

Border UDF plans its year

THE BORDER UDF held its regional Annual General Meeting (AGM) at an undisclosed venue for fear of interference by South African and Ciskeian police forces.

Over 250 delegates drew up a plan of action for the year. The AGM focused mainly on ways to intensify ongoing campaigns and struggles along with other Border organisations outside the United Democratic Front.

The following are the major targets of the region's offensive:

- The release Mandela campaign: The region sees this campaign as pivotal to most campaigns and struggles. When appropriate, rallies will be held. The RMC will encompass the campaign for the unbanning of the African National Congress and the return of exiles.
- The Anti-pass campaign: The formation of the Congress of South African Trade Unions has revived the anti-pass campaign of the fifties. Workshops explaining the effects of pass laws will be held. The Border region will align with Cosatu which will spearhead the

campaign.

● Border hopes to involve the UDF nationally in an anti-rent campaign. A national civic organisation conference linked to the campaign is being organised. A national civic association structure to co-ordinate activities was seen as important. Wilber Sbali was elected to co-ordinate civics in the region. The Border region will also work to create and consolidate rural Civic bodies.

● On the education crisis delegates discussed organising alternative schooling if the government closed schools in the region. The idea of 'the people's education' will be defined thoroughly after it has been taken to students and other relevant educational bodies.

● The Cost of Living and Unemployment Campaign was seen as a result of the economic crisis. The two campaigns were initiated by Cosatu's Unemployed Workers' Union (Unewu). The AGM hoped Unewu would frustrate employers' attempts to break the workers' strike by building solidarity between workers.



Part of the crowd came to celebrate International Women's Day in East London on March 8.

● It was resolved that women's groups in the region should unite in preparation for the national launch of a women's organisation. Ms Lumka Jobo was entrusted with the task of co-ordinating women's organisations in the region.

● Smuts Ngonyama was elected youth co-ordinator to prepare for the national launch and to help strengthen Border youth organisations.

The AGM rejected negotiations with the City Council and the government. From time to time, affiliates will put their demands to these institutions and monitor their responses.

Ciskei police stopped

● The East London supreme court granted an interim order restraining Ciskeian Security police from illegally forcing five members of the Dimbaza Youth Congress (DYCO) to answer questions.

Mongezi Tube, Solomon Goni, Ncedani Kwelide, Clifford Twebwe and Thamsanqa Smoyana brought the court action against the minister of Justice, Mr Takane and the Commissioner of Police. They claimed to have been assaulted and detained for questioning several times since last year.

In an affidavit Tube claimed they had been assaulted at the Dimbaza police station in Zwelitsha while being interrogated about their activities and those of their Youth Congress.

Tube listed a number of occasions when he claimed they were either assaulted or made to do strenuous exercises and at times subjected to electric shocks. The alleged interrogations stretched from July last year to March 1986. Tube said police would continue detaining, assaulting and generally ill-treating them unless prevented from doing so.

The return date is August 4.

THE BOPHUTHATSWANA Bantustan government is waging war against people in the area.

A mass funeral for 11 people shot on 25/3/86 March was prevented when Bop refused to release the corpses saying they wanted to have a second post-mortem on the corpses.

The recently established Mabopane Winterveld Parents Crisis Committee (MWPC) said they were determined to have the funeral. "We want to bury our fallen heroes in the proper way", said an MWPC spokesperson.

On the day of the shootings, residents had gathered at the local City Rocks soccer grounds to discuss widespread detentions and police harassment. Bop police Divisional Commissioner, M.A. Molope had been called on to account for police behaviour.

Bop police wage war in Winterveld



Death and destruction at Winterveld

"The shooting of the people was completely unprovoked", said Winterveld residents. "It was a gathering of mainly elderly men

and women who had come to hear the commissioner explain the sudden harassment of innocent people".

Molope wasted no time in making his case clear — Mandela is not wanted in Bophutatswana, if people don't want trouble they must see to it that their children don't burn buses, if the children

continue to destroy, the police will also destroy. The crowd was order to go.

As people were leaving police fired teargas and bullets. The crowd fled in all directions. Some were shot lying injured on the ground.

More than 11 people were left dead and hundreds injured.

Since then 67 community leaders have been arrested, charged with public violence and released on bail. Some MPWCC leaders and others residents have had their homes petrol bombed and many people have been forced into hiding.

Tribute to 7 'heroes' at funeral

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, was a sad day for more than 30 000 mourners who marched from the Guguletu Stadium to the graveyard to bury seven young men.

They came to pay tribute to their 'heroes' who were killed on Monday, March 3 in a shoot-out with police.

The seven were: John Konile; Jabulani Miya; Christopher Piet; Alfred Zola Swelani; Simon Manola Mnxawa; Temba Molifi, and Mzwandile Cekiso.

Soon after the shoot-out, hundreds of angry Guguletu residents gathered at the scene. Some eyewitnesses made shocking allegations to a local newspaper:

● one of the men was shot while trying to give himself up;

● one man was lying on the ground, badly wounded, when a policeman walked up to him and 'finished him off'.

The police reported confiscating arms and ammunition.

Mothers of three of the dead men called for a public enquiry to establish whether their sons were 'terrorists', as the police branded them.

At the funeral gathering, several banners were displayed despite an order by a magistrate.

Amongst the banners was the black, green and gold of the ANC, and the red SACP banner. These have become a common sight at most funerals of police victims in Cape Town's townships.

A Cayco speaker at the funeral said, "Today we are burying our comrades. The government says that they have killed the 'terrorists'. It is clear that they do not know what a terrorist is.

"We in Cayco say that these comrades who we are burying here today are not terrorists. They are heroes who have offered their lives for the cause of freedom."

A UDF speaker expressed deepest sympathy with the families of those killed. "We are not afraid to die in the streets of Steenberg, Manenberg or Guguletu. Our greatest desire is freedom and these comrades in front of us have died for that desire.

"The main thing that we must remember is to join those organisations which stand for freedom.

Alexandra is busy re-organising itself

IN ALEXANDRA township people live in buses, shacks, hostels or the usual four roomed houses — and each unit is organised separately.

"It would have been very naive to have a residents' organisation without structuring it in a way that would accommodate the needs of every resident. Our struggle on the local civic level is about housing, security and comfort and this needs to be decided by all, be they living in buses, shacks or palatial flats," said an organiser for the umbrella body, the Alexandra Action Committee (AAC).

Early in 1986 activists started to organise from street level. They were mainly from affiliates of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) and Alexandra Youth Congress (AYCO) and subsequently the Alexandra Student Congress (ASCO).

They soon realised that more than street-level organisation was needed if they meant to strengthen the civic from grassroots level. So there are now yard, shack, flat, bus-town and hostel committees.

"A lot of things deserve united mass action — this must then have mass united organisation. Many of

our comrades were in detention and many others on the run. It was after due consideration of these hard facts that we engaged in this form of organisation. Never will the system have it as good as it used to," said an AYCO activist.

Streets, flats, hostels, shacks and buses are organised from floor up to area committees. Representatives receive their mandate from the people via these committees. They report back after discussing the issues at hand with other committee representatives.

The urgency of problems facing the community means these structures are already acting on issues even as they are being organised.

"Major decisions are already taken concerning rent, refuse removal, people's courts, the attitude to and re-integration of the resigning councillors into the community and the re-developing of the township," said an activist in Alex.

Now plans are underway to run workshops and seminars with all

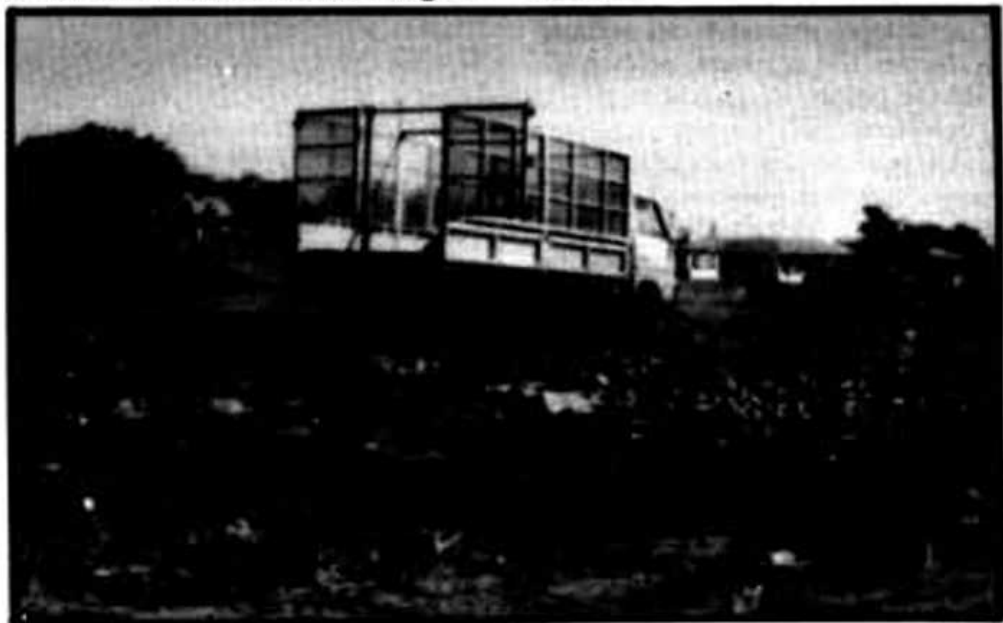
these committees to establish disciplined organisation.

The establishment of street, yard

and block committees is not new in the area. A lot of help has come from older people who operated similar committees until the Peri Urban Administration Board introduced the permit system in 1940.

The re-establishment of these structures has brought back a sense of self-confidence and meaning to

residents, say activists. Many petty squabbles, such as complaints about noise or the spilling of dirty water in the street, are diminishing because people are growing to understand how these come about and where their energies must be directed.



The can boycott in support of striking Metal Box workers is still very much on. Turfloop University students recently stopped a bottle store delivery truck. They emptied out R7 000 worth of beer in cans onto a sports field on the campus after explaining to the driver about the importance of the boycott.