

grassroots

THE PAPER ABOUT YOU Vol. 4 No. 10 December 1983 15c

LOOKING BACK ON 1983.....

A YEAR OF

COMMENT

We have learnt many lessons

THE struggle of our people for a non-racial and democratic South Africa has intensified during the past year.

1983 has seen the National launching of the United Democratic Front (UDF) – the largest organisation to emerge in this country since the Congress alliance of the 50's. We have witnessed the growth of the progressive trade union movement. Civic organisations intensified their community struggles. Youth congresses were formed all over the country. Religious organisations took a strong stand against apartheid.

In the rural areas, community organisations emerged in rapid succession.

In this edition of Grassroots – the final one of the year – we review the events and activities of people's organisations during 1983. It mainly focuses on events in the Western Cape. Where possible, we also look at some of the problems our organisations experienced. In this way we can reflect on the year gone by. And we can prepare ourselves for the challenges which lie ahead.

The events of 1983 have taught us many lessons. We have won great support for our organisations and for the UDF. We have got our people to actively oppose the Government's new deal. The Labour Party and the South African Indian Council (SAIC) have been rejected by almost all our people. They have come under heavy attack for their decision to take part in Botha's new three-chamber parliament. But we have not always been successful in drawing in people. In expanding and strengthening our organisation. This is the biggest task facing us.

The state has not taken things lying down. Despite much talk of reform repression has increased. During 1983, we have seen many of our people detained, questioned and harassed.

This will not end. In fact, as our struggle intensifies, repression will increase. The state will make every effort to try and tighten up control over every aspect of our lives.

Already they want our youth to fight for apartheid. Conscription will be one of the serious challenges facing us in the new year. Many people are already saying: "We will not go."

It has become more and more apparent in the last few months that the Government will use the TV, radio and newspapers to sell their lies to us. To convince us that the Labour Party, Rajbansi and the community councils have our interests at heart. We must guard against this.

With mass removals continuing, the housing situation getting worse, wages being low and unemployment growing by the day, our tasks which lie ahead, will not be easy.

Now is the time for progressive individuals and organisations to sort out the many differences that exist. To discuss how there can be co-operation and united action.

We need to develop a strong base. We need to reach many more people. So that together we can march forward to a non-racial and democratic South Africa. So that together we can build a new society where oppression and exploitation and injustice will be a thing of the past.

ACTION



1983 has been a hard year for workers. The recession has caused many to lose their jobs. Working conditions are bad and wages too low to meet the high cost of living.

The South African and Ciskeian government have continued their harassment of unions. In East London, officials have been detained, and SAAWU was banned by the Ciskei government in September.

Many thousands lost their jobs this year. There are now over 3 million unemployed. People without jobs also suffered because of problems with UIF (unemployment money). There is more than R200 million in the fund, but people have waited months to get their money.

Building our own unions



The constitutional proposals and Koorhof Bills also present problems for workers and unions. The divisions caused by the new constitution will make it more difficult to organise workers on a non-racial basis.

The Koorhof Bills will make it almost impossible for African workers to get permanent residence rights – which will make it harder to fight low wages and bad working conditions.

The independent Trade unions have all strongly rejected the

constitutional proposals. Many have joined the UDF. Others have not joined, although they have given their support, because they felt that their first priority was to form a federation of unions.

The efforts to unite all independent unions in one federation are continuing – with national meetings in April and October this year. Many problems have been solved, but the question of demarcation (which union should organise in which industry) remains a problem for those

1983 — uniting in struggle

In this issue, Grassroots looks at the work of organisations in 1983.

INSIDE.....1983 Poster.

Houses for all



THIS year the government clearly spelt out that it is no longer prepared to take responsibility for housing.

The government's new housing policy is:

- * not to build any more houses for those earning over R150 per month;

- * For those earning less than R150, the houses will have the bare essentials. That is, in future, the houses will have no ceilings, no electricity and no inside doors;

- * houses would be sold to tenants earning more than R150 per month.

Through the Western Cape Civic Association (WCCA) and Cahac, the people have pressed ahead with their demands for houses, security and comfort.

With the new policy, it is clear that the housing struggle will intensify in the coming year.

At a Cahac mass meeting in May, 1500 people rejected the Government's housing policy. They said the Government must take full responsibility for housing.

An important joint struggle waged by Cahac in 1983 was that around electricity. Many houses in Lotus River, Valhalla Park and Bellville South have no electricity. The

people from these areas together voiced their demands for electricity.

Cahac and the WCCA participated fully in discussions leading to the formation of the Western Cape UDF. The members of the civics played a big role in building the UDF in the communities.

For the WCCA, 1983 has been a year of consolidation. Branches now exist in all the townships up to Worcester. The main issues taken up were evictions, high water charges and the right for decent housing. There were also protests at police harassment of squatters.

The most important struggle of the year was that against community council elections. The WCCA met this challenge with thousands of newsletters, posters and stickers and mass meetings in all the areas. A big victory was achieved with 88 percent to 99 percent of residents boycotting elections in Nyanga and Guguletu. In the process, many people joined the WCCA.

With the Government making every effort to rid itself of the responsibility for housing, both Cahac and the WCCA will have to intensify their campaigns in the communities during 1984.

In Cape Town, unions have been formed for shopworkers (RAWU), clothing workers (CLOWU). The National Union of Textile Workers (NUTW) has also started working in Cape Town.

These unions are challenging the conservative TUCSA unions. Tucsas has become even more conservative this year. They asked the government to ban all unregistered unions, and they refuse to oppose the constitutional proposals. But many TUCSA unions are unhappy, and the biggest the Boilermakers union, has withdrawn from Tucsas.

The unions have survived a difficult year. This gives a new hope in the future of democratic unions and strong organisation of workers.

Preparing for the challenges of the New Year.

1983 saw large-scale protest at schools, colleges and universities throughout the country. Students again loudly and clearly showed their rejection of gaur education. From Cape Town and East London to Vryburg and Soweto there were protests involving large numbers of students.

Through their activities, students have built their organisations - Azaso, Cosas and Nusas which have spread to various parts of the country.

The work of students has been hampered by severe state repression. We have witnessed the detention of many students. Many were expelled. There were instances where police fired teargas at protesting students. At the University of Durban Westville and Medunsa in Pretoria, Azaso has been banned from campus. There are but a few of the incidents of

Students work for democracy



repression against students and their organisations.

But despite repression, students have pressed on with their demands for a non-racial and democratic education system in a non-racial and democratic South Africa.

The campaign for an education charter, organised jointly by Cosas and Azaso, was intensified this year. The document will contain the educational demands of all our people. The idea was popularised at mass meetings in Guguletu, Hanover Park and Bontheval during May and June.

The highlight of the congress was a panel discussion on the student movement in South Africa. Past student leaders from Saso, Saso, Nasas and Azaso discussed the development of the student movement and the role students need to play in the freedom struggle.

The primacy of the working class in the struggle for freedom was stressed. Student organisations, while supporting constantly

struggles, should primarily address themselves to other students. The new Quota Bill designed to limit the amount of black students attending "white" universities, was met with almost total opposition.

At the University of the Western Cape, students united to demand more hostel accommodation. It was a great success, with the administration promising to build more hostels.

In August, students at Mossburn went on boycott. They were protesting at the way the principal treated them. The students

were supported by their parents.

Students also organised political campaigns. In May, Azaso launched a nation-wide campaign to stop the execution of six young ANC men. They were sentenced to death for political activities.

The pressure inside and outside the country, forced the Government to spare the lives of three of the men. The campaign to save the other three men continued.

But they were eventually hanged. The night before they were hanged, an all-night vigil was held to show solidarity with the three.

Students realise now how important it is to extend their base, to reach more students.

Now as the year ends, they are already preparing for next year. Planning took place at a congress of Nasas, Azaso and Cosas during December.

1983 - a year of increased hardship and suffering. A year when the government tried to stave off its growing unity with the new constitution and Koozof's bills. And the year when organisations representing over a million people came together in the UDF - to say with a voice that shook South Africa "NO to apartheid! NO to exploitation! NO to Botha's 'New Deal'!"

UDF unites our struggles



The National Launch was attended by people from all over South Africa, from all walks of life. Delegates brought the demands of their organisations - "We the working class... we will not rest until we have won our organisations and march behind the UDF... we must relentlessly work until the workers are masters of their own destiny." We believe that all people must decide when they want to live. The whole of South Africa belongs to us.

UDF... we must relentlessly work until the workers are masters of their own destiny.

We believe that all people must decide when they want to live. The whole of South Africa belongs to us.

But there is another side to the UDF - the excitement and strength that comes from our unity and hope for a better future. We could feel this at the launch, when the sound of 13 000 voices singing the national anthem brought tears of joy to many eyes. And we saw it on the people's weekend, when people came together in films, concerts, razzodades and meetings to celebrate our unity, to bring forward the day when every weekend is the people's weekend.

The UDF also called on people to boycott the management committee and community council elections, and to build our own democratic community organisations.

What lies ahead? On Dec 16, the UDF will hold a meeting in Port Elizabeth to plan for next year. Some ideas for future action have been a signature campaign, resisting the conscription of our youth, working harder to build the UDF in rural areas. The UDF has made many gains. Since the launch, 200 new organisations have joined. But there are still organisations who stand outside. And there are many thousands not yet reached by our organisations. Our door is open to all who stand for freedom, and we must work hard to build unity.

Wages

The UDF has not only united these groups. It has also looked out different problems. Before we were fighting for high wages, low rents, equal education. Now we see how they are all part of the same struggle. As we see how the new constitution will affect our daily lives, so our bread and butter struggles have been united in a bigger struggle against the new constitution and apartheid, against exploitation and oppression in all its forms.

Resolution was passed, on workers, women, housing, homelands, conscription, Namibia and other issues. And a declaration was drawn up setting these demands in a single call for 'united action against the evils of apartheid, economic and all other forms of exploitation.'

The launch was not the end, but the beginning. In the words of Achille Mbembe, "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."

People came home with new strength for this work, for building their organisations and taking the message of the UDF into every corner of the land.

Since the launch, the UDF has particularly committed itself to fighting all puppets of apartheid - the Sabs, management committees and community

Religious groups take a stand

"APARTHEID is a heinous." So said the World Alliance of Reformed Churches this year. They said it was a sin to support apartheid. That it was the duty of Christians to speak out against the end of apartheid.

1983 has seen more churches supporting this declaration. We have seen the emergence of a new fighting church, taking up the problems of the poor and oppressed people in this country.

In August, the churches took their place alongside community, student, youth and worker organisations to launch the United Democratic Front.

From the beginning the church was involved in the UDF. They organised workshops to discuss the PC, they stood on public platforms and helped to form UDF area committees.

1983 has also seen the formation of new Christian organisations. The Ecumenical Action Movement (TEAM), has branches in Crossroads and Nyanga. Youth groups in churches have united to form the Inter-Church Youth to fight the "new deal" and apartheid.

apartheid and its evil laws, the church too has suffered under state repression. The banning order on Boyers Naude was extended for three years. Father Svanagolo Mkhabela, a patron of the UDF, is still in detention in the Ciskei.

30 members of the Students Union for Christian Action (SUCA) are awaiting trial after being arrested for protesting against the removal of people to Khayelitsha.

The religious groups are standing with the people in their struggle for freedom.

"It is not good enough to condemn injustice, our rejection must be an active one," say the new fighting religious movements.

Moslems also loudly rejected the new constitution. The Muslim Judicial Council (MJC) representing 60 mosques in the Western Cape, has been part of the UDF from the start.

MANY people from rural areas surrounding Cape Town will remember 1983 as the year in which several new civic, youth and other organisations were born. These organisations emerged within a short period of time.

In October, more than 150 youth met to form the West Coast Youth Congress (Wayco). Wayco consists of the Saldanha Youth Movement (which has two branches), Vredenburg Youth Movement and the Plettenbergse Organising and Kultuurele Organise (POKO) in Laaitjok.

In the South-Western Districts (SWD), there has been lots of activity in the past year. On October 25, more than 400 people met in Swellendam to form the Swellendam Inwoners Vereniging. Hardly a month had passed, when the Mossel Bay Civic Association was born. More than 450 residents packed the All Saints Church hall on November 24. The Montagu Civic Association is becoming stronger by the day while in Bontevale the Bontevale Action Committee is hard at work.

In Ashton and the Koo District, people have also formed civic organisations this year. In Gaidahoon, the youth are on the move.

On November 27, the SWD published its first newsletter, 5 000 copies of Solid-Kaap name which is not the permanent name, was distributed to more than 15 areas.

On the union front, the Food and Canning Workers Union is building up strong support in Mossel Bay, George and Vredenburg.

The organisations were formed to take up the problems of the people. In the rural areas people live and work under particularly bad conditions. Wages, too, are very low, especially on the farms, where many of the workers earn much less than R20 a week.



Organisations in rural areas

Many enjoy very little support.

The Labour Party was forced to withdraw its decision to participate in the national parliament. In Vredenburg and other areas, the youth are on the move.

On November 27, the SWD published its first newsletter, 5 000 copies of Solid-Kaap name which is not the permanent name, was distributed to more than 15 areas.

On the union front, the Food and Canning Workers Union is building up strong support in Mossel Bay, George and Vredenburg.

THE PAST IS OURS... THE FUTURE IS OURS! '83

- January *Bona calls for a democratic front to fight the new constitution. Labour Party accepts new constitution.
- February *Mahlala Park, Gonyu Park, Bellville set up committee to fight for election. *Memorial service for Neil Aggett. *Fighting at Labour Party meeting.
- March *Police raid KTC and demolish shack. 250 arrested.
- April *Trade Union Unity Conference. *Grassroots AGM. *Save the Six meeting attended by 900 people.
- May *Holding residents march to demand electricity. *Launching of CAYCO on 21/5/83. *CANAC mass meeting on the Sale of Moskop.
- June *Plan to move people to Khayelitsha. *Mass meetings to commemorate June 16.
- July *Azaso congress. *NUSM festival. *CANAC AGM. *UDF launched in Western Cape. *Oscar Mpetsha released on R100 bail. *Dora Tamana dies.
- August *National Women's Day 9/8. *UDF youth festival. *UDF NATIONAL LAUNCH. *Solidarity meeting at UWC with Mossburn. *Formation of SAAWU. *National Detainees Conference. *Meeting of SAAWU & increased repression in Ciskei.
- September *Formation of SAAWU. *UDF solidarity meeting. *SAAWU + Ciskei. *UDF People's Movement. *MWASH congress. *UDF in UDF office.
- October *Formation of CLOWU. *Community Council elections + meetings. *Solidarity Mass meeting in Lotus River. *Solidarity Mass meeting in Lotus River. *Solidarity Mass meeting in Lotus River.
- November *UDF meeting for Women's Rights Day. *UDF rally in Worcester. 11/11/83. *National conference in PE. 16/12.

MANY people have said that there can be no freedom while women are oppressed, that the women's struggle is not a separate one. It is part of the struggle for the freedom of all our people.

The United Women's Organisation has been working hard in the construction, organising women around problems, and especially those that affect women more. In getting jobs and homes, in struggling to feed and clothe their families, women face particular hardships.

Many women are without houses and passers, so UWO have fought for the right to houses and an end to pass laws. Women have been harassed in KTC, Crossroads, Dora River. We have been involved in these struggles.

Our low wages cannot feed our children, and there are no proper health facilities for them. We have called on our fight for decent child-care. We fought against the Defence Force camps for our children, and organised our own weekend camp. In June we celebrated International Children's day, to bring women

together to speak of the rights of our children.

A sad recent this year was the death of our leader and comrade, Dora Tamana

No freedom while women are oppressed



In July, Dora worked all her life for the freedom of our people. She encouraged all women to join her fight. She was involved in starting UWO, and her death is a great loss to our struggle.

The constitutional proposals and Koozof bills affect all of us. We have joined UDF, which has united our separate struggle in one big struggle. We lead campaigns against the puppet committees and management committees. Our demand is that the people must govern and control all areas of their lives.

Through the UDF we have come into contact with women in other organisations. We see it as a priority to strengthen the participation of women in

all organisations and for women to also take leadership responsibilities.

Organising women is a difficult task. In our society, women are treated as children by the law and often by their husbands as well. They are deprived and exploited. They work long hours in the factories, and then have to care for their families at home. This gives them little time to organise and attend meetings.

Women are half the population. Our struggle cannot be won without them. It is good that women's organisations are growing - a new one, FEWO was formed in Port Elizabeth recently. But all our organisations must ensure that women are participating on an equal level with the men.

MAY 1983 was a turning point in the history of youth organisation in the Western Cape - the Cape Youth Congress (CAYCO) was formed. For the first time youth groups from all different areas united to form one organisation. For the first time the youth of the Western Cape spoke with one voice.

But the bringing together of 36 youth groups gave rise to new problems. Some youth groups were not as strong as others. Some had just started while others were well established in their communities. This meant that it was difficult to draw up a common programme for all. It also meant that all branches could not participate equally.

It was also difficult at first to set up easy contact between the general body of CAYCO, the branches and the central structure - the executive.

Linked to this was the problem of decision making in CAYCO. All 36 branches had to be part of this process, and this was a very new

We must reach more youth



experience to youth groups.

CAYCO, together with leadership of organisations has affiliated to the United Democratic Front (UDF). CAYCO took an active role in popularising the UDF before the national launching.

Together with the Inter-Church Youth, COSAS, AZASO and NUSAS it organised a youth festival.

All the branches participated in the festival by presenting items of drama, music and poetry.

In November branches came together to assess the progress of CAYCO. At the workshop youth discussed the strengths and problems of CAYCO and looked at ways of building the organisation and sorting out the problems. A 3-month programme of action was drawn up.

What are the challenges which face CAYCO in the new year? The government's new constitution holds an extra threat for youth. We will be forced to go to the border to defend apartheid. It is therefore essential that CAYCO sees opposition to conscription as their major task.

In the new year it will also be necessary that attention be given to the strengthening of the organisation at a grassroots level. We have to spread the message of CAYCO far and wide to reach as many youth as possible.

As Oscar Mpetsha says: 'The youth of today are the workers of tomorrow. We must build strong youth organisations. Let us march forward for the future. The past is ours.'

"New deal" affects sport

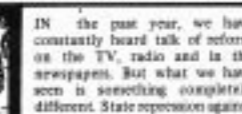
THE EFFECTS of the Government's new constitution on sports-persons playing non-racial sport came under the spotlight this year.

In some of the new constitution, all sports-people would fall under the control of Management Committees. Sports affiliates would be forced to apply to the Management Committees for the use of these fields.

At a congress of Saco, this was thoroughly discussed. They resolved to resist these attempts by the State.

Saco also resolved to work with community and worker organisations in opposing the new constitution and Koozof's Bills. It was stressed, however, that Saco should remain primarily a sports body.

An important event on the sporting calendar was the South Coast Conference held in August. It was organised to counter Dr Danie Craven's International Congress for rugby needs.



Increased repression

By the end of the year, UDF brought new levels of struggle. Cape Town cannot expect to remain relatively free of the hot winds blowing elsewhere.

Already the year-end has seen suspicious of a more sinister type of harassment. The UWO office in Mowbray was burnt; Oscar Mpetsha, Mama Zikhargo, Wilfred Rhodes and others got threatening phone calls.

A notable exception in Cape Town was the trial of Headley King who was jailed for one year after being convicted of furthering the aims of the ANC.

In November, Michael Cusack was imprisoned for a year for perjury in the same trial.

Harassment in Cape Town such as being picked up for short periods, publications set trials and obscene phone calls compared to systematic detention up-country, long jail sentences, continual banning of meetings, even assassinations and the brutal reign of terror by Sabs in Ciskei.

The West Indies cricketers have toured the country twice this year. They have been met with strong opposition, locally and overseas.

A planned match in Elites River between the West Indies and a local team had to be abandoned following strong opposition from civic, youth, sports and other organisations.

In the past year, we have constantly heard talk of reforms on the TV, radio and in the newspapers. But what we have seen is something completely different. State repression against our people has increased.

By the end of the year, UDF brought new levels of struggle. Cape Town cannot expect to remain relatively free of the hot winds blowing elsewhere.

1983 saw large-scale protest at schools, colleges and universities throughout the country. Students again loudly and clearly showed their rejection of gaur education. From Cape Town and East London to Vryburg and Soweto there were protests involving large numbers of students.

Through their activities, students have built their organisations - Azaso, Cosas and Nusas which have spread to various parts of the country.

The work of students has been hampered by severe state repression. We have witnessed the detention of many students. Many were expelled. There were instances where police fired teargas at protesting students. At the University of Durban Westville and Medunsa in Pretoria, Azaso has been banned from campus. There are but a few of the incidents of

Students work for democracy



repression against students and their organisations.

But despite repression, students have pressed on with their demands for a non-racial and democratic education system in a non-racial and democratic South Africa.

The campaign for an education charter, organised jointly by Cosas and Azaso, was intensified this year. The document will contain the education demands of all our people. The idea was popularised at mass meetings in Guguletu, Hanover Park and Bontheval during May and June.

The highlight of the congress was a panel discussion on the student movement in South Africa. Past student leaders from Saso, Saso, Nasas and Azaso discussed the development of the student movement and the role students need to play in the freedom struggle.

The primacy of the working class in the struggle for freedom was stressed. Student organisations, while supporting constantly

struggles, should primarily address themselves to other students. The new Quota Bill designed to limit the amount of black students attending "white" universities, was met with almost total opposition.

At the University of the Western Cape, students united to demand more hostel accommodation. It was a great success, with the administration promising to build more hostels.

In August, students at Mossburn went on boycott. They were protesting at the way the principal treated them. The students

were supported by their parents.

Students also organised political campaigns. In May, Azaso launched a nation-wide campaign to stop the execution of six young ANC men. They were sentenced to death for political activities.

The pressure inside and outside the country, forced the Government to spare the lives of three of the men. The campaign to save the other three men continued.

But they were eventually hanged. The night before they were hanged, an all-night vigil was held to show solidarity with the three.

Students realise now how important it is to extend their base, to reach more students.

Now as the year ends, they are already preparing for next year. Planning took place at a congress of Nasas, Azaso and Cosas during December.

THE PAST IS OURS... THE FUTURE IS OURS! '83

- January**
 - *Bona calls for a democratic front to fight the new constitution.
 - *Labour Party accepts new constitution.
- February**
 - *Mafella Park, Gonyu Park, Bellville set up committee to fight for electricity.
 - *Memorial service for Neil Aggett.
 - *Fighting at Labour Party meeting.
- March**
 - *Police raid KTC and demolish shack. 250 arrested.
- April**
 - *Trade Union Unity Conference.
 - *Grassroots AGM.
 - *Save the Six meeting attended by 900 people.
- May**
 - *Holding residents march to demand electricity.
 - *Launching of CAYCO on 21/5/83.
 - *CANAC mass meeting on the Sale of Weapons.
- June**
 - *Plan to move people to Khayelitsha.
 - *Mass meetings to commemorate June 16.
- July**
 - *Azaso congress.
 - *NUSAS festival.
 - *CANAC AGM.
 - *UDF launched in Western Cape.
 - *Oscar Mpetsha released on R100 bail.
 - *Dora Tambo dies.
- August**
 - *National Women's Day 9/8.
 - *UDF youth festival.
 - *UDF NATIONAL LAUNCH.
 - *Solidarity meeting at UWC with Mossburn.
- September**
 - *Formation of SAAWU.
 - *National Detainees Conference.
 - *Meeting of SAAWU & increased repression in Ciskei.
- October**
 - *UDF solidarity meeting.
 - *SAAWU + Ciskei.
 - *UDF People's Movement.
 - *MWASH congress.
 - *UDF in UWO office.
- November**
 - *Formation of CLOWU.
 - *Community Council elections + meetings.
 - *Solidarity Mass meeting in Lotus River.
 - *Bani Civic launched.
- December**
 - *UDF meeting for Women's Rights Day.
 - *UDF rally in Worcester - 11/12/83.
 - *National conference in PE. 14/12.

UDF unites our struggles



1983 - a year of increased hardship and suffering. A year when the government tried to stave off its growing unity with the new constitution and Koozof's bills. And the year when organisations representing over a million people came together in the UDF - to say with a voice that shook South Africa: "NO to apartheid! NO to exploitation! NO to both's 'New Deal'!"

Our organisations and unity has been growing steadily since 1976. Students, workers, women, workers in the communities and factories, youth have come together to fight their problems. Now their struggles have been united in a national front.

Wages

The UDF has not only united these groups. It has also linked our different problems. Before we were fighting for high wages, low rents, equal education. Now we see how they are all part of the same struggle. As we see how the new constitution will affect our daily lives, so our bread and butter struggles have been united in a bigger struggle against the new constitution and apartheid, against exploitation and oppression in all its forms.

The UDF was launched on August 20, in one of the biggest and most important meetings in the history of our struggle. But it came after 18 days of hard work. In January, Allan Bona called on us to reject the new deal. Between January and August, organisations were involved in many discussions, in the long and difficult process of forming a front that would unite us and take forward our struggle.

The National Launch was attended by people from all over South Africa, from all walks of life. Delegates brought the demands of their organisations - "We the working class... we will not rest until we have won our organisations and march behind the UDF... we must relentlessly work until the workers are masters of their own destiny." We believe that all people must decide when they want to live. The whole of South Africa belongs to us.

Resolution was passed, on workers, women, housing, homelands, conscription, Namibia and other issues. And a declaration was drawn up setting these demands in a single call for "united action against the evils of apartheid, economic and all other forms of exploitation."

The launch was not the end, but the beginning. In the words of Achille Mbembe, "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."

People came here with new strength for this work, for building their organisations and taking the message of the UDF into every corner of the land.

Since the launch, the UDF has particularly committed itself to fighting all puppets of apartheid - the Sabs, management committees and community

councils, the labour party.

In September, meetings were held all over the country to show our support for the people of Ciskei. To voice our anger at the banning of SAAWU, and brutal arrest and murder of hundreds of Ciskei residents. In this way the UDF has worked towards the unity of the oppressed.

The UDF also called on people to boycott the management committee and community council elections, and to build our own democratic community organisations.

But there is another side to the UDF - the excitement and strength that comes from our unity and hope for a better future. We could feel this at the launch, when the sound of 13 000 voices singing the national anthem brought tears of joy to many eyes. And we saw it on the people's weekend, when people came together in films, concerts, rickshades and meetings to celebrate our unity, to bring forward the day when every weekend is the people's weekend.

The UDF is fighting against the constitu-

tion. But it is also fighting for a new South Africa based on the will of the people. We must never forget this positive vision - it gives us the hope and strength to carry on.

What lies ahead? On Dec 16, the UDF will hold a meeting in Port Elizabeth to plan for next year. Some ideas for future action have been a signature campaign, resisting the conscription of our youth, working harder to build the UDF in rural areas.

The UDF has made many gains. Since the launch, 200 new organisations have joined. But there are still organisations who stand outside. And there are many thousands not yet reached by our organisations. Our door is open to all who stand for freedom, and we must work hard to build unity.

Religious groups take a stand

"APARTHEID is a heinous." So said the World Alliance of Reformed Churches this year. They said it was a sin to support apartheid. That it was the duty of Christians to speak out against the end of apartheid.

1983 has seen more churches supporting this declaration. We have seen the emergence of a new fighting church, taking up the problems of the poor and oppressed people in this country.

In August, the churches took their place alongside community, student, youth and worker organisations to launch the United Democratic Front.

From the beginning the church was involved in the UDF. They organised workshops to discuss the PC, they stood on public platforms and helped to form UDF area committees.

1983 has also seen the formation of new Christian organisations. The Ecumenical Action Movement (TEAM), has branches in Crossroads and Nyanga. Youth groups in churches have united to form the Inter-Church Youth to fight the "new deal" and apartheid.

apart and its evil laws, the church too has suffered under state repression. The banning order on Boyers Naude was extended for three years. Father Sranagile Mkhabela, a patron of the UDF, is still in detention in the Ciskei.

30 members of the Students Union for Christian Action (SUCA) are awaiting trial after being arrested for protesting against the removal of people to Khayelitsha.

The religious groups are standing with the people in their struggle for freedom.

"It is not good enough to condemn injustice, our rejection must be an active one," say the new fighting religious movements.

Moslems also loudly rejected the new constitution. The Muslim Judicial Council (MJC) representing 60 mosques in the Western Cape, has been part of the UDF from the start.

Special newsletters were distributed in the mosques. And during prayer meetings, Imams have popularised the UDF. Sheikh Gaber of the MJC was one of the speakers at the UDF national launching.

On November 27, the SWD published its first newsletter, 5 000 copies of Solid-Kaap name which is not the permanent name, was distributed in more than 15 areas.

On the union front, the Food and Canning Workers Union is building up strong support in Mossel Bay, George and Vredenburg.

The organisations were formed to take up the problems of the people. In the rural areas people live and work under particularly bad conditions. Wages, too, are very low, especially on the farms, where many of the workers earn much less than R20 a week.

Many years ago, the Labour Party had come into people's lives in a big way. The rural areas were always the Labour Party's stronghold. But

MANY people from rural areas surrounding Cape Town will remember 1983 as the year in which several new civic, youth and other organisations were born. These organisations emerged within a short period of time.

In October, more than 150 youth met to form the West Coast Youth Congress (Wayco). Wayco consists of the Saldanha Youth Movement (which has two branches), Vredenburg Youth Movement and the Plettenbergse Organising and Kultuurele Organise (POKO) in Laastepok.

In the South-Western Districts (SWD), there has been lots of activity in the past year. On October 25, more than 400 people met in Swellendam to form the Swellendam Inwoners Vereniging. Hardly a month had passed, when the Mossel Bay Civic Association was born. More than 450 residents packed the All Saints Church hall on November 24. The Montagu Civic Association is becoming stronger by the day while in Bontevale the Bontevale Action Committee is hard at work.

In Ashton and the Koo District, people have also formed civic organisations this year. In Gaidahoon, the youth are on the move.

On November 27, the SWD published its first newsletter, 5 000 copies of Solid-Kaap name which is not the permanent name, was distributed in more than 15 areas.

On the union front, the Food and Canning Workers Union is building up strong support in Mossel Bay, George and Vredenburg.

The organisations were formed to take up the problems of the people. In the rural areas people live and work under particularly bad conditions. Wages, too, are very low, especially on the farms, where many of the workers earn much less than R20 a week.



Organisations in rural areas

They enjoy very little support.

The Labour Party was forced to withdraw its decision to participate in the national parliament. In Vredenburg and Bontevale residents simply walked out of meetings held in those areas.

In the rural areas there are still no organisations. Where organisations do exist at a very early stage of their development.

It is surprising then, if the Labour Party is trying to win support in the rural areas. The Labour Party is trying to win support in the rural areas using it to give support for its decision to take part in the national parliament. It is surprising then, if the Labour Party is trying to win support in the rural areas using it to give support for its decision to take part in the national parliament.

"New deal" affects sport

THE EFFECTS of the Government's new constitution on sports-persons playing non-racial sport came under the spotlight this year.

In some of the new constitution, all sports-people would fall under the control of Management Committees. Sabs affiliates would be forced to apply to the Management Committees for the use of these fields.

At a congress of Sabs, this was thoroughly discussed. They resolved to resist these attempts by the State.

Sabs also resolved to work with community and worker organisations in opposing the new constitution and Koozof's Bills. It was stressed, however, that Sabs should remain primarily a sports body.

An important event on the sporting calendar was the Sabs Conference held in August. It was organised to counter Dr Danie Craven's International Congress for rugby needs.



Sabs formulated a manifesto which rejected apartheid sport and aimed at decrying the world into believing there is no racial discrimination in South Africa.

The West Indies cricketers have toured the country twice this year. They have been met with strong opposition, locally and overseas.

A planned match in Elinor River between the West Indies and a local team had to be abandoned following strong opposition from civic, youth, sports and other organisations.

Another important event on the sporting calendar was the Sabs Conference held in August. It was organised to counter Dr Danie Craven's International Congress for rugby needs.

Sabs formulated a manifesto which rejected apartheid sport and aimed at decrying the world into believing there is no racial discrimination in South Africa.

IN the past year, we have constantly heard talk of reforms on the TV, radio and in the newspapers. But what we have seen is something completely different. State repression against our people has increased.

Cape Town has not escaped this repression. There is violence such as continual police raids on Crossroads. But security police action against our people was much less intense than elsewhere.

Harassment in Cape Town such as being picked up for short periods, publications set trials and obscene phone calls compared to systematic detention up-country, long jail sentences, continual banning of meetings, even assassinations and the brutal reign of terror by Sabs in Ciskei.

A notable exception in Cape Town was the trial of Headley King who was jailed for one year after being convicted of furthering the aims of the ANC.

In November, Michael Castejon was imprisoned for a year for peeping in the same trial.

1983 also saw the end of the Mpetsha trial. Oscar Mpetsha, who was in jail for almost three years, was released in June on R1 bail. His 5-year sentence is on appeal. Ten other young people got sentences of between seven and twenty years.

No freedom while women are oppressed



in July. Dora worked all her life for the freedom of our people. She encouraged all women to join her fight. She was involved in starting UWO, and her death is a great loss to our struggle.

The constitutional proposals and Koozof's bills affect all of us. We have joined UDF, which has united our separate struggle in one big struggle. We lead campaigns against the puppet committees and management committees. Our demand is that the people must govern and control all areas of their lives.

Through the UDF we have come into contact with women in other organisations. We see it as a priority to strengthen the participation of women in

all organisations and for women to also take leadership responsibilities.

Organising women is a difficult task. In our society, women are treated as children by the law and often by their husbands as well. They are deprived and exploited. They work long hours in the factories, and then have to care for their families at home. This gives them little time to organise and attend meetings.

Women are half the population. Our struggle cannot be won without them. It is good that women's organisations are growing - a new one, FEWO was formed in Port Elizabeth recently. But all our organisations must ensure that women are participating on an equal level with the men.

We must reach more youth



had concentrated mainly on their own local areas. Contact with other areas took place on a very loose and informal basis. CAYCO now had to ensure that inter-branch contact was regular and consistent.

It was also difficult at first to set up easy contact between the general body of CAYCO, the branches and the central structure - the executive.

Linked to this was the problem of decision making in CAYCO. All 38 branches had to be part of this process, and this was a very new

experience to youth groups.

CAYCO, together with leadership of organisations has affiliated to the United Democratic Front (UDF). CAYCO took an active role in popularising the UDF before the national launching.

Festival

Together with the Inter-Church Youth, COSAS, AZASO and NUSAS it organised a youth festival.

All the branches participated in the festival by presenting items of drama, music and poetry.

What are the challenges which face CAYCO in the new year?

The government's new constitution holds an extra threat for youth. We will be forced to go to the borders to defend apartheid. It is therefore

essential that CAYCO sees opposition to conscription as their major task.

In the new year it will also be necessary that attention be given to the strengthening of the organisation at a grassroots level. We have to spread the message of CAYCO far and wide to reach as many youth as possible.

As Oscar Mpetsha says: "The youth of today are the workers of tomorrow. We must build strong youth organisations. Let us march forward for the future. The past is ours."

As Oscar Mpetsha says: "The youth of today are the workers of tomorrow. We must build strong youth organisations. Let us march forward for the future. The past is ours."

As Oscar Mpetsha says: "The youth of today are the workers of tomorrow. We must build strong youth organisations. Let us march forward for the future. The past is ours."

As Oscar Mpetsha says: "The youth of today are the workers of tomorrow. We must build strong youth organisations. Let us march forward for the future. The past is ours."

As Oscar Mpetsha says: "The youth of today are the workers of tomorrow. We must build strong youth organisations. Let us march forward for the future. The past is ours."

As Oscar Mpetsha says: "The youth of today are the workers of tomorrow. We must build strong youth organisations. Let us march forward for the future. The past is ours."

As Oscar Mpetsha says: "The youth of today are the workers of tomorrow. We must build strong youth organisations. Let us march forward for the future. The past is ours."

As Oscar Mpetsha says: "The youth of today are the workers of tomorrow. We must build strong youth organisations. Let us march forward for the future. The past is ours."

As Oscar Mpetsha says: "The youth of today are the workers of tomorrow. We must build strong youth organisations. Let us march forward for the future. The past is ours."

As Oscar Mpetsha says: "The youth of today are the workers of tomorrow. We must build strong youth organisations. Let us march forward for the future. The past is ours."

As Oscar Mpetsha says: "The youth of today are the workers of tomorrow. We must build strong youth organisations. Let us march forward for the future. The past is ours."

As Oscar Mpetsha says: "The youth of today are the workers of tomorrow. We must build strong youth organisations. Let us march forward for the future. The past is ours."

As Oscar Mpetsha says: "The youth of today are the workers of tomorrow. We must build strong youth organisations. Let us march forward for the future. The past is ours."

As Oscar Mpetsha says: "The youth of today are the workers of tomorrow. We must build strong youth organisations. Let us march forward for the future. The past is ours."

As Oscar Mpetsha says: "The youth of today are the workers of tomorrow. We must build strong youth organisations. Let us march forward for the future. The past is ours."

We thank our Advertisers

Throughout this year some business people in our community have constantly showed their support for the struggle of our people. The income from their advertisements has made sure that the people's paper was printed and distributed all over the Western Cape. We say thank you to all of them and hope that they will continue to support us.

Thanks to Esquire Press for printing all ten issues of Grassroots. A special thanks to the workers of Esquire Press for the extra effort they put into printing our paper.

- Jaffers Motors
- Caminploy
- Matco Supermarket
- Elite Supermarket
- Pep Stores
- Doenie's Drapers
- Masterfit
- Shiba's Shoes
- Todds Commercial College
- Space Odyssey
- Hallm's Electrical
- Kismet Supermarket
- Poppy's Meat Market
- Rosmead Supermarket
- Vitameat
- Lansdowne Bottling Co.
- Open Books
- Constanz Muslim Butcher
- Quicktrip Supermarket

AKROVISION TV

**GUARANTEED
VIDEO &
TV REPAIRS
AT LOW PRICES**

SHOP BLOCK 9/4 GATESVILLE CENTRE PHONE: 67-3270
64 GORRIDON ST STELLENBOSCH PHONE: 74225

ONE STOP INSURANCE
CONSULTANTS, LIFE,
PENSIONS HOME & CAR

Stan Abrahams Brokers Services

216 BUITENKLOOF CENTRE
CNR. KLOOF & BUITENCINGLE STREET
CAPE TOWN
TELEPHONES: (021) 22-2434, 43-2584

ATHLONE MEAT MARKET

CNR. KLIPFONTEIN & LAWRENCE ROADS, ATHLONE
PHONE: 67-9348

*Butchery Specialists &
Manufacturers of Cold Meats
under personal supervision*
**SUPPLIERS TO CATERERS
&
FOR ALL FUNCTIONS**



LET
TIFFANY'S
JEWELLERS
OF DISTINCTION
BE YOUR JEWELLER

Metro Cinema Complex
Symphony Walk
Town Centre
Mitchells Plain

&

Athlone City Centre
Athlone
Phone: 67-4718

MABOYS ELSIES RIVER

•
**PEOPLE'S
JOB LOT
CENTRE**
MAD, MAD
LOW PRICES

• 43 HALT ROAD •

CINE 400 BUILDING COLLEGE ROAD RYLANDS ESTATE

NOW OPEN
GALAXY - DISCO
PHONE: 67-9132/3
"OPEN SIX NIGHTS A WEEK"
MONDAY - SATURDAY

ALSO

CINE 400 CINEMA
PHONE: 67-9027/8, 67-5391

FULLY AIR CONDITIONED
LUXURY CINEMA
FOR THE BEST IN
CINEMA ENTERTAINMENT
TELEPHONE BOOKINGS ACCEPTED
DAILY 10.30 A.M. - 7.30 A.M.

SUPER FISHERIES

KLIPFONTEIN ROAD, ATHLONE PHONE: 67-3910

FOR FRESH FISH DAILY!
SNOEK, KINGKLIP, STOCKFISH,
CAPE SALMON, KIPPERS, KABELJOU,
RED ROMAN, RED STEENBRAS, & PRAWNS

* * * *

HOT FISH & CHIPS, FRESH ROLLS
& VARIETIES OF BREAD

PARKFAIR NATIONAL DISTRIBUTORS

(PTY) LTD.

COLLEGE ROAD, GREENHAVEN
PHONES: 67-0019, 67-9112/3

**CIGARETTES & TOBACCO
DISTRIBUTORS
GENERAL WHOLESALE
MERCHANTS**

HOT SPICE



You'll love
the Spicy
Flavour

GENUINE INDIAN MASALAS
GARLIC & GINGER PASTE.
BRAAI SPICES & FRESHLY
MOULD SPICES ARE SOLD
AT ALL MITCHELL'S PLAIN SUPERMARKETS AND FOOD STORES

at your nearest Super-
market and Food Stores.

MAURICE'S SECRETARIAL COLLEGE

5 BYRNES AVENUE - WYNBERG

LET US HELP YOU MAKE
YOUR FUTURE AFTER
HIGH SCHOOL A
BRIGHT ONE

FOR OUR PROSPECTUS
WRITE TO:
THE SECRETARY
MAURICE'S SECRETARIAL COLLEGE
PO BOX 34
WYNBERG
7824

TELEPHONE - 77-7708, a/h 77-7380

(78H400100)