

Inkatha Women's Brigade Annual Report

By Miss Z. Msibi

DURING THE SEVENTH WOMEN'S BRIGADE ANNUAL CONFERENCE HELD AT ULUNDI ON 7th TO 9th OF OCTOBER 1983, THE NATIONAL SECRETARY, MRS A.M. THULA, GIVING AN ANNUAL REPORT SAID: "In our seventh year of existence it is gratifying to report that the Women's Brigade continues to grow from strength to strength. The emphasis this year has been on encouraging self-reliance and underlining the role of individual members in their respective communities and branches".



Mrs. A. Thula

It is obvious that the kind of woman who joins our Movement is a socially committed person who sees injustice and needs, around her and feels compelled to try to put them right. This I want to believe stems from the many social roles a woman plays in everyday life. To be a social, committed woman in the service of others requires perseverance, courage sacrifice, hard work and total commitment.

SQUATTER PROBLEMS AND CIVIC MATTERS

The brigade continues to be involved in programmes aimed at improving the quality of life at community level. It continues to be a watchdog on day to day matters. The members of the Brigade continue to fight against the unfair eviction of women and children of people from their places of domicile, all of which are perpetrated by the South African Government.

WHITE BREAD BOYCOTT

Mrs A.M. Thula applauded all progressive organisations such as Church groups, Labour Unions, Women's Clubs, NAFCOC and all members of the Committee for

having co-operated in this project — bread boycott.

BULK BUYING

In 1982, a resolution to establish bulk buying committee in our areas to fight hunger and inflation was taken and implemented.

SKIN LIGHTENING CREAMS

The Government has ordered manufacturers of those skin lightening creams. Control on manufacturers of skin lightening, creams that were dangerous when applied on our face was exercised.

DROUGHT AND MELMOTH FIRE DISASTER RELIEF PROJECTS

Women's Brigade and other organisations played an important role by giving relief to the victims of the fire that ravaged the district of Melmoth and killed some people.

NATAL CODE OF ZULU LAW

As reported last year, the State President has finally endorsed the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly's amended code of Zulu Law which does away with the so-called minor status of Zulu women.

RECENT KWAZULU ELECTIONS

Four women were elected to the Legislative Assembly during the last elections. This proves that Inkatha does not discriminate on the groups of sex. They are: Ms Zungu from Simdlagentsha, Mrs Zikalala from Madadeni, Mrs Mdunge from Ongoye and Ms Mncwango from Umlazi.

DOMESTIC WORKERS

Both the Durban and Johannesburg groups of this project are progressing well. The first group to enrol for a general Housekeeping teaching programme has completed a course in General Housekeeping organised under the auspices of the Union of Jewish women by the Inkatha Women's Brigade. Phase II of this training will start in February 1984. Inkatha Women's Brigade and Chamdor Training Centre.

EARLY SCHOOL LEAVERS PROGRAMME

The Brigade is trying to help groups of early school leavers to acquire skills for daily living. Training also includes the use of the English language, social and Domestic skills.

BLACK CONSUMER UNION

The Inkatha Women's Brigade has been invited to participate in the investigatory team to explore the feasibility of establishing a Black Consumer Movement and how it could be encouraged by NAFCOC. Other groups invited are YWCA, Ikageng Women's Club, Black House Wives League, National Council of Women, and Catering Union.