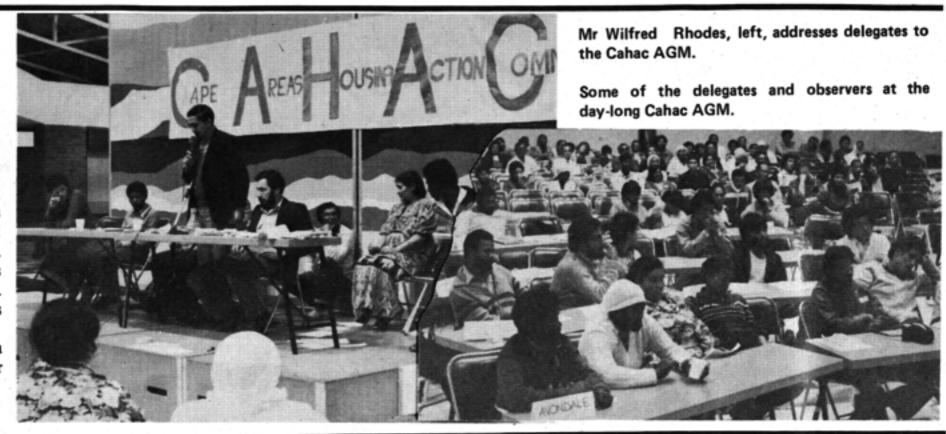
## **Build our** organisations

Sunday, 11 July was a historic day for the umbrella civic body, Cahac. The first annual general meeting of the organisation, representing 21 civic bodies, was held in Lentegeur, Mitchells Plain. Newly formed committees in Parkwood Estate and Hout Bay applied for membership. With time, it is expected that other committees presently working in areas will seek membership. Cahac can only grow and should grow - this was the message at the day-long AGM.

By joining your local civic organisation, you are joining Cahac because this organisation is our parent body.



# UMBRELLA BODY FOR PLAIN

MITCHELLS PLAIN has at last got a peoplebased umbrella body which will co-ordinate the struggles of all those who live in the huge Group Area township.

The body is the Mitchells Plain Co-or-

Federal structure. Each of the Plain's

seven mass-based residents' bodies in the seven areas - Eastridge, Portlands, Lentegeur, Rocklands, Tafelsig,

from page 1

## **CAHAC AGM**

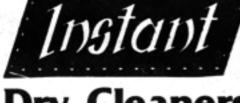
nity around matters which are important to people."

"We are not trying to build a fancy Cahac structure somewhere in the air - organisation must be built in the community," he said.

Mr Rhodes said the goal of organisations must not only be to fight high rents and bus-"We must see these problems as being

only the smoke. Our work must be to put out the fire which causes the smoke. We must wipe out from this society all the causes of our hardship."

At the end of the allday meeting held at the Lengegeur Civic Centre in Mitchells Plain, nine people were elected to serve on the steering committee.



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Westridge and Woodlands - elected from (MPCC) and has a loose their ranks two members on the MPCC.

> One of the two area representatives is "permanent" - which means he serves a full term of office of about a year.

### Elected

The other is rotating the areas are able to change this representative from month to month, or even from meeting to meeting, to enable as many people as possible to gain experience at MPCC level.

The local residents' groups keep their autonomy and will seek direct affiliation to CAHAC and to GRASS-ROOTS.

The 14 member (the number will grow as new areas are opened up) Co-ordinating Comelects mittee working officials. These are secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer, Grassroots sales co-ordinator, Publications Committee convenor and Workshop Committee convenor.

The first elections for these posts were held on July 6, 1982.

An earlier structure set up for Mitchells Plain, the Combined Mitchells Plain Resi-

Macusa is opposed to Naawu's participation in the Industrial Council system.

The system has been criticised by a number of independent unions.

dents Association (COMPRA) was not accepted by the people because it was undemocratic and many of its officials were eager to work with the enemies of the people.

It also refused to take up issues affecting the people.

On such issue was the Electricity Due Date. Council demanded that electricity accounts be paid a few days before most people received their salaries. Late payment led to a 10 percent fine. Because of the inconvenience of the payment date most people had to pay the fine, giving the council lots of extra money.

### Campaign

The Rocklands Residents Association, who had withdrawn from Compra, the Portlands Residents Association which was never an affiliate, and a number of concerned individuals decided to tackle the problem of the due

They formed themselves into the Electricity Petition Committee (EPC).

EPC waged a tireless and determined camfrom page 1

There is a difference however in the PE motor industrial council - the union participating ensures full involvement of workers on the factory floor in decision-making.

paign which ended in the council scrapping the system of fines, in all areas, more than had been asked for.

After the victory celebration the question remained: What now?

### What now?

Because such an organising effective group had been established, it was decided to continue until a massrepresentative based body could be established.

Soon EPC was officially representing Mitchells Plain on organisations like the Cape Areas Housing Action Committee (CAHAC).

Democratic peoples organisations were started in Woodlands, Westridge and the new areas, Eastridge and Tafelsig.

They joined EPC and the stage was set for the EPC to convert into the MPCC.

But there were a number of issues to be settled first. What should the name be? Should the umbrella body have unitary or federal structure?

A unitary structure would mean a strong centralised body with binding decision making powers and who would have branches under it in the various

A Federal structure would be a grouping of autonomous mass-based bodies who carried full responsibilities in their own areas. These people's organisations would come together on a regional basis to

discuss and co-ordinate matters affecting Mitchells Plain as a whole.

EPC organised a week-end long workshop to tackle the structure question.

At the end of the meeting opinion was heavily in favour of the Federal structure but no decision was taken as it was felt that the matter should first be discussed by the areas.

All the area committees came out in favour of the federal structure. On June 18 a joint meeting of area representatives formally adopted the Federal

structure for the new

body.

The next week the name Mitchells Plain Co-ordinating Committee was adopted.

On July 8 the first election was held.



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