted to solve their problems. Supervisors also tended to victimise workers when they complained about their problems. But now things are starting to change. The workers and their elected committee take up problems on the factory floor. They refuse to be victimised. The workers are seeing that they have the power to change things.

But, the disciplinary procedure is just as important. This document must protect workers

from unfair dismissals by management. Management will also not be able to fire workers for no reason whatsoever. Management will have to follow the rules laid down in the agreement. For instance, verbal warnings, written warnings, final written warnings and then only, perhaps dismissal.

A very important point in the procedure is that after three months, a warning or suspension cannot be used against a worker. That is, if he or she does something that management thinks is wrong.

More important, is that if a worker feels that he or she has been unfairly disciplined, they can with the help of committee members and fellow workers fight against it.

The grievances and disciplinary procedures are important documents to workers.

- It teaches us that we have the power to solve our own problems.
- It protects us from unfair dismissals.

But most important, "it has shown workers that as MWASA members, they can demand their rights. It has shown us that in our union we must organise and make all our decisions to benefit us as workers. While management's main interest is to make profits, the union's main interest is people and the fight for their rights," said a member of the union.

But, it was not only management who was shocked. The IUTW was also shocked. They tried to tell us that we are joining a strike union. But we told them that we don't want a union that sits with management. When we had problems at the factory, the union would go to management first. They must come to the workers first. They used to keep us in the dark about union affairs."

The workers from Table Bay Spinners believe that they have learnt an important lesson. They have learnt that the workers are the union. That they must have a say in union matters.

They say, "if the union does nothing for the workers, if the union is on the side of management, then we don't have to accept that."

And they did not accept that. They organised to change things and have joined the union of their own choice.

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Weeks of hard work to make launch a success

THE BUILD UP

Plain's
'Buffalo
Rally'

When the Western Cape launched its regional UDF on 24th July, it took on the massive task of hosting the national launching. Within three weeks the Western Cape had to both mobilise support for the UDF as well as make preparations for the largest national gathering held since the '50s.

Accommodation, catering, traffic control, negotiations to erect a marquee, painting banners - all this had to be done. There was also the mammoth task of taking the message of the UDF to every household in the Western Cape.

Planning, organising — action

THE call for unity came from Dr Alan Boesak on 23 January this year. Speaking in Johannesburg, he urged all organisations to unite in a broad front.

The call reached Cape Town and by late February, discussions were started between many different organisations.

By 24 May, organisations such as Cahac, the United Women's Organisation, Cayco, the Inter-Church Youth, the General Workers Union, the Food and Canning workers Union and Fosatu met at a closed conference to discuss the formation of a Front. Here the major unions asked that this be postponed to give them more time to discuss the matter.

A few days later, these unions decided not to participate in the Front but said they would support it. The other organisations together with the churches and mosques went ahead to form the UDF Western Cape on 24 July.

The new executive then started preparations for the national launch on 20 August.

The message of UDF hit the streets on August 7 when the first national publication, UDF NEWS, was distributed. On that day, the police confiscated 40 000 of the 80 000 Western Cape copies at a roadblock outside Paarl. They were forced to give it back when UDF organisers prepared to take the police to court.

This was not the only attack on the UDF.

- UDF organisers were arrested

for distributing newsletters.

- Thousands of fake UDF pamphlets calling off the rally were distributed throughout the country.

But all these attacks could not stop this historic rally.

The call went out to many remote areas in the Western Cape. UDF organisers visited Caledon, Genadendal, Bredasdorp, Heidelberg, Riversdal, Swellendam, Montague, Robertson and others. UDF newsletters, stickers and posters reached these areas.

Oudtshoorn, George, Knysna, Mosselbay came together to loosely form the South Western Cape region.

In the week before the rally, public meetings were held in Saldanha, Nyanga, the University of the Western Cape, Cape Town University and Observatory. The Observatory meeting was attended by more than 300 people.

At churches in Mitchells Plain, UDF organisers addressed congregations the Sunday before the launching. A prayer meeting for youth was held the Wednesday night.

By the Friday, more than 40 mosques were flooded with 10 000 special UDF publications and a number of preachers delivered special messages on the UDF.

Locally and in other parts of the country, our organisations worked very hard to provide buses for the thousands of people who wanted to share in the great event.



Hoisting the flag - one of the last tasks to be done before the conference started.



Some of the newsletters, posters, sweaters and stickers produced for the UDF campaign.

IN our churches, our mosques, our halls and our homes, slept more than a thousand people on that Friday night. They had come in buses, cars and combis from far and wide.

Pots and pots of hot soup and hundreds of loaves of sandwiches warmed their stomachs as they arrived in Mitchells Plain.

Teams of UDF volunteers from our many youth organisations were on standby to assist visitors and help make them as comfortable as possible.

Some of the volunteers transported hundreds of mattresses to the different venues. Some gathered to peel potatoes and clean the meat and rice for the next day's meal.

Some slept in the huge tent alongside the hall throughout the night on Friday to ensure that the tent was not tampered with.

Others, gathered in groups throughout the week to sew rosettes and paint banners for the occasion.

The biggest problem facing the organisers was how to accommodate the thousands expected at the rally. The council did not agree with the idea of putting up ramps within the hall but allowed a big tent to be erected alongside the hall.

And then came the bright idea. To make it possible for thousands of people to hear and see the speakers, the UDF installed closed circuit television in the tent and foyer of the hall. The ten-foot screen brought speakers to life for all. Every word could be heard by all outside the hall.

Outside the hall, a large group of marshalls made up mainly of students from the University of the Western Cape, directed traffic and controlled the crowd. They stayed on duty for hours throughout the proceedings and with dedication ensured strict order at all times.

They were ready for every emergency. A mobile clinic was on standby. They could radio the central telephone, UDF hotline, with walkie-talkies. The UDF hotline came into action two weeks before the rally and was operating day and night. Every query from any organisation or newspaper went to the hotline.

And to further publicise the UDF, a combi blasting forth a message about the launch drove through the streets of Mitchells Plain and some other townships.

Youth Festival



Basil 'Manenberg' Coetzee



The Genadendal Brass Band played inspiring songs at the youth rally attended by 1 000



Our youth took to the aisles and danced with excitement.

UDF verenig apartheid verdeel

From Mountview to Mabopane and Lamontville.....

STUDENTS TAKE ACTION

THE boycott of classes by high school students in 1976 and 1980 led to large-scale unrest throughout the country.

The demand for a single education system in a democratic South Africa has not been met. So students press on with their demands.

In recent months there have been various incidents of unrest at schools, colleges and universities throughout the country. At the same time, student organisations are growing.

On this page, Grassroots looks at the struggle of students today.

"THERE will always be trouble at our schools and colleges as long as injustice remains in our country. Most students come from poor and oppressed families. They are not only angry about the bad education. They are also angry about no rights, high prices and bad living conditions. We must unite to fight these things."



These are the words of a South African student involved in one of the many incidents of student unrest which has hit the country's schools and universities in the last few months.

His feelings are today expressed by thousands of students throughout the country. They are voicing their demands, loudly and clearly; "We demand a democratic education system in a united and democratic South Africa."

In every part of our country, students have protested strongly against bad conditions at the schools, universities and colleges. They have also supported the struggles of their mothers and fathers for low rents and decent housing.

They have supported the struggles of the workers in the factories.

The spate of unrest which has occurred recently, in many instances erupted into violence. The incidents have been scattered throughout the coun-

try.

• Last month 1000 Bophaganang students marched on the Vryburg police station demanding the release of 31 fellow-students arrested after a demonstration. They were stopped when police fired teargas at them.

• Two-hundred students at Umlazi Technikon have been ordered to leave the campus after they ignored an order to return to classes. The Technikon has been closed indefinitely. They were boycotting in protest against the expulsion of three students.

• In Soweto, a number of high schools were hit by student boycotts. In certain cases, there were up to 1000 students involved. Police were called in and fired teargas at the students. The unrest followed the dismissal of teachers and the expulsion of pupils.

• In March, 900 protesting students from Maritzburg were dispersed by police using teargas and sjamboks during a march through Edendale. They were showing their dissatisfaction with the registration system for the 1983 matriculation exams.

• At the Wongulethu Senior Secondary School in Mdantsane, Ciskei, 1000 pupils boycotted classes. Students from other schools also began to boycott. They say they cannot attend classes while their parents are being shot. The Ciskei authorities shot and killed seven people last month. The people refused to use the busses after the fares went up.

The Government wants to force people to use the busses.

In many cases, the students have voiced their demands through the Congress of South African Students (Cosas) and the Azanian Students Organisation (Azaso). At the University of Durban-Westville, Azaso has been banned from the campus.

Cosas organises high school students and the Azaso membership comes from colleges and universities.

These two organisations are growing from strength to strength. But their task is made more difficult because of constant harassment by police and education authorities.

Members are often victimised. Many have been suspended and expelled, some have been detained and others have had to leave the country.



Cosas and Azaso are building grassroots support and see the need for strong SRC's at all the schools, universities and colleges.

At the same time they are discussing what their role in the struggle is.

Cosas and Azaso do not see themselves as playing a leading role in the struggle for change. The organisations realise the importance of building strong student organisation which will support the struggles of the workers in the communities and in the factories.



Students of Mountview High School show their determination to have their demands met.

Students and parents stand together

NOT much has changed at Mountview Senior Secondary School in Hanover Park since 1980.

Mountview was the school where the national class boycott started in 1980. Pupils were protesting about lack of facilities, books, broken classrooms and teachers who did not care about the pupils.

After months, the boycott was called off. But pupils started to realise that their problems would only be sorted out when we have a democratic education system.

Every year since 1980, there has been some form of protest at Mountview. Pupils have shown their anger at the school system by not wearing ties or by having meetings on the school grounds without the principal's permission.

Last month the pupils at Mountview started to boycott again. The pupils felt they had had enough. Twice this year, pupils had been expelled or suspended by the principal, Mr P Snyders, without good enough reason.

"Mr Snyders does not know how to treat us. He is supposed to be our father at school but he only wants to expell and suspend. We can't take any more. Snyders must go and all the expelled pupils must be taken back at school," was the cry that went out.

This call was supported by all the pupils. Everyone agreed that something had to be done.

But this time the pupils knew that a boycott was not only staying away from classes.

Immediately people were given responsibilities and daily programmes were held in our proud history and on things affecting pupils and the broader community.

There was also the pressure from parents. Parents sided with their children. "All 700 children can't be wrong. We must stand with them," said the parents at a meeting called by the students.

The parents and pupils decided to take a petition around in the community to show that the community supports the pupils at Mountview. More than 2 000 people signed the petition.

An open letter was taken to the Department of Internal Affairs (Coloured Education).

The Department did not want to meet the pupils' demands. They suspended five more pupils.

The parents decided to go to the school to see the principal. The principal did not want to see them.

The pupils decided to pray and fast for a week.

"The Department is not taking us seriously. We must show them we are serious. That is why we are fasting," the pupils said.

The pupils at Mountview were reminded once again that one cannot just take medicine. One must prevent the illness. They placed their demands as part of the demand for a democratic education in a democratic South Africa.

SOLIDARITY BOYCOTT

"THERE comes a time in the life of any nation when it must take a serious look at the situation. That time has come. The government is asking us to become part of minority rule".

These were the words of Prof. Jakes Gerwel when he addressed a meeting attended by 4000 students at the University of the Western Cape recently.

Prof. Gerwel called on the student body to reject the government's constitutional bill and pledged his support for the United Democratic Front (UDF).

Students from schools, colleges and universities all over the Western Cape attended the meeting. Students marched around the campus singing and chanting. They held their

banners high - Apartheid Divides, UDF unites.

But, the meeting was not only called to reject the government's new bills. The meeting was part of a one-day solidarity boycott with the fight of the Mountview pupils.

600 pupils from Mountview High School in Hanover Park attended the meeting. At many schools all over the peninsula, pupils responded to the call.

Messages of support came from pupils at Langa, Elswood, Spesbona, Crestway, Portlands, Belgravia and Heathfield.

Dr Allan Boesak also pledged his support for the students and the fight of our people against the government's plans.



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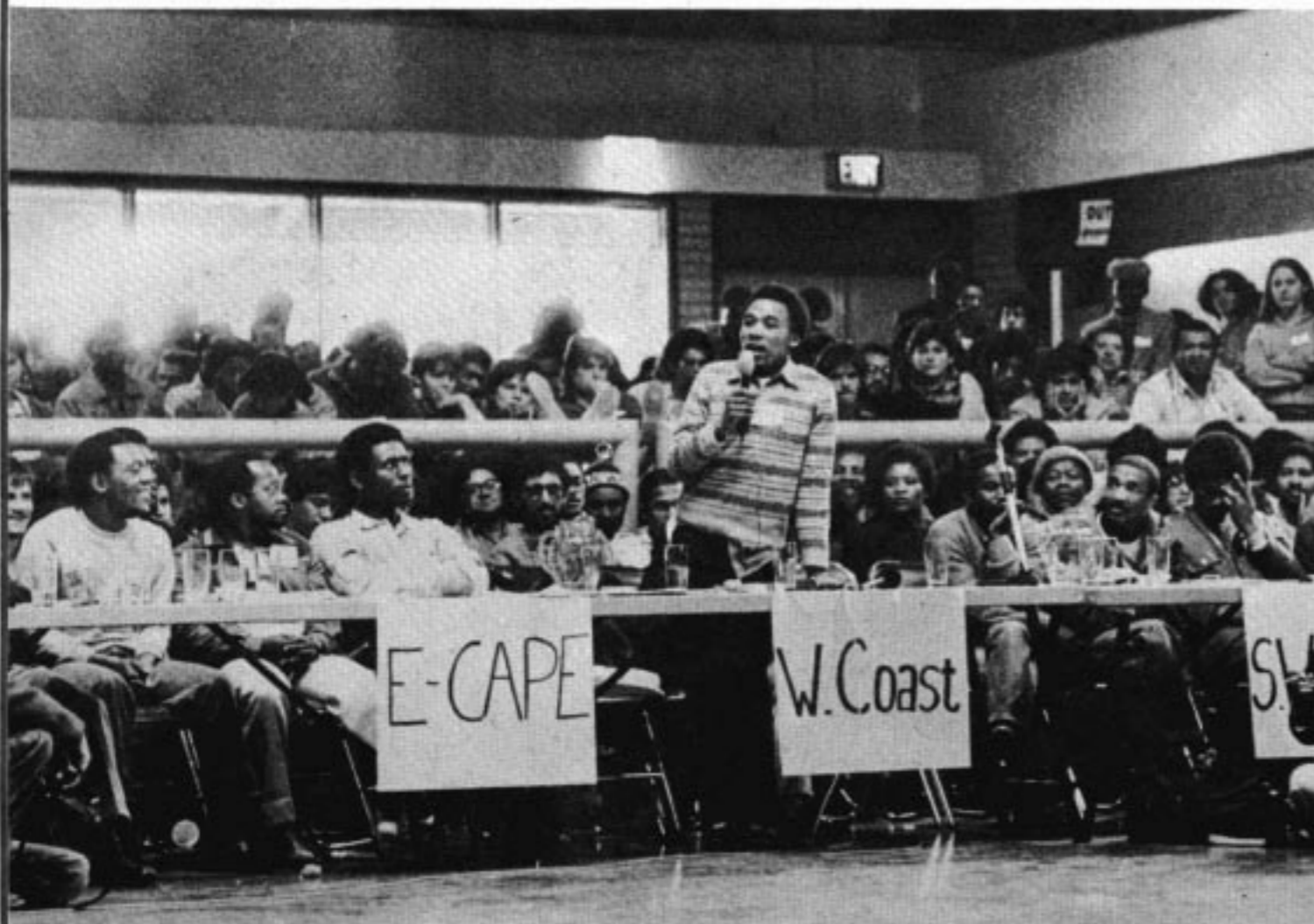
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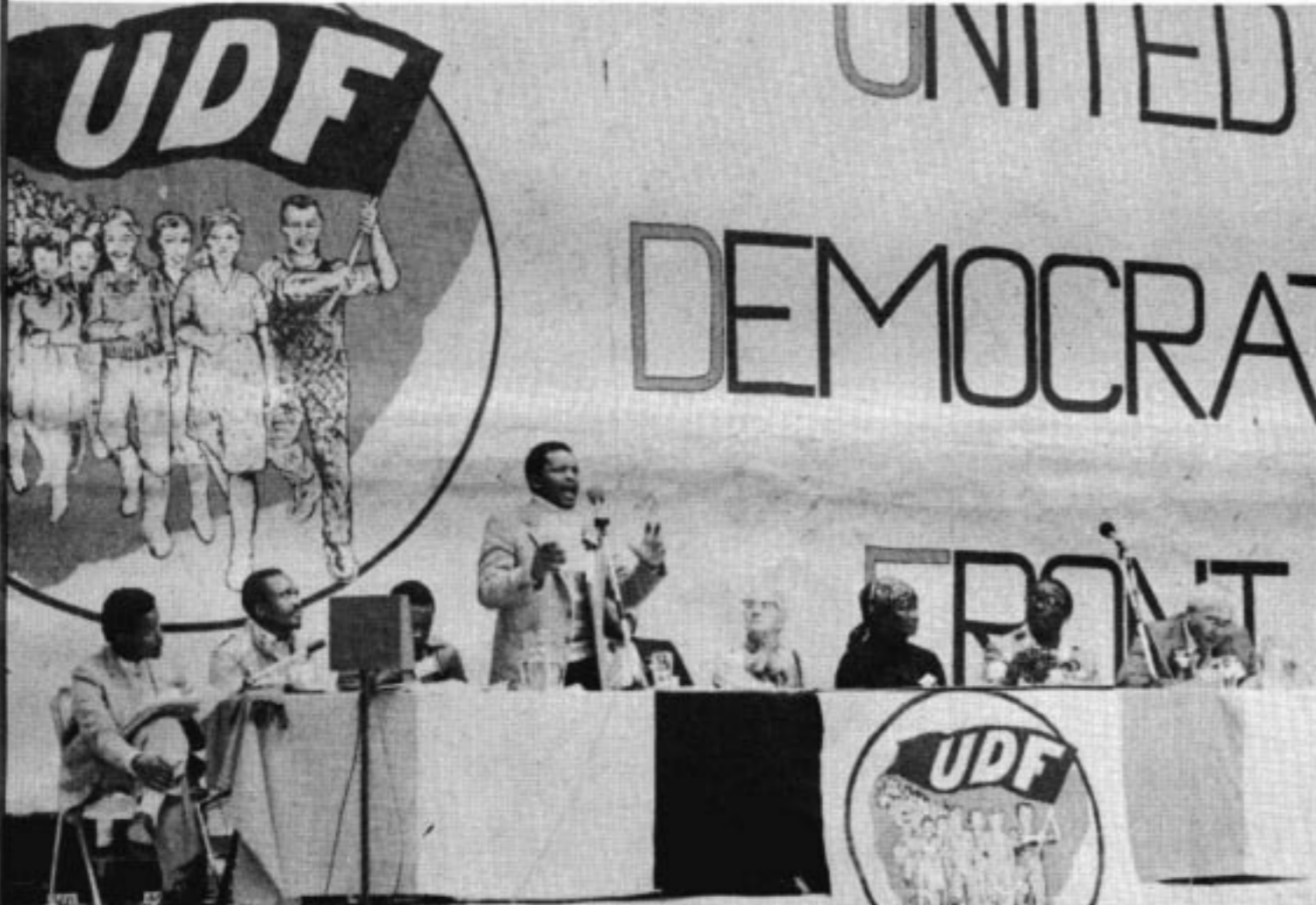
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On the way to a.....



Representatives from every sector of South Africa's population. For just a few hours, this conference gave us a vision of a future. A future in which we ourselves will decide and govern.



While the White Parliament sat to discuss the Constitution & Koornhof Bills, over 2,000 delegates and observers met in Rocklands to participate in discussions about the future of our land.

people's parliament

FROM days before the rally, the UDF phone rang non-stop as last-minute preparations were made for the national launching. Calls came through from all parts of the country to inform organisers of the progress of the many busses making their way to Cape Town.

All through Friday night, travellers arrived, weary but filled with enthusiasm for the day ahead.

By 7 a.m. on Saturday morning, Rocklands Civic was already buzzing with activity. Volunteers rushed around; they set up registration tables and climbed rafters to hang the bright and bold banners of the UDF. Camera crews arrived to arrange their lighting for the afternoon rally.

The day was taken up with the conference to set up the national UDF. By 9.30 registration of the thousands of delegates and observers was underway. People from all parts

of the country queued up to add their names to the registration lists - from the Transvaal, Natal, the Orange Free State, Eastern Cape and Border regions, and from the West Coast and the Western Cape itself. Within an hour, the hall was filled with people representing almost every sector of South Africa's people.

Rev. Frank Chikane, vice-president of Transvaal, opened the conference and set the tone for the day. He spoke of the historic task that faced delegates as they laid the basis to take our struggle forward. He spoke too of the many grievances and struggles that had brought the people together in the UDF - the low wages and bad working conditions, removals and the Group, the high prices and poor living conditions and the repression of those who have fought for our freedom.

One by one, people from

various regions motivated the resolutions that covered these issues. Loud applause and singing greeted the speeches as delegates declared their commitment to struggle against these hardships and to make our demands heard.

Delegates broke for lunch as the amendment committees met to discuss the draft Declaration and working principles of the UDF. When conference reconvened, these documents were finally adopted. They put forward our rejection of apartheid, the Constitutional and Koornhof Bills, and restated the just and noble ideals for which we will fight.

Finally, with singing and jubilation, delegates elected the patrons and the people who will lead us in the campaign.

Yet there was no time to sit back and rest. Already, thousands had collected outside the hall, waiting for the mass rally to begin.

They spoke of high prices, low wages, group areas and of the many problems facing us.

They spoke of our demands and what we stand for.

All the organisations coming together have differences of class, differences of ideology, differences of intent. But all agree that they reject the reform proposals of the Botha regime, and as a result they need a broad front to do this, not as a national political organisation but as a united front for the sole purpose of opposing the reform proposals and the Koornhof Bills.

Frank Chikane, opening address.



When I look at you, you look like a beautiful garden of flowers, the flowers of South Africa, the flowers of our motherland.

Frances Baard

I wish to make it clear that slogans are useful but they are not the end of the road. To these slogans must be added sweat, to these slogans must be added labour, and careful thought and careful action... Whatever action we take must be action that is fully considered and taken with determination.

Archie Gumede, election address.



The cost of living has been an attack on the women. It is very difficult to feed our children with the rising prices. Our children are having many difficulties as they do not have enough food.

Mama Zihlangu.

Khayalitsha means a 'new home'. We do not need a new home. We have a home in South Africa. The whole of South Africa belongs to us. We reject this 'new home' and we believe that all people must decide where they want to live. Khayalitsha is a threat and we will fight it. WRhodes.

There is at the moment a state of emergency in Ciskei. We are under a siege. A number of trade unionists have been locked up. The children who say goodbye to their parents in the morning are not sure that their parents will return home alive at night.

A Ciskei delegate



The time has come. We the working class, domestic workers, mine-workers, white collar workers, must now rally our organisations and march behind the UDF, and work for the system where the exploitation of man will be done away with. We must relentlessly work until the workers are the masters of their own destiny.

M D Naidoo.

One of the reasons behind the constitutional bills is an attempt to co-opt people from the coloured and indian communities into the SADF. The Hendrickses and Curries have been indicating along with PW Botha that the youth from the coloured and indian population will be expected to fight and defend apartheid.

Kate Philip

Some resolution's

WOMEN

1. that the goal of full recognition of all women; of freedom, happiness and security for our children cannot be achieved in the present political and economic situation;
2. that oppression in South Africa cannot be wholly removed without removing the oppression of women.

COST OF LIVING

NOW, more than ever before we face a serious attack on our living standards. Millions in our country are jobless and homeless.

Government subsidies are shrinking. The prices of bread, milk and other commodities are rising. We face crippling price increases. Many are starving in our country of gold. The load is pressing on our shoulders.

HOUSING

We have over the years been robbed of our land, shelter and livelihood. Our protests are met with teargas, batons and bullets.

We are divided, urban from rural, community from community.

WE DEMAND the return of our land and homes.

WE DEMAND the right to live where we please in the land of our birth.

WORKERS

That workers must fully share in the benefits of the wealth they produce;

That workers have a right to organise themselves into trade unions of their choice without state repression;

That migrant labour and influx controls are a fundamental denial of the rights of workers to work where they choose;

In the leadership of the working class in the democratic struggle for freedom.

NAMIBIA

We believe that the struggle of Namibia's people against South African rule is a just one; that the Namibian struggle is our struggle.

IUDF iyamanyana iapartheid yahlula

Comment

UDF — is off to a great start

THE National Launching of the UDF on August 20 is a giant step forward in our struggle for a free and democratic South Africa.

Thousands of people from all over the country came together to say "NO" to apartheid and the Government's new constitution.

For many years our people have been voicing their demands in different struggles — against high rents, removals, gutter education, low wages and high prices.

Now our struggles and our voices have become one in the UDF.

Grassroots salutes the hard work and organisation that has gone into the National Launching. We salute the strength and unity our people showed on August 20th. We remember this historic day with a special supplement on the UDF.

Stand up for our children

The Moutview students and their parents have won support for their call to end unfair treatment by school officials. Yet once again Coloured Affairs has shown that it does not care about the education of our children.

IN their disciplined and well organised Day of Action, students throughout the Peninsula showed their support for the Moutview boycott.

Craven's act of desperation

DANIE CRAVEN'S 'Rugby Media Conference' is a desperate act. It is yet another attempt to sell racial sport to our people and the outside world.

We must not be fooled. We have the support of our people and the international community. Craven's conference will not stop the call by thousands of sports persons for non-racial sport in a non-racial society.

News from Oudtshoorn

I WAS really shocked to read in Grassroots about people who have no homes. I must say it is heart-breaking to believe that a human being has to live in a tent. What about the little children!

Winter is here and I'm so worried about those people.

I also read of people who were banned for years to certain places without hearing from their families.

You know Grassroots, when slavery was abolished, I thought that all our brothers and sisters would be free. But as you see, Freedom isn't free.

It's all very heartbreaking for me to see children suffering from malnutrition. I thought that the world had become modern.

As you may have read in newspapers in many parts of our country they throw food away instead of giving it to the poor. You know, I can sometimes just take a knife and kill myself when I read about and see pictures of hungry people.

I am also very interested in youth unity. I would like to know more about Cayco.

Regina Weyers
Oudtshoorn



SOMETHING is happening in our country. The newspapers, the radio and TV leaves one with great feelings of uneasiness.

On the one hand, the government is making promises of great changes. Prime Minister Botha points his finger as he speaks about 'die nuwe grondwet van Suid Afrika'. On the other hand, Louis Le Grange warns us that law and order must be maintained.

And while they make promises of changes

and law and order, something is brewing on the ground. All over the country, the school children are up in arms. In Vryburg, Mabopane, Tembisa, Turfloop and Moutview, the schools have been closed as students boycott. Some of the places are unknown to us.

The children of Moutview have been boycotting for a few weeks now. There are rumours of a solidarity boycott in Cape Town. Wasn't Moutview the first school to boycott in 1980?

What lies ahead?

Eighteen months ago the Ciskei became 'independent'. What kind of independence is this when thousands of people come to Cape Town to work? What kind of independence is this when people are shot when they boycott against busfare increases?

Eighteen months after independence, the Ciskei declares a state of emergency. Sebe packs his bags and runs to the Holiday Inn in East London to be protected by the South African Security forces.

What has happened in the Ciskei in recent weeks can never be forgotten by our people. It is the sign that all is not well in the homelands.

But that is not all. Daily, people are detained and harassed. Daily they suffer because of the government's harsh laws. There is no work, there is no food.

On 20 August thousands of people from every corner in our country gathered in Cape Town to reject the Constitutional and

Koornhof Bills. The writing is on the wall. Things are happening. For years the people have been silent. First there was 1976, then there was 1980. Today, we have our organisations. Unity and organisation are our only weapons.

There is unrest and discontent in every corner of our country. In the workplace, at schools and universities, in the homelands and people are voicing their opposition.

What lies ahead?

Supporting the United Democratic Front

Dear Grassroots It is very good to see that our people are beginning to unite. Through the United Democratic Front (UDF), people from all over South Africa are coming together.

Our mothers, fathers, workers, students and

youth are all joining together to fight for a better future for us all.

We needed an organisation like the UDF long ago. It is only through the unity of the people that we can build a better future for us all. We have been divided for too long.

Let us overlook little differences which keep us apart and join in the unity that is being built through the UDF.

Forward to a united South Africa.
UDF supporter

'Defence Force - clear out!'

Dear Grassroots, Why is the Defence Force jumping the gun in Mitchells Plain?

By conducting 'guerrilla raids' on primary schools they are behaving as if they are preparing young minds for service on the border.

We know the Defence Force needs cannon fodder. And that they want to use our youth as a buffer between their own White conscripts and the freedom fighters.

We know that this is what the Constitutional proposals are all about: our children's lives, in exchange for a dummy vote.

The Defence Force should note that the vast majority of so-called Coloured people (five to one in Mitchells Plain) reject the new constitution.

Opposition to fighting on the border for Apartheid is total.

Yet, the Defence Force has the gall to launch a brainwashing campaign among our children.

They should rather clear out of our area.
Mitchells Plain Resident.

Learning from our mistakes

Dear Grassroots People should not always be ready to criticise when one makes a small mistake.

It is better to work together than just to criticise every time. People should rather teach each other so that they won't make the same mistakes again.

Sometimes it can be good to criticise, but it is bad when you do not see your own mistakes.

Remember that you are not always right and you can also make a mistake. For a mistake you always pay.

I feel it is not such a big mistake if one spells a word wrong or uses the wrong word at the wrong moment. The important thing is that people understand what you are writing.

Mr G P Ismael
Bonteheuwel

Khayelitsha no-mans land

Dear Grassroots,

I want to tell Grassroots what is happening in Khayelitsha. My friend lives there and told me about a meeting which was called by Lubelwana and two white men.

Lubelwana is from the Community Council and the other men come from the Administration Board.

They told the people that they must build their own houses. They must not build shacks but proper houses with bricks.

The people asked these men "where must we get the bricks?" The men from the Administration Board said that we make bricks in the homelands and that we must make our own bricks.

But, the people told them that they don't have money. They said they want houses from the government. Lubelwana told the people they must borrow money from the rent office to build houses.

But, when some people went to the rent office to get the money, they were turned away.

First the people are taken to no-mans-land. They thought that they would get houses. Now, the people don't know what to do.

What is happening?

Sheila

KTC

BCA Sympathy

SYDNEY SCOTT of Bonteheuwel, died tragically in a motor cycle accident last month. The Bonteheuwel Civic Association (BCA), of which his brother, Leon, is a member, gives this message to the Scott family.

BCA simpatiseer en

huil in hulle harte saam met die Scott familie. Ons weet dat dit vir hulle 'n groot slag is, maar wat God doen en beplan, kan niemand verhoed noe. Ons kan wel dit wat gaan gebeur verhoed, maar dit wat alreeds gebeur het net aanvaar.

Where are the workers?

Dear Grassroots,

The points of the declaration of the UDF in the Western Cape all sound fine. However, there is one problem facing all of these points.

The problem is they tell us that we live in a racist country of apartheid. But we also live in a capitalist country. Most of the people are workers. The bosses are

the main controllers of our lives.

If we don't include them in the picture, then we will be misled.

If we don't change the way the bosses control us, then SA will still belong to a few people.

Then the people will not govern — we will still be governed. You have to change the exploitation system.

We workers must

not only control the government, but also the factories.

The UDF has a whole lot of different organisations, but no workers except maybe CAHAC.

The question I want to know is why are there no workers in the UDF. Please can "Grassroots" and the unions explain for us.

Yours in struggle,
R.S. Nyanga

'Don't vote for man coms'

Dear Grassroots, I would like Grassroots readers to know what the Management Committee has up its sleeve again.

Next month, the management committee elections will be held. In our area, Factreton, they have done nothing for the people.

Now they are climbing on the bandwagon. They think if they do something for the people before the elections, we will vote for them. But they must be mistaken.

The Management Committee is having meetings and they are telling the people how wonderful the government's new deal is. They are telling people to sign affidavits committing them to buy their houses.

They have also told the people that their rents will increase and that it is better to buy their houses.

The people are being threatened with rent increases so that they can buy their houses.

I would like to say to the people of Factreton and other areas: don't listen to the Management Committee. Hulle is kop in een mus met die government.

I will not vote for them in September and I hope no one else does.

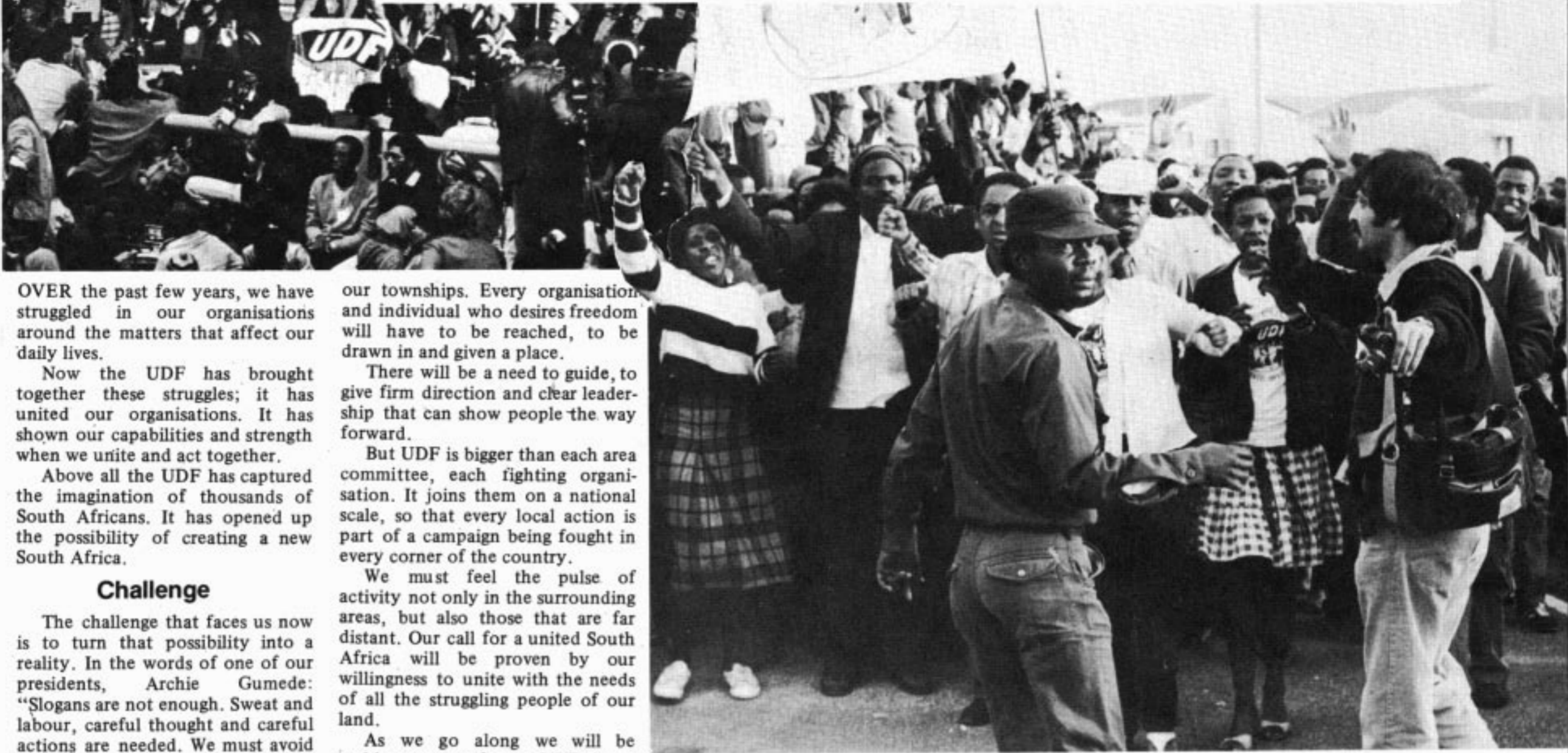
Factreton Resident.



WRITE TO GRASSROOTS AND SHARE YOUR IDEAS WITH ALL OUR READERS!

To: grassroots
P.O. box 181
Athlone
7760

THE ROAD AHEAD



OVER the past few years, we have struggled in our organisations around the matters that affect our daily lives.

Now the UDF has brought together these struggles; it has united our organisations. It has shown our capabilities and strength when we unite and act together.

Above all the UDF has captured the imagination of thousands of South Africans. It has opened up the possibility of creating a new South Africa.

Challenge

The challenge that faces us now is to turn that possibility into a reality. In the words of one of our presidents, Archie Gumede: "Slogans are not enough. Sweat and labour, careful thought and careful actions are needed. We must avoid adventures, and we must act consciously and with determination until we overcome."

We must build on our experience of struggle. Our strength and power lies firstly in our organisations. Our civics and our trade unions, our youth, women and student organisations have brought us this far. Through the UDF we must extend and deepen these organisations.

Our organisations have always started from the problems people face in their daily lives. Now UDF poses a new task. The issues that we take up, our everyday experience of oppression must be linked to the government's new plans.

Our organisations must now see further than their own immediate concerns. They must set up area committees, regional committees that will reach into every corner of

our townships. Every organisation and individual who desires freedom will have to be reached, to be drawn in and given a place.

There will be a need to guide, to give firm direction and clear leadership that can show people the way forward.

But UDF is bigger than each area committee, each fighting organisation. It joins them on a national scale, so that every local action is part of a campaign being fought in every corner of the country.

We must feel the pulse of activity not only in the surrounding areas, but also those that are far distant. Our call for a united South Africa will be proven by our willingness to unite with the needs of all the struggling people of our land.

As we go along we will be making our own future. UDF shows us the power that lies in our hands. As we use that power our confidence will grow. We will learn things we never dreamed were possible. We will discover new abilities and perform tasks that we never imagined.

Declaration

At all stages, we need to assess our forces, to understand our situation and to find a way out. With our feet firmly on the ground, with our minds clear, we will go forward.

In this, our Declaration and working principles will guide and teach us. They will be the firm rock on which we anchor ourselves. They point to the tasks ahead. They inspire us to go forward and to claim the future that is ours.

IN our struggle our goal is freedom. On the way, however, there are many obstacles and tasks. We must face them now or we will never get to where we are going.

Already on the horizon obstacles that we cannot ignore. In September, the government plans to hold management committee elections throughout the country.

For years now, these puppet bodies have been party to our oppression. They have been party to our removal under the Group to the dust and wind of the Cape Flats, to the high rents and poor living conditions under which we are forced to live.

They will be the backbone of Heunis' new scheme to form local councils along Group Areas

lines. He wishes to convince us that these bodies will put power in our hands and give us a say in our own affairs.

They will demand money from us to pay for the services and maintenance that our areas need. In return for our sweat and labour we are asked to accept these measly offerings. We are asked to join in our own oppression by supporting these junior partners of apartheid.

In the next few weeks then, we must say loudly and clearly, NO! to these plans. We demand a full say over every part of our lives.

We must also say NO! to Koornhof's plans and schemes. He plans to smarten the dress of the community councils, to

give them a new name and increase their powers. But it is power to demand higher rents from us, police us, to send us off to Khayalitsha. These plans are also meant to divide us, to separate us in Guguletu from those in Mitchells Plain.

Yet we will all face the same toothless and brainless bodies. For us, community councils and management committees are but obstacles in our path. Our goal is in the distance and yet we see it clearly.

Our demand is clear and nothing less will do. We want a direct say in the affairs that govern our lives. In the face of the plans of Heunis and Koornhof, we say again: "South Africa belongs to all who live in it. We the people must govern".

Messages of support



WE, the oppressed people of Namibia express our active support and solidarity with the people of South Africa in their struggle for liberation. We face a common racist enemy - the Pretoria Regime. Be rest assured that your struggle for liberation in South Africa is also our struggle, your victory is our victory. Our victory is your victory.
A Luta Continua
Swapo of Namibia

THE Norwegian Council for Southern Africa, representing 21 national political Christian and humanitarian organisations wish to hereby congratulate the United Democratic Front on its national conference this weekend.

We salute your fight against the Botha regime's Constitutional Proposals.

Your efforts represent a clear indication of the ongoing struggle for freedom in South Africa.
Our support is with you.
Mayibuie

In regard to constitutional reform the time has surely come to set South Africa firmly on the road towards the full participation of all its inhabitants in the political life of the country. Because the proposed new constitution does not do this it is unacceptable and must be opposed by every peaceful means.

Concerning the projected influx control legislation, may there be such united and vigorous opposition to the idea that not only will the legislation be stopped by the whole trend reversed.

Be assured of my close association with you in the pursuit of these great purposes. Be assured of my heartfelt good wishes and prayers for the success of the gathering, the rights that you plan to promote are God-given and sacred. May the guidance and strength of the Almighty support and sustain you in your campaign.
D. HURLEY
Archbishop of Durban

We wish you every success in your endeavours and you have the assurance of our continued efforts to curb the involvement of our country in bolstering the apartheid regime, politically and economically.
Courage, strength and solidarity.
Forward to a peoples Republic!

Holland
Committee on Southern Africa

The General Workers' Union has, since its inception, fought for a free and democratic South Africa. To this end we are fighting the Koornhof and Constitutional Bills and we will stand side by side with any organisation committed to the struggle for democracy.

We look forward to comradesly co-operation with the United Democratic Front and to a successful campaign against the Koornhof and Constitutional Bills.

General Workers' Union

National executive



& patrons

National Presidents: Archie Gumede.

Albertina Susulu, Oscar Mpeha.

Vice-presidents: Christmas Tinto, Joseph Marks, Virgil Bonhomee, George Sewpersadh, George du Plessis, Rev. Frank Chikane.

National Secretary: Popo Molete.

National Publicity Secretary: 'Terror' Lekota.

National Treasurers: Cassiem Saloojee, Mewa Ramgobin.

Regional Secretaries: Trevor Manuel, Cheryl Carolus, Joe Phaahla, Yunus Mohamed, Mohamed Vali, Popo Molete.

Additional Executive Members: Andrew Boraine, Mildred Lesia, Jerry Coovadia, Rev. Mcibisi Xundu, Dr Ram Saloojee, Aubrey Mokoena.

DURING the conference, the national patrons of the UDF were elected as symbols of our unity and our struggle.

They are: Nelson Mandela, Helen Joseph, Sheikh Nazeem Mohammed, Florence Mkhize, Dennis Goldberg, Dr. Allan Boesak, Rev. Beyers Naude, Mrs. Monty Naicker, Francis Baard, Dorothy Nyembe, Hassan Howa, Martha Mahlangu, Johnny Issel, Father Smagnaliso Mkhathshwa, Walter Sisulu, Ahmed Kathrada, Raymond Mhlaba, Govan Mbeki, Andrew Mlangeni, Elias Motsoaledi.

CAHAC looks ahead

Valhalla protests

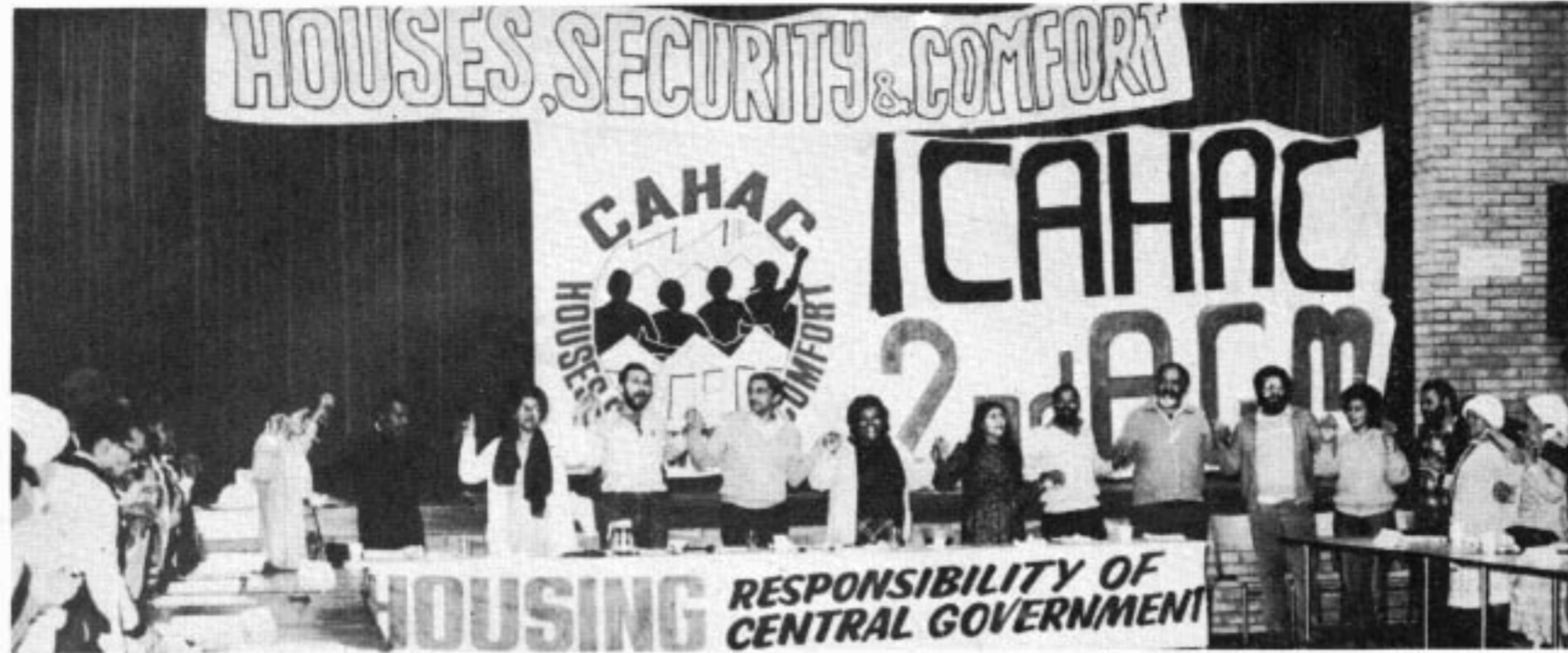
"TODAY is the birthday of our baby Cahac. Like all birthdays it is both a time for celebration and reflection. Like all babies, we will find we too have learnt by experience. Building on these experiences will make us grow further in the year ahead."

These were the opening words of Mr Wilfred Rhodes, chairperson of Cahac, in his address to the second Annual General Meeting attended by more than 150 delegates and observers.

People from Hout Bay, Bonteheuwel, Factreton, Hanover Park and many other areas in Cape Town met at the Holy Cross Church in Ravensmead to celebrate the birthday of their organisation.

But the people did not only come to celebrate. They came to look at their experiences of the past year, at the mistakes they made and how these could be corrected. They knew that their organisation had grown very fast. In his secretarial report, Mr Trevor Manuel spoke at length about the problems Cahac experienced.

"The most important purpose of the AGM is to decide on the direction of Cahac in the year ahead. To take the best decisions for the future, we must understand our shortcomings



Delegates & observers link hands at the end of the Cahac AGM, showing the unity which they have built.

"TO organise the people is not easy. There are many difficulties. Also, the organised people cannot win every battle. Every step taken is a step forward.

Sometimes it seems the steps lead to nowhere. But do not give up. What we do not achieve today, our children and others will achieve tomorrow" — Mr Yusuf Adam, guest speaker at the Cahac AGM.

and weaknesses. Our decisions must be guided towards overcoming these weaknesses and thereby strengthening Cahac."

"We must not spare ourselves criticism. Let us now look at our work. Let us build on the past," he said.

From the reports delivered at the AGM and the discussion of delegates and observers, the following problems emerged.

- Too much time was spent in meetings. As a

result not enough time was spent in the different areas to try and build organisations.

- There was not enough contact between the different areas.

- Although Cahac had grown, there was a need to involve more people in the organisation.

- Cahac had not set aside enough time to train people so that they would be better equipped to build the organisation in their area.

Another problem was that delegates did



Delegates listen attentively to proceedings at the AGM.

not attend meetings regularly. Often people arrive at meetings late. All those involved in Cahac must make a special effort to correct this.

Because of very long agendas at the General meetings, area reports could never be handled. Cahac members have seen this as a serious problem for some time now. They feel that more time should be set aside for discussing the activities of different

areas. In Cahac, reaching decisions is a very lengthy process. This presented a problem as progress was sometimes slow on certain issues.

But these problems are not so serious that they cannot be solved. The people involved in Cahac should strive for the coming year, to work towards overcoming them. In this way Cahac, an organisation of the people, can become even stronger.

We reject their community council

BONGOLETHU community Councillors are using the people's site rent money to entertain themselves.

This was said by the newly formed Bongolethu Residents' Committee.

The committee was formed to fight site rent increases. Within ten months, rents have jumped from R4,88 to R10.

The committee has fought and won a recent battle to raise the rent to R19,00.

The BRC says that in the past ten years Community Councillors have done nothing for the people.

"It was direct action by the residents that got some results. After the residents had refused to pay rent for six months, they were

given lights and extra taps," the BRC said.

The Committee is very angry at the way Community Councillors are wasting the people's site rent money.

"They are using it to entertain themselves," the Committee said. "They are always going to the Holiday Inn for food and drinks.

"These people are being paid to oppress us."

The BRC is also fighting the authorities' plan to move the people from Bongolethu to a nearby farm.

"Only a street divides Bongolethu from this farm. We are not prepared to move. The houses of Bongolethu were built by the people themselves. We are not moving even if they use force," the Committee said.

LOGRA'S FIGHT FOR HOUSING

THE campaign by the Lotus River and Grassy Park Residents Association (LOGRA) for electricity and ceilings took a step forward when a delegation of local residents met with Divisional Council officials.

The 12-person delegation was elected at a mass meeting.

The meeting felt that while ceilings and electricity were high on

the priority list, buying of houses, maintenance and the recent floods should also be included in the discussion.

At the meeting Mrs Ismail, a member of the delegation, said that she had lived in a big house with electricity and ceilings, but under Group Area removals her family had been resettled in 'koeistalle'.

Divco said that they didn't have enough money to start installing

ceilings and electricity, but they would approach Community Development for funds.

Early in July, as part of the same campaign, more than 120 residents from the area marched to the DIVCO offices. They all carried placards demanding electricity.

Most of the marchers belonged to Logra.

For Logra, the fight for proper housing continues.



Logra delegation at DIVCO.

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Women remember 9 AUG

"THIS is an important womans day because this is the year of the United Democratic Front."

These were the words of United Womens Organisation (UWO) vice-chairperson Amy Thornton, when she opened the National Womens Day meeting held in Crawford last month.

At our commemoration this year, women from all over the Western Cape came together to take the struggle of the women forward. Each speaker praised the women of the 1950's.

But each speaker also asked the question, "What about the present?" What about the new laws which the Government is using to divide us?"

One speaker stressed; "The only way forward is if we are united in our own strong organisations. If we say we want freedom, we must get it. We must prepare for our freedom."

The 700 women who packed the St Marks Church Hall observed a minute of silence as a mark of respect for Auntie Dora Tamana, a founder member of UWO, who died last month.

A United Democratic Fron (UDF) speaker said; "National Womens Day reminds us, the people of South Africa, of our proud history of resistance. The tree of freedom is growing and is being fed here by us today. Let us stand united in our demand for a united democratic South Africa.

A few days before the meeting, the Guguletu branch of UWO commemorated the historic day. The meeting was attended by more than 500 Guguletu residents.

"We are not going to Khayelitsha," said the people. We demand that the Government builds proper houses for us."

WE PAY TRIBUTE TO YOU - MAMA DORA

You have shown us the way



DORA Tamana died at the age of 82. She lived a long and full life. Grassroots spoke to her many friends and comrades. This is their story of her life.

DORA started her life in the Transkei in 1901. Like many African women, she looked after the calves. She did the cooking and cleaning and cared for the children. Every day, Dora and her sisters walked a kilometre to fetch water. She went to school and left in Std. 4.

There was a great battle at Bulhoek near Queenstown in 1921. The soldiers killed many people. Dora's father was one of those who died. One of the men who survived, was John Tamana. This was the man that Dora married.

In the 1930's, Dora lived in Queenstown. She was very poor. Three of her children died of hunger. Dora was desperate. She packed her bags and came to Cape Town to be with her husband.

In Cape Town, Dora lived in a squatter camp. The people resisted and they won. This was Dora's first campaign - a struggle for housing, for a place to live.

But Dora also fought for other things. She was an active member of the Women's Food Committee which was started during the Second World War.

Food was scarce. The women stood in queues for hours. Dora talked to the women. They said; "Today we fight for food, tomorrow, we fight for the vote, and then for freedom for all".

Dora's eyes and ears were always open. On her way home from work, she would stop to listen to the speeches on the parade. She heard about creches and how women are organising. And so, Dora and the mothers at Bloulevi started their first creche. Babies were kept in cardboard boxes, they cooked the food over a big fire.

She worked hard in all the struggles of the people - for houses, for food for creches.

But, Dora also joined the political organisations of that time. In the 1950's she became a member of the African National Congress (ANC) Women's League.

A woman who worked with her said, "she was a very good leader, she was with the people. When I first met Dora I was frightened of politics. She used to come to speak to my husband. I did not like her because I was scared. I would just make coffee and run. But, later I said it's no use being frightened of

They came on foot. In busses and on trains. They came from every corner across our country.

Together, they walked behind her as a horse and cart pulled her through the streets of Guguletu where she lived the last years of her life.

1 000 came to honour her. To pay their last respects to Mama Dora Tamana.

"Who was this woman?" asked a person on the streets. Why are so many people honouring her?

"When people suffered, Dora was there. When they gave us passes, she was there. When children needed creches, she was there. Dora was always there. She opened our mind to fight for our rights", came the answer from the people.

They came not to mourn, but to pay tribute to a great leader in our struggle.



Hundreds of women attended the National Women's Day Meeting organised by UWO - the organisation opened by Mama Dora in 1981.

that Auntie, because when I saw her in meetings I knew she would do something good."

When the people fought in the Defiance Campaign against Apartheid laws, Dora was there. She encouraged the women to join. One woman remembers; "This Dora was there, a volunteer from Retreat. She said to me, we also need you, mama. I joined in 1952". Dora won many people for the struggle in this way.

In 1954, the Federation of South African Women was started. Dora was then 53 years old. She was elected onto the national executive. The women said; "Today, we are marching side by side with our men on the road to freedom". The women adopted the Women's Charter.

Dora was elected to represent her people at many historic meetings. In 1955 she and Lilian Ngoyi were chosen to attend an International congress of women in Switzerland. They visited China and the Soviet Union. In the same year, she was a delegate at the Congress of the People at Kliptown. Here, 3 000 people adopted the Freedom Charter.

Soon after this, the government banned Dora. She was detained for four months in

1960 and in 1963, she went to prison. Even in prison, Dora couldn't be beaten. She worked with the women in prison, helping them with their children. She would not be silenced. Dora was a listed person and even today, she may not be quoted.

There were dark years in the struggle. After the 1960's, organisations were banned. Throughout those years, Dora gave the people strength. In 1981, Dora opened the first conference of the United Women's Organisation. She was then 80 years old. She was sick, but again, she was there.

Just before her death, she asked her friends to make her a new uniform, the uniform of the Federation of South African Women. She wanted to wear it to National Women's Day. Her friends started to make a new uniform, but on the 9th August, National Women's Day, she was not there.

Dora Tamana died on 23rd July, 1983. Many who had the privilege of meeting Dora throughout her long life, will always remember the courage and strength of this woman - a true fighter in our struggle.

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ADVICE



Feeling hungry?

HERE is a recipe for rusks made with bran. Bran is very good for helping with open bowels. Rusks are much better than sweets for children. They are also healthier than cake for people with weight problems.

These are the ingredients you need.
500 gr margarine, 3 eggs, 500 ml milk and 2 cups soft brown sugar (the kind that crawls), 1 kg self-raising flour, 250 gr digestive bran, 1 dessertspoon baking powder and 1 teaspoon salt.

This is what you do:
Melt the margarine. Beat together the eggs, milk and sugar. Add to the warm melted margarine and beat well. You can use a fork to do this. Now you need a big container like a big mixing bowl or plastic bucket. Put all the dry ingredients into the container and mix together. Slowly add the wet ingredients and mix well with a wooden spoon.

Grease a roasting pan or any other baking dish which is about 36 cm long, 26 cm wide and 5 cm deep. Press the mixture lightly into the pan. Bake at 180° C (350° F) for one hour. Remove from oven and allow to cool. Cut into squares.

Allow to get cold. Take out about a third of the rusks and place on a baking tray. The rusks should not touch each other so you must separate them. Put trays back into the oven at 150° F and allow to dry out for at least 4 hours.

It will make 120 rusks.

GREEK LENTIL SOUP

This is what you need:

- 2 cups uncooked lentils
- 1 celery stalk, chopped
- 8 cups of water or vegetable stock
- ½ onion, chopped
- 1 small potato, chopped
- 2 tablespoons oil
- 1 small carrot, chopped
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 teaspoons vinegar
- 1½ to 2 teaspoons salt



What to do:

Mix all ingredients, except the vinegar, in a soup pot and cook until the lentils are very soft. Cook for 1 hour. Add vinegar at the end and serve. It makes eight cups.

"THE father of my children is serving a two-year sentence. Now, my children and I have no income. I have three children and cannot work because I have nobody to look after them. Is there no help for me?" said Mrs Petersen.

There are many mothers like Mrs Petersen on the Cape Flats. Some have been divorced, widowed or have been deserted by the father of the children. What Mrs. Petersen and many single mothers do not know, is that they could apply for a maintenance grant.

If you qualify for a maintenance grant, apply for one. Demand your rights even though the officials in government departments make you feel that they are doing you a favour.

This article tells you about maintenance grants for children and parents.

Who can get a maintenance grant

- A widow with too little income.
- A wife who has been deserted for at least three months; whose husband cannot be traced by the police; or who cannot support her well enough.
- A wife who has been divorced for at least three months and who does not get enough support from her ex-husband.
- A wife whose husband has been unfit for work for at least six months
- A wife whose husband gets a disability grant or any other pension from the government.
- A wife whose husband has been sentenced to prison for three months or more; or who is in a state institution such as a rehabilitation hospital or a mental hospital.
- An unmarried mother whose child is not supported by the father, or if the support is not enough. The police have to try to trace the father if the mother can give his home or work address.
- A widower, a divorced or deserted father with children in his care may get one if he has been found medically unfit to work for six months.
- Guardians and foster parents may get one for six months if the late mother or father of the child has been getting a grant. They should apply for a special foster care grant as soon as possible after the child is put in their foster care.
- A widow or divorced woman with two or more children who gets married may get a children's allowance as the new husband is not responsible for maintaining the children. Depending on the circumstances, a woman under 38 with children, will be encouraged to work.

Where to apply

In Nyanga, Guguletu and Langa you should go to the local Administration Board social worker. "Coloureds" must go directly to Internal Affairs.

How long to wait

Internal Affairs say that it may take from three to twelve months to get the money. Standard House in Observatory say that you may have to wait from two to six months before getting money.

Grants for mothers and children



How much is the grant

A Black person who earns more than R348,00 a year, does not qualify for a maintenance grant. If you earn less, you get R13,50 per month per child.

For so-called "coloured" persons it depends on the number of children and the weekly income as to how much the maintenance grant is.

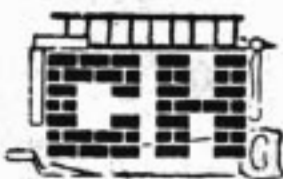
Number of children	weekly income	minimum grant
1.	R35,07	R17,00 per month
2.	R36,92	R34,00 per month
3.	R38,76	R51,00 per month
4 +	R40,61	R68,00 per month

These amounts will increase slightly in October.

Documents you need

- the birth certificate, baptism certificate or clinic card of the child
- the mother's birth certificate if available
- if father has died, his death certificate. If this is not available, the office will write to Pretoria to get a copy for you
- marriage or divorce papers
- proof from the police that the father can't be found or is not paying support
- at the place where you apply you will be given forms to be filled in by the school principal, one for the employer and if necessary, a form for the doctor at the hospital.

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News in brief... News in brief... News in brief..

Strand forms Tenants Assoc.

ABOUT 200 residents of The Strand gathered in the Luxoy Cinema on August 9 to form a Tenants Association. The meeting followed weeks of hard work by members of The Strand Youth Movement. At the end of the lively meeting, more than 30 tenants of Rusthof and Blikkisdorp volunteered to serve on the newly-formed organisation.

"We will refuse to buy these rotten houses," said the people. "Why does the Municipality now want to sell their broken houses to us?" We have already paid for them over and over." Speakers at the meeting emphasised the need for people to stand together and fight the bad conditions which exist in the communities.



Sacos meets in Cape Town

ABOUT 1000 delegates and observers from all over the country met at the Hanover Park Civic Centre on August 20 and 21 at a conference of the South African Council on Sport (SACOS). The delegates, representing sports and Community organisations throughout the country, all condemned the International Congress for Rugby Media, organised by Dr Danie Craven's South African Rugby Board (SARB).

The conference was held earlier than originally planned so as to counter Dr Craven's Congress.

The President of SACOS, Mr F van der Horst, attacked the attempts that were being made to create the impression that SACOS would attend the Media Congress.

The delegates and observers all agreed with a SACOS Manifesto which rejected

'normal' sport as being "nothing but Apartheid sport and aimed at deceiving the world into believing that there is no racial discrimination in South Africa."

People present strongly criticised the government's new Constitutional Proposals.

The president of the South African Rugby Union (SARU), Mr Ebrahim Patel, said

"The SARB wished to create the impression that it was the only and biggest rugby-controlling body in the country."

Mr Patel said that SARU was not prepared to play rugby in line with the government's multi-national policy and that SARU would continue to organise sport along non-racial lines.

Management committee causes confusion

THE Management committee was causing confusion in Kensington and Facticeon. They were suddenly working in the areas because they wanted people to vote for them in the elections coming up in November.

This view was expressed by people who attended a mass meeting organised by the Kensington/Facticeon Ratepayers and Tenants Association.

People said the Management Committee was telling residents to buy their houses and getting them to sign sworn statements that they will buy their houses.

Management Committee members said they would then get first preference.

One of the residents went to the City Council to find out if this was true. He found that this was not the case. He was told he only needed a deed of sale if he wanted to buy his house and not sign a sworn statement.

Residents felt the Management Committee was doing this so that people would vote in the coming September elections.

One of the speakers said that the Management Committee members earned R200 a month to work in the. They rejected the Management Committee.

Residents felt they should decide on what terms houses should be sold.

SPRING SCHOOL

THE Cape Youth Congress (Logra Branch) is organising a Spring School for the September school holidays.

From September 26 to 30, teachers will assist students in various subjects. These include, first languages (English and Afrikaans), Biology, Maths and Physical Science.

Students who need help in another subject can suggest this to members of Cayco.

The spring school is being organised for Standard Nine and Ten pupils living in Lotus River and Grassy Park.

Students from other areas are also welcome to attend.

For further information contact: Hilton at 75-1642 or Shafiek at 72-7989.

Cayco meets at Harmony Hall in Third Avenue, Grassy Park every Tuesday night.

R'mead residents reject PC

MORE than 600 Ravensmead residents last month rejected the Presidents Council Proposals and the Koornhof Bills at a meeting called by the Ravensmead Residents Action Committee.

The people also spoke out strongly against the Government's plan to sell 500 000 houses.

Speakers at the meeting included Mr Trevor Manuel, Secretary of the Cape Areas Action Committee (Cahac), Advocate Dalla Omar and Mr Jakes Gerwel, a lecturer at the University of the Western Cape.

The people, who filled the Ravensmead Civic Centre, discussed the bad housing situation and resolved to reject the house sales plan.

Brown lung can be dangerous

MR John Hlela, Hammersdale Textile Worker, will be paid a compensation of R109 a month for the rest of his life.

Mr Hlela made a claim for compensation last April after he contract Brown Lung - a disease caused by cotton dust.

The Bureau for Occupational Diseases has accepted that Mr Hlela is 70 percent disabled because of the disease.

He is the first black worker to be paid compensation for Brown Lung since it was declared a scheduled disease in 1972.

The National Union of Textile Workers is campaigning against Brown Lung.

The disease can be very dangerous. After less than four years as a cotton worker, Mr Hlela began to feel tightness in his chest and sometimes became very short of breath.

At times, this was so bad that he would collapse in the factory and have to be taken outside to get his breath.

The doctor of the NUTW has tested many workers for Brown Lung. Already, the Union has put in six further claims for workers suffering from the disease.

Belhar rent office to open

A RENT office will open in Belhar at the beginning of September.

It won't then be necessary to pay rent at the regional office in Cape Town or any Post Office.

The new office will be open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

All complaints of broken windows, doors, fences and so on, must be reported to Mr Le Roux, at the local office.

Complaints which are more than three months old must be reported at the regional office in Cape Town.

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