

# SPEAK

THE VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY



**Speak commemorates the 30th anniversary of the FREEDOM CHARTER**

Vol 3 Number 2 June 1985

Speak Community Newspaper 20c

## United action against bus hike in Lenz

Lenasia commuters are battling against a 20 percent bus fare hike imposed by the Lenasia Bus Service — and winning. After a week-long bus boycott the bus company backed down.

At the time of going to press, the bus company had agreed to postpone the fare increase until a hearing by the Road

Transportation Board. Commuters agreed to suspend the boycott for a week.

The company also agreed to meet commuters at least once every three months to discuss their grievances, and undertook to consult the FRA whenever it considered an increase.

The bus company, Lenasia Bus Service,

agreed to meet with the Federation of Residents Association (FRA) who spearheaded the boycott, after the boycott entered its fourth day.

The meeting took place simultaneously with a mass meeting of commuters and all proposals made by the company were relayed to the meeting.

The FRA has also presented a memorandum to the Road Transportation Board.

Commuters demand:

- The scrapping of the 20 percent increase.
- The introduction of a coupon system.
- An end to the monopoly of the Lenasia Bus Service.
- Cleaner and safer

buses.

- More efficient and cheap internal service.
- Reduced fares for the aged, disabled and unemployed.
- Adequate subsidisation.

"The increases come at a time when we can least afford them," said Dr. Ram Saloojee, chairperson of the FRA.

"Commuters are also

angry at the total lack of consultation about the increases," he said.

Despite police harassment and offers of a free service by the bus company, commuters stood firm. They refused to board the buses until their demands were met. The boycott had 95 percent support.

"The tremendous

unity and support of the community contributed to the success of the boycott," commented a FRA spokesperson.

People with cars supported the call by offering transport, giving lifts and picking up people on the bus routes.

"We have seen that through united action we can do something

*On the eve of the Freedom Charter and June 16 commemorations people are still committed to the.....*

## Challenge to Apartheid!

"On the 30th anniversary of the Freedom Charter and the 9th anniversary of June 16, we need to take the struggle to greater heights," is the call from the United Democratic Front.

There have been nationwide protests over issues such as high rents, the bucket system, undemocratic local authorities and the high cost of living. People are saying apartheid is unbearable and it must go.

People's resistance has put the government in crisis.

"The government is like a drunk boxer. It may not have a clear idea about where it is going, but it is still strong and can still

fight back," said a UDF spokesperson.

"They are doing their outmost to resolve the crisis by trying to smash our organisations, removing our leaders and destroy the people's will to fight.

The army and police have declared war against our people and the youth in particular. In Duduza it was alleged that police were looking for all people between the age of 10 and 20. Youth have been forced to migrate to other townships in efforts to avoid the police.

Many people have been detained. Cosas organiser, Sphiwe Musi and Fosatu leader, Andries Raditsela died after being held

in police custody within days of each other.

From Soweto to Welkom, leaders homes have been petrol bombed and sometimes completely destroyed.

Reports from different parts of the country indicate that the government or its agents are using differences between the UDF and Azapo or between migrants and residents to sow division and disunity amongst the people.

"We need to respond to this onslaught," says the UDF, "and not allow it to defeat us."

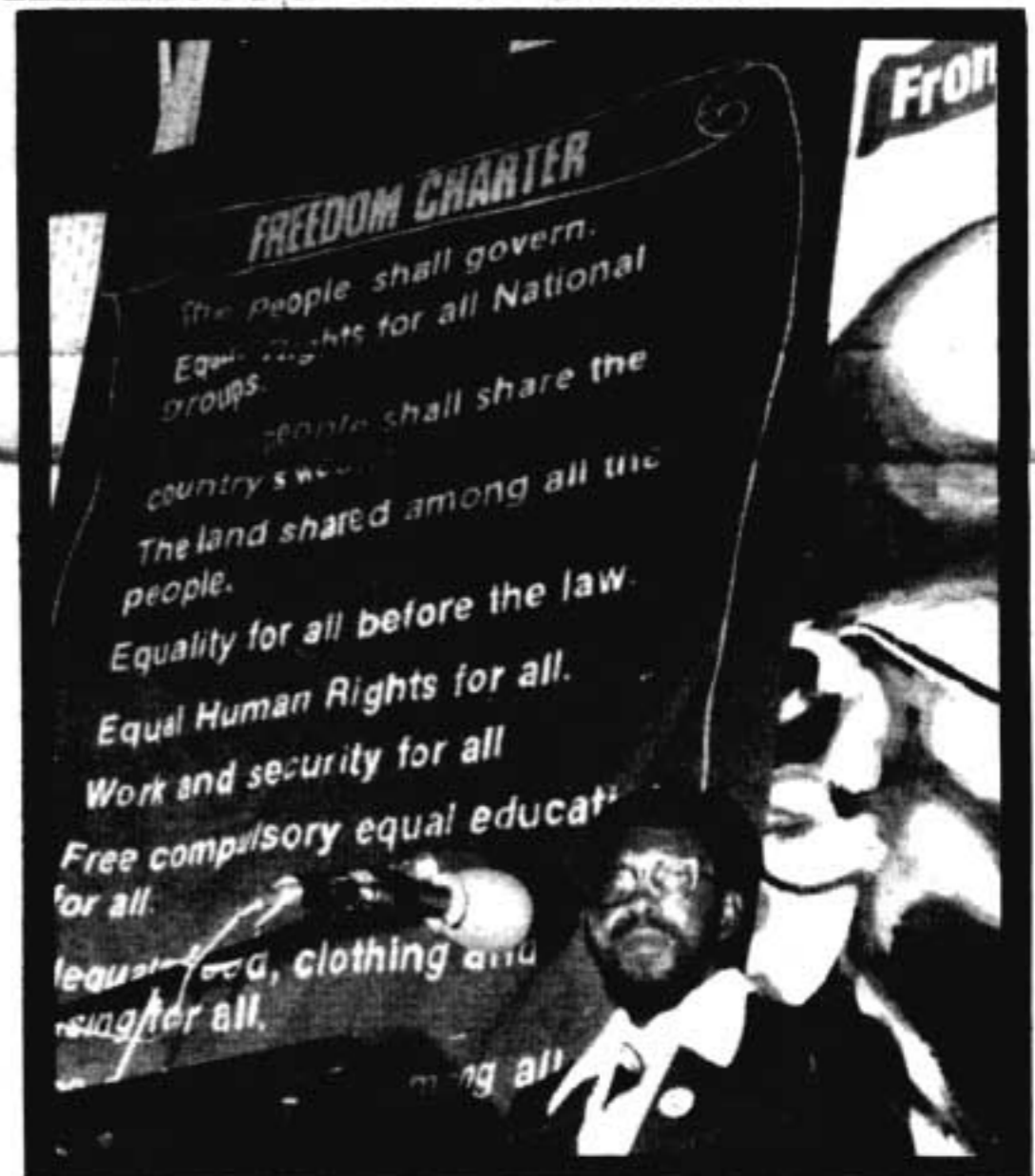
It is no co-incidence that at such a time the Freedom Charter is again

being raised as a guiding light by many organisations.

"We cannot merely attack the present system. We must say what we want to replace it," said a spokesperson from the Freedom Charter Campaign Committee.

"The idea of drawing up a Freedom Charter was initiated just after the successful Defiance Campaign where thousands had defied unjust laws, fundamentally challenging the apartheid government," he said.

"It was then that the Congress movement of the 1950s decided on the idea of a Freedom Charter to raise for the people a positive vision of an alternative apartheid-free



Curnick Ndlovu, executive chairperson of the UDF stands in front of a Freedom Charter.

society.

"Today we need to do the same. We need to take the Freedom Charter to every man and woman in our country and show them a positive alternative exists."

"We need to raise

in the minds of the people whose townships have been invaded, whose children shot dead in the streets, and who cannot bear another day of suffering, the vision of a society free from oppression

and exploitation."

"That vision will inspire them to participate with greater determination and zeal in the people's organisations and build them into strong forces which will take the struggle to greater heights."

### INSIDE

No to foreign money



Page 6

The wonders of the Wonder Box Page 13

Black local authorities crumble

...what next?

Page 11

The demands of the Freedom Charter still live today

Centrespread



POETS CORNER

Mzwakhe's poem on the Freedom Charter Page 15

Where do our rents go? Page 12



# Let OUR leaders speak for us!



Communities say no to PW

Community organisations have dismissed "as an attempt to divide the people" the Government's establishment of a cabinet committee where "leaders who reject violence" can talk about the future of African people.

"Nothing is being said about these leaders being democratically elected by the vast majority of the people. Nothing is

said about whether this committee will have any powers to scrap unjust laws," a UDF spokesperson said.

Already it is clear the people who will sit on this committee are the same people who now sit in the Black Local Authorities and the Tricameral Parliament.

"These people have

been silent while the police and army invade our townships," a spokesperson for the SCA said. "They raised the rent when our wages were being eaten by high prices and unemployment."

"They failed to bring about changes they promised last year, and we have no reason to believe they will use this new forum to do this."

## Council should consider people before golf courses

REIGER PARK — Reacting to the Government's announcement to allow six months grace to unemployed tenants who are in arrears, Mr George du Plessis, secretary of the Reiger Park Ratepayers and Ten-

ants Association said rent arrears and payments should be suspended.

"Town councils get the bulk of their money from rents," he said, "now it is time for them to give something back to the com-

munities."

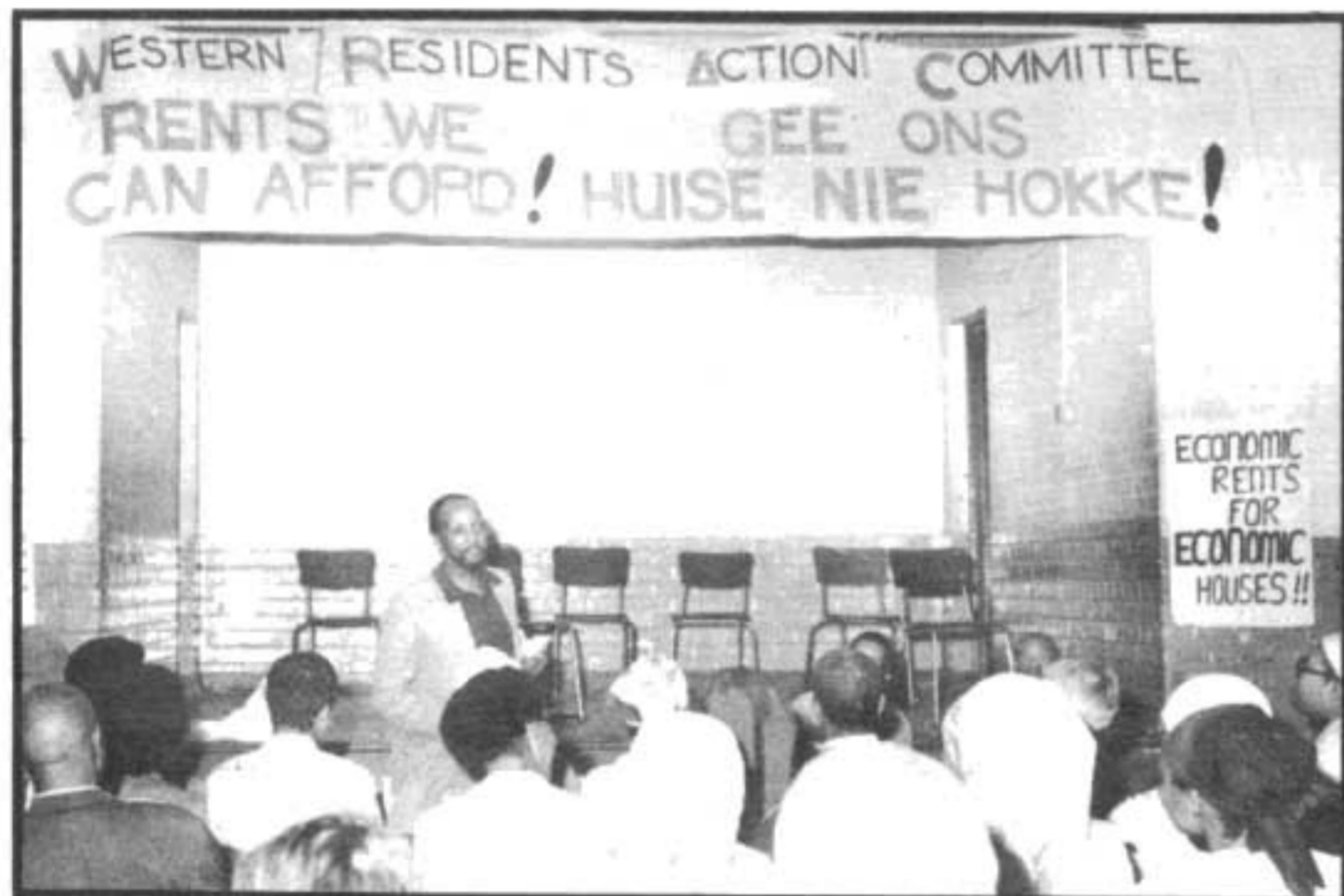
"The enormous amounts the councils spend on maintaining things like golf courses can be cut to subsidise the unemployed," he said.

He pointed to the rising numbers of

unemployed who have lost all hope of ever finding work again and are sinking deeper and deeper into debt.

"What happens after six months's grace?" Mr Du Plessis asked, "will they then be compelled to pay or be evicted?"

## Western writes letter to PW



Flashback: A meeting called by Wrac three years ago. Today there is no change in the housing situation

WESTERN - Western Township homes were already condemned before residents moved in 20 years ago - and it is now one of Johannesburg's worst slums.

And State President P W Botha's Government must take responsibility for this misery.

This is Westbury Residents' Action Committee's (Wrac) message to Mr Botha, in a letter calling for

the area to be redeveloped.

The area which was redeveloped and named Westbury Extension 3 has turned into a modernised slum because of the poor condition of the houses and overcrowding in the area, says the letter.

In 1981 residents fought to prevent the building of similar houses in other areas of Western. "Since then we have been

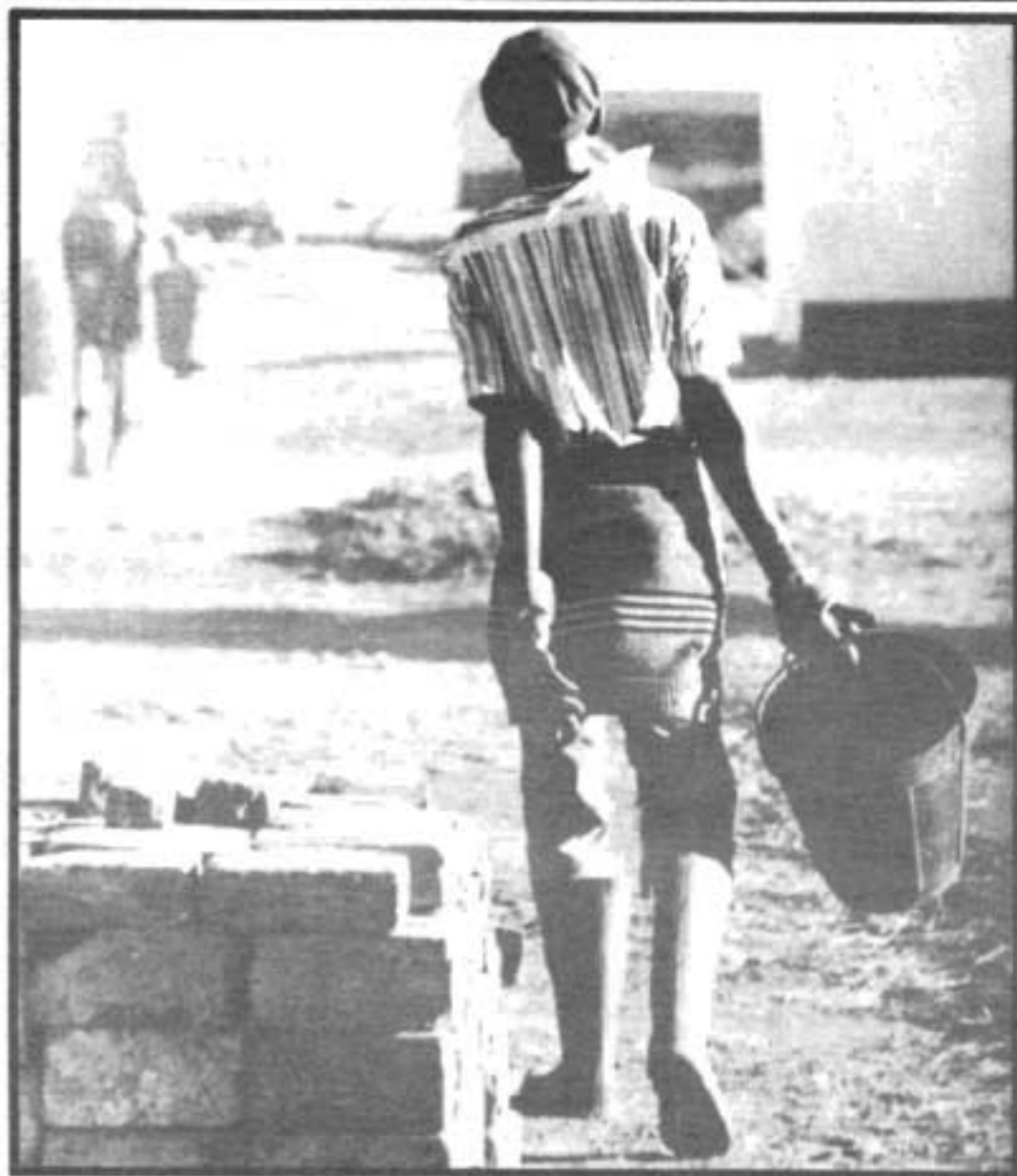
promised, year after year, that better houses would be built, but we are still waiting."

"In the meantime building costs are increasing. In the end, we the residents will have to pay for the delays of your council. We will have to pay higher rents to cover the extra costs for building the houses," said the letter.

"We have petitioned your city council

about the redevelopment of our township.

We have demonstrated at the offices of Mr Wilsnach (Director of Housing). Instead of speeding up the redevelopment scheme, your security police have been used to intimidate our organisation and our residents. Yet you speak of reform and you expect us to believe that it is a good thing, and that change is taking place."



Katlehong residents are fed up with the 17 year old bucket system

## Erapo spearheads campaign against the bucket system

KATLEHONG - The 29 families living in Katlehong's Mngadi Section have endured the stink, filthy conditions and fear of health hazards of the bucket system for 17 years now.

Residents are demanding the local council immediately install a sewerage system in the area, and

have asked the East Rand People's Organisation to take up the problem.

At a meeting called by the families, residents complained:

- They are charged the same rates as other Katlehong residents, but don't have a sewerage system
- Night soil is collected once a week

and sometimes not at all. Often people are forced to empty overflowing buckets in a nearby veld which creates a health hazard.

● Four families share a communal tap.

Erapo chairperson Paul Maseko said a letter had been sent to the council stating their demands.

## High rents of new homes angers Alex residents

ALEXANDRA Alex residents are angry about the high rents they have to pay for new houses built by the Alexandra Town Council.

People earning not more than R150 a month have to pay rents between R124 and R139.

Alex mayor, Sam Buti, says the council is forced to charge high rents because the houses cost a lot to build. He says the

houses in Phase 1 cost R25 000.

But residents challenge this. They point out that in other townships the same houses cost between R4000 and R6000.

"The houses are ordinary cheap location houses — maybe a bit smaller with the same walls of hollow bricks, roofs, no ceilings, cheap doors and rough plaster," one resident said.

Community organi-

sations in Alex accuse the council of trying to turn Alexandra into a "middle class ghetto".

"The kind of township suited to supplying semi-skilled and skilled labour to the rich Sandton households and the fancy factories in Kramerville, Wynberg and Kew.

"The council is kicking out the poor people of Alex by overcharging on rent they cannot pay."



Old homes in Alexandra township were broken down to make way for new houses at high rentals



## Unionist dies in police hands

Andries Raditsela, trade unionist, died at Baragwanath Hospital of severe brain damage on 6th May.

On Saturday morning 4th May 1985 he was arrested by police in a hippo at Tsakane township.

At 10.30 am his brother found him lying unconscious on the concrete floor of the Administration Board office under armed guard. According to hospital records he was admitted only at 5.45 that evening.

News of his death was received with anger and outrage. A worker stoppage and stay away in some parts was called to coincide with his funeral. Tens of thousands of people attended his funeral on Tuesday 14th May in Tsakane.

The Chemical Workers Industrial Union told Speak about Andries Raditsela's work in the union and his involvement in struggles in the factory.

"Andries worked at Dunlop industrial products in Benoni. In 1983 he was actively involved in recruiting workers into the Chemical Workers Industrial Union.

"In early 1983 he was elected as senior shop steward in the plant.

He was a very active shop steward and was involved in leading many struggles in the plant struggles over wages, shift system, unfair dismissals and women rights.

"Andries was also elected as chairperson of the joint Dunlop shop steward committee which involved Dunlop plants in Durban, Ladysmith and Benoni. He was important in solidarity work carried out around the major Dunlop strike in Durban last year."

"Because of Raditsela's commitment and willingness to sacrifice his personal life for the workers struggle he rapidly was elected to positions within the CWIU and within Fosatu," said the CWIU.

Speak was told that: "He became a member of the CWIU Branch Executive Committee in 1983 and in 1984 was elected to the National Executive Committee. In the same year he was elected as Transvaal Regional Chairperson of Fosatu. In this capacity he sat on the National Fosatu Committee. At the time of his death he held the position of vice-chairperson of the Transvaal region of Fosatu.

## Fedtraw goes to milk board

PRETORIA - To protest against the rise in milk, butter and cheese, the Federation of Transvaal Women sent a delegation to the offices of the Dairy Board in Pretoria.

The women presented a memorandum to a senior official at the Dairy Board. In the memorandum they demanded that:

- The government adequately subsidise all basic foods. The Dairy Board should call on the government to subsidise basic foods instead of passing the cost on to the consumers.

- Consumers be consulted about price increases. There are 13 members of the Dairy Board, said Fedtraw, but only one represents the consumers.

"We question the

ability and the authority of Mrs Hirzel (the consumer representative on the Dairy Board) to represent us. She has never consulted the women of Soweto, Mamelodi, Thembisa or Driefontein."

- Milk surpluses be sold at prices we can afford and that they be made available at reduced costs to clinics, schools and welfare organisations.

Fedtraw expressed their anger at the fact that milk surpluses are sold to other countries at lower prices than in South Africa.

This milk is being used to feed Japanese pigs while people in South Africa are starving, said a Fedtraw spokesperson.

"Milk is our staple food," said the memorandum, "If it was cheap, people will buy it and there will be no surplus."



Lenasia commuters decide at a meeting of the Federation of Residents Association (FRA) to boycott the Lenasia Bus Service after it increased fares by 40 percent (above). Hundreds of commuters picketed at bus ranks urging commuters to stand firm (left).



## Residents blame police for conflict in Tsakane

TSAKANE - "The blame for the recent infighting between residents and hostel dwellers in Tsakane must be laid squarely on the shoulders of the police," said a spokesperson for the Tsakane Homeseekers Committee.

SPEAK spoke to members of the recently established Tsakane Homeseekers Committee (THC) to get the story behind the deaths of at least 16 hostel dwellers and residents.

Tension in the township began after the funeral of youth who was killed by a police vehicle. Youths attacked the police barracks and the beerhall.

"The youths identified the beerhall as the property of the East Rand Administration Board and objected to the fact that the profits from the beerhall are not used to benefit the community," said a member of the THC.

According to the police, the hostel dwellers, angered by the burning down of their beerhall, decided to attack township residents.

However members

of the THC say the hostel dwellers were encouraged by the police. "It is clear that the police were behind the whole thing," said the spokesperson.

"The hostel inmates understood that the youths were there to attack the beer hall, but the police created confusion."

"We also have reason to suspect that some of the people who attacked us were not hostel residents from Tsakane but from outside areas," he added.

"Hostel inmates were seen being dropped off by Putco buses while Tsakane inmates use town council buses. Others were seen transported in hippos late at night."

"The police gave the hostel dwellers a green light to roam around the township doing as they please. Residents were forced to flee their homes and spent sleepless nights running away from the hostel dwellers."

"Women were raped, our windows broken and property stolen from our homes."

The THC tried to control the situation



Trouble in Tsakane began at a funeral of a youth who was killed by a police vehicle.

however the police would fire teargas whenever groups of residents gathered.

After five days of fighting, about 1 800 hostel dwellers left their hostels.

A crisis committee was formed to assist with burials and funerals. Many of the victims were buried in a mass funeral.

The THC said that a number of the people killed were found to have died from bullet wounds and were not killed by the hostel dwellers.

The THC plan to press ahead with legal action against the police and the East Rand Administration Board.

The THC added that in the past there had been a good relationship between the hostel inmates and residents. There had been joint soccer teams and karate clubs and hostel dwellers had friends and relatives in the townships.

The THC see the attack by the hostel dwellers as an attempt to crush the militancy

and organisation of the residents.

"There has been dissatisfaction for years and it was clear that it could erupt at any time."

"The bucket system, and the lack of houses have always been burning issues especially when you have things like corruption and unfair evictions," said the spokesperson.

Despite attempts to smash the THC it is still strong and has the support of the residents.



## Ayco calls for police withdrawal

ALEXANDRA - The Alexandra Youth Congress (Ayco) has called for the withdrawal of the police and army from the township as the first step towards restoring peace in the area.

In a statement condemning police action, Ayco says unprovoked police action led to recent unrest in the area.

"Police arrested anyone they came across in the street and some residents were also assaulted.

"This spread anger in the area and the anger turned into violence.

"Putco buses were forced to withdraw from the area. Company and delivery vehicles were also subjected to this anger."

Police moved into the area after a dispute during a school soccer match at the local stadium.

Many of those arrested were youths aged between 14 and 18. They explained to a team of lawyers that they were arrested while:

- sitting on shop verandahs
- walking to school
- standing in front of their homes

Some youths allege they were assaulted

while in custody and forced to make statements saying Ayco instructed them to engage in violence.

Ayco president Paul Mashatile and general secretary Jacob Mshali were subsequently arrested and charged with instigating public violence.

They were granted R200 bail, each after spending eight days in jail. But the case was later withdrawn.

Many other youths were later also discharged after police failed to produce any evidence against them.

Recently four other youths were arrested after Alex High School students held a protest calling for the release of their colleague Henry Vusi Nkosi, also charged with public violence.

Vusi was released on R200 bail.

One of the four, Sidwell Nxumalo, 14, was arrested and held in custody after he was shot in the leg.

It is alleged the police refused to allow his parents to take him to a clinic for treatment.

The four were later released on bail.

## East Rand civic grows

EAST RAND About 200 people attended the first congress of the People's Organisation (Erapo) under the slogan "Housing, security and comfort for all".

It was the first major congress where all East Rand townships were represented since the organisation was formed.

The congress realised that if Erapo was to be meaningful and effective in representing the East Rand communities, the organisation had to develop a mass base and ensure the community becomes part of its decision making processes.

Among the many resolutions adopted were:

- Erapo renews its anti-Black Local Authorities campaign to ensure all councillors resign. The cam-

paign would include door-to-door visits, mass meetings and demonstrations.

● Noting the East Rand communities were waging struggles against high rents, water and electricity bills, acute housing shortage and the demolition of shacks, Erapo would effectively organise itself and spearhead these struggles.

● Noting the success of last year's stay-aways as a result of joint action by trade unions, community and political organisations, mandates its regional executive committee to examine the possibility of a united front with trade unions on the East Rand.

A new executive committee led by Solly Maas of Daveyton was elected.



A standard nine pupil from Uitenhage High School after being sjambokked by the police

## Uitenhage hospitals obey police

Young people shot at Uitenhage operated on each other with kitchen knives to avoid going to hospital.

So said Black Sash president Sheena Duncan, at a protest meeting called by Jodac, the Black Sash, End Conscription Committee and the SA Council of Churches.

"At the hospitals the police wait to arrest anybody with bullet wounds," she said.

"Doctors are told to put extracted bullets into bottles, label them with the name and address of the patient and hand the bottles to the police.

"The patients are immediately placed under police guard and when they are discharged they are discharged into police custody.

"It seems that bullets in bottles are sufficient evidence for a public violence conviction."

Duncan said as a result residents remove the bullets themselves, wait until the wound has festered, and then go to hospital.

"At least without the bullet they will not be handed over to the police."

Stone Sizane, Eastern Cape UDF publicity secretary explained

the events leading up to the massacre on the 25th anniversary of Sharpeville.

"We were protesting against rising prices and the GST increase.

"We the people do not control the economy of the country. We do not make decisions about GST and the rising cost of living. Yet we who have no say, suffer most," he said.

Sizane said the authorities had ignored calls to stop the three tier parliament and black local authorities which necessitated the increase in GST.

Sizane and Duncan both condemned the actions of the doctors and hospitals in the area.

Private doctors are obeying security police instructions not to treat patients with bullet wounds but send them to the hospitals where they face certain arrest.



The scene of the fatal shooting in Uitenhage on 21 March

## Reiger Park cares for the aged.

A carnival atmosphere came to Reiger Park recently when drum majorettes, the Boys' Brigade Band and traffic cops took to the streets in a procession to raise funds for the Reiger Park Society for the Care of the Aged.

Hundreds of excited kids and adults lined the streets.

Mr. Sidney du Plessis who organised the procession thanked the public for its generosity.

"The success of the project was due to the assistance of the community, the school principals, teachers and scholars," he said.

The society has organised many such projects in the past.



Mr. George du Plessis, Mrs D Jansen and Mrs E Lambert counting the money raised by the carnival

"Last year we arranged a trip to the Eastern Transvaal and Game Reserve,"

another member, Mr A Mohamed said.

"It was very enjoyable — for many of

those grannies it was their first outing in many years."

The society has also taken its senior citizens to socialize at an old age home in Eesterus.



Members of the Society for the Care of the Aged. From left to right: R. Witbooi, E. Hobbs, J McMaster, E. Lambert, D. Jansen, A. Mohamed, C. Taylor, J. du Plessis, S. Mohammed, D. Jonathan, G. du Plessis.

## We want an explanation Kunene!

SOWETO - Soweto residents are angry about high water and electricity charges in the area and are demanding an explanation from the council. And to show their dissatisfaction over the councils attitude to the problem, about

300 placard carrying protesters marched on mayor Edward Kunene's home.

Residents demanded that:

- Rents be reduced to R25 a month, including service charges.

● Pensioners and the disabled be exempted from paying rent.

● An explanation be given for the high electricity and water bills, who checks water and electricity meters and when are they checked.

Residents demanded Mr Kunene's resignation if he failed to meet their demands. A resident pointed out to Speak that it would be cheaper for the council to buy electricity from the power station in Soweto than

from Escom. We also pay higher bills than people living in Johannesburg, said the resident. The mayor's reaction to residents demands: "I have nothing to say to these demands and I will not bother myself."





John Mathope, chief of Mathopestad signs petition to protest against forced removal

## Mathopestad's battle continues

**MATHOPESTAD** - The battle of Mathopestad residents against forced removal continues despite government promises to stop removals.

The Government has since 1967 been trying to forcibly move this community off land they have owned since 1911. But all attempts to resettle the people in barren Onderstepoort have failed.

Onderstepoort, near Sun City, is hot and dry.

"We do not want to fight for jobs with the poverty stricken people of Bophutswana," a resident said.

"People who were moved there from our neighbouring villages are starving and many return here to beg for food.

Mathopestad on the other hand is a thriving

community.

The people grow enough mealies, sorghum, beans and vegetables to sell to the co-op at Koster. Many people own herds of cattle. And there is plenty of water.

The government has tried — and failed — to divide people on tribal grounds, and to separate those who own property from those who do not.

In 1982 Mr Wentzel of the Co-operation and Planning Department

said only landowners will be able to take stock with them to the new place.

"When those tactics failed the police and security police were called in to intimidate people into moving," the resident said.

Now the Government is trying a new tactic — to find a leader who is prepared to move. The Government will not talk to the elected leaders because they refuse to cooperate.

## Youth play vital role in struggle

### Soyco continues to grow



Soyco - developing youth through cultural activities

**SOWETO** - The Soweto Youth Congress (Soyco) has grown rapidly since its formation in July 1983.

Presently it has nine branches, many of which were very active in the campaign against the Black Local Authorities elections.

Soyco was formed to cater for young school leavers, unemployed and working youth.

Publicity Secretary Godfrey Mokate, said harassment and constant surveillance by the security police "had to some extent scared off potential members".

"But Soyco will con-

tinue to grow as the only progressive youth movement in Soweto," he said.

The organisation aims to help develop young people through participation in sporting, cultural and political activities.

Mokate pointed out however that sporting and cultural activities were not an end in itself.

"We also aim to draw the youth into the process of bringing about change in our country."

"The youth has a vital role to play in the struggle for national liberation and social justice."

"In organising the youth in our structure we are going to try and channel them into different community and civic organisations."

"Soyco's immediate concern is the alarming unemployment rate amongst young people in Soweto."

"We intend coming up with projects to cater for them," Mokate said.

Other activities for the year include the IYY campaign and the 30th anniversary of the Freedom Charter. At its recent General Council, Soyco adopted the Freedom Charter as its programme.

# From organisation to mobilisation

Not long after UDF general secretary Popo Molefe made the call for the organisation to move from "Protest to Challenge" and from "Organisation to Mobilisation" he was detained together with publicity secretary Terror Lekota.

Yet this and the constant harassment and police violence meted out against the UDF and its supporters has not prevented the UDF from beginning to implement these themes decided on at UDF's first National General Council held over the Easter weekend.

In the months following the NGC, the UDF and its affiliates have been turning their attention to:

- Drawing the thousands of UDF supporters into their organisations.

- Strengthening organisations especially by educating and training the activists who run them. For example the TIC recently held a conference where activists from TIC committees throughout the Transvaal came together to learn from each other and plan their future direction. The UDF Education Committee has also organising a number of educational events for members of affiliates.

- Looking at new ways of preventing the never ending police harassment and brutality from defeating us.

- Spreading the message of the UDF to the rural areas and helping to build organisations in these areas.

- Strengthening links with trade union organisations.
- Setting up alterna-

tive structures such as advice offices and clinics to meet people's practical needs in areas where the black local authorities system has collapsed. Already such a structure exists in the Vaal.

Delegates to the NGC also made important policy decisions which reflect UDF's change of emphasis from protest against the new constitution and black local authorities to one of challenging the entire system of apartheid.

These included:

- Struggling for an end to unemployment and demanding a living wage and useful work for all.

- Demanding the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners.

- Calling on the SADF and the police to cease its violence



Transvaal delegation meet at the UDF National General Council

and attacks on people's organisations.

- Condemning the United State's president support for the South African government and demanding an immediate end to United States and British collaboration with the South African government.

- Opposing the New Zealand rugby tour.

- Supporting the Namibian struggle for independence and the

imprisonment on Robben Island, was elected executive chairperson of the UDF at the NGC.

"The National Executive Committee are the servants of the people and can only work properly if they have the support of the people," he said shortly after being elected.

Albertina Sisulu and Archie Gumede, presently facing charges of high treason, were re-elected presidents of the UDF.

Curnick Ndlovu, recently released after serving 20 years

Terror Lekota remains publicity secretary and Popo Molefe is still the general secretary. They emerged from hiding just before the NGC and were detained shortly thereafter.

Azhar Cachalia of the Transvaal Indian Congress was elected national treasurer.

Mohammed Vally and Titus Mofole are the two members of the Transvaal UDF executive who were elected to the national executive.



# SPEAK

THE VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY

## Reform in tatters

The 'reform' programme which the government tried to impose on South Africans last years lies in tatters. The black local authorities system has collapsed leaving the government with no 'solution' to the question of political rights for urban blacks. The tricameral parliament has done little to legitimise their rule in the eyes of South Africa or abroad.

The government is in a mess. Yet instead of heeding the people's call to govern themselves, they are trying to make new promises: to grant freehold property rights, to open central business districts to all traders, to re-investigate influx control and so on.

But there is a catch. The government has said they will not introduce these reforms until the 'unrest' in the townships stops. They know that until they can regain control of the townships, any new strategy to co-opt and divide the people will never succeed.

Thus they have embarked on an all out campaign to smash our organisations. In recent months we have witnessed a campaign of terror in our townships involving army and police occupation, the harassment, detention and killing of our leaders and numerous divide and rule tactics.

Against these odds we need to increase our unity, dedication, perseverance and commitment to continue to build our organisations and struggle for what we believe is right, in the face of all attempts to divide, demoralise and destroy us.

## Subscribe!

P.O. Box 261677 Excom Johannesburg

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

	S A	Overseas
Individual	R 5 00	R15 00
Organisation	R15 00	R30 00



Share your ideas, comments and suggestions. Write to us at  
Speak In P.O. Box 261677 Excom Johannesburg 2023

## Government gloated over closure of Rand Daily Mail

The Rand Daily Mail and Sunday Express had long ceased to be the great, courageous newspapers they once were.

The death of the two flagships of liberal thought is still being lamented, and in some circles, applauded. It is generally believed that bad management, drop in circulation and decrease in advertising led to the closures.

But this is not the full story.

The RDM has always been a thorn in the flesh of the Government. Ministers have always made threats when newspapers reported on things

they did not like. Many commissions were appointed to investigate the Press, resulting in further curbs on the freedom of the press.

If another Information Scandal were to take place today, journalists would be unable to independently investigate and freely report on it.

In 1982 SA lost R35-million in an illegal oil transaction involving the Government — the Salem Scandal.

The scandal only surfaced in South Africa last year when an opposition MP raised the issue in Parliament. South Africans

did not know about it because various laws prevented newspapers from reporting about it.

Now the Petroleum Product Act is about to be passed to plug even that loophole. Newspapers can presently report on anything said in Parliament.

In the past laws were not enough to silence the Press. The World, Weekend World and Post were banned outright. The bans attracted great publicity overseas, which embarrassed the Government.

Since then no commercial newspaper

## Thumbs up for Dr Boesak!

The campaign to discredit Dr Allan Boesak was scandalous.

Any attempt to discredit and alienate the oppressed people from their leaders is doomed to failure.

Dr Boesak is committed to the struggle for peace, justice and equality in South Africa, and is respected by freedom loving people throughout the world.

He epitomises the trade union slogan "An injury to one is an injury to all." Because

of his religious and moral convictions he accepts the suffering of others as his own.

The participation of other "religious" persons in Apartheid structures makes their religious convictions questionable.

It is obvious that since Dr Boesak declared Apartheid a heresy, through the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, attempts will be made to discredit him.

We stand by Allan Boesak.

Ed  
Eldorado Park

While the Government wants to create an impression with the world that it is becoming tolerant of opponents of its policies, a vast array of laws have been passed to further control Press freedom. More devious and less visible.

Over a long period covert pressure was applied to newspaper managements. And a new breed of executives, concerned with profits than the traditional role of newspapers, are becoming increasingly influential on the papers.

Contents and editorials become less bold, and more compromis-

ing. Investigative journalism is no longer encouraged — and a pro-capitalist stand is promoted.

Editors committed to the role of the Press are either given "upward promotion" to phase them out as Laurence Gandar or dismissed unceremoniously like Allister Sparks.

History has shown that before any major confrontation the divisions between the opposing camps are more clearly defined and entrenched. The closure of these newspapers is part of that process.

Hard facts  
Brits

# No place for foreign money

Little over a year ago PW Botha visited Europe. He would not try again. His tour sparked off a wave of anti-apartheid protests in Europe and America.

Anti-apartheid protests have usually been linked to concrete demands to pro-South African forces in Europe and America to stop supporting the apartheid system. Most prominent has been the call for disinvestment.

Anti-apartheid supporters are demanding that:

- American and European companies close down their South African factories and do not open new ones.

- Banks stop lending money to the South African government, and South African companies.

- There is a consumer boycott of South African goods such as fruit and gold

coins.

- Pension funds, universities and local authorities in America stop investing in American companies which have links with South Africa.

Already most overseas countries refuse to sell weapons to South Africa and refuse to play sport with its teams.

The issue of disinvestment in South Africa is regarded as controversial. Some say that disinvestment will hurt black workers the hardest and should not be supported.

The UDF, major trade unions and prominent church people have supported the call for disinvestment. Let us look at why here and overseas the call for disinvestment is supported.

- Foreign companies are not in South Africa to help black workers. They are here to reap super

profits because, as a result of influx control and other government laws, they can pay their workers very low wages.

- It is not true that disinvestment would lead to drastic increases in the numbers of unemployed.

Foreign companies only employ about two to three percent of South Africa's workforce.

In fact more jobs may be created. Many overseas companies are changing to use machines which require less people and if they were to leave South Africa this process would slow down. For example on the same day that General Motors announced they were spending R40 million on new automatic machinery, they said they were laying off ten percent of their workforce. So much for their concern for black workers.



Senator Kennedy's visit to South Africa earlier this year spurred him to support the disinvestment campaign.

- Foreign companies often provide essential machines to the government and army in particular, which they use to do their dirty work. For example Ford sells hundreds of army and police vehicles to the South African government.

- Foreign companies pay large sums of money in taxation to the apartheid state, buying teargas, bullets and rifles which are used to kill our unarmed and defenceless people when they

protest against pass laws, forced removals, inferior education and the denial of political rights.

- The largest amount of foreign investment in South Africa is in the form of loans to the government and state institutions such as Escom. These loans usually come with strings attached. For example when the International Monetary Fund (IMF) lends money to the government, it does so on condition that the government cuts back on

spending. This is why the government has cut back on hospital services, pensions and subsidies on bread and basic foods.

- Foreign loans are used to finance the ever increasing defence budget. If South Africa was not able to get these loans they would be pressurised to end their war in Namibia, cut down their support to groups such as Unita in Angola and Renamo in Mocambique
- An increasing

amount of foreign investment is going to the bantustans where it props up corrupt and illegitimate leaders.

- Lastly, the threat of disinvestment has forced bosses and the government to accede to the demands of the people. For example the early release of trade unionists after the stay-away last year was partly out of a fear of how much the detentions were fueling the fire of those calling for disinvestment.



# There's not enough money to go round!

**People pay high prices to live. Rent, GST and food increases all lead to low living standards.**

**Times are hard.**

All over the country more and more people are facing hardship and insecurity. Every day people are losing their jobs. The price of goods and services have soared.

There's the rent to pay, food and clothing to buy, HP payments to meet, transport, hospital fees and so on — and there's not enough money to go round.

And for thousands the times are one of sheer survival.

For the sick who can't afford to go to hospital. For the unemployed

with no jobs and no hope. For the malnourished child who's migrant worker father cannot send enough money home for food. For the homeless family evicted because the rent could not be paid.

To be able to live today you have to pay a high price. A price most cannot afford.

Why is the price so high that it has brought many thousands onto the streets — in the Vaal, Tumahole, Uitenhage — demanding it be lowered? And how has the price been made higher for the majority of the people?

## WHY THE HIGH COST OF LIVING?

### ● APARTHEID IS EXPENSIVE

Money is wasted on the army and police, on the pass laws, forced removals, community councils and the tricameral parliament, instead of on meeting the peoples' need for bread, low rents, transport and adequate unemployment benefits.

### ● A FEW TAKE MORE

A few big bosses take the lions share out of what is pro-

duced by the working majority. Their main interest is in the profit they can get from the work of others, and in their search for profits, prices are raised. They produce what will make the most profits and not what the people need. They decide how many goods to produce and how much to sell them for.

### ● THE ECONOMY IS IN A CRISIS

The Government has mismanaged taxpayers money. Its priorities are all wrong, and the people are forced to pay for the high cost of Apartheid.

Because of its unpopular policies many South African products are boycotted by overseas countries, and the government is also forced to trade through the back door or trade at higher prices.

The disinvestment campaign has led to fewer companies operating in South Africa.

It is also becoming more difficult for the Government to borrow money. The International Monetary Fund recently told the Government they would only lend them money if it cut back on spending.

Because of the low

value of the rand, more has to be paid for imported goods and machinery, and prices are pushed up.

### ● HOW HAS THE BURDEN BEEN PASSED ONTO THE PEOPLE?

In trying to get out of the problem caused by its policies, the government pushes the burden onto the people, raising the cost of living and attacking already low living standards.

It passes on straight price increases and, cuts back on subsidies and expenditure on food, housing and medical care.

### ● RENTS AND HOUSING

The Government has decided not to build anymore houses and to sell those they presently let out. Residents have to now build, buy and maintain their own houses.

The Government is also unable and unwilling to finance black local authorities, so rents and service charges are increased.

### ● PETROL PRICE INCREASE

Most of South Africa's petrol is imported. The low value of the rand means it costs a lot.



Mothers struggle to have enough money to fill their fridges.

The petrol price went up by 40% in January. Higher petrol prices push up the prices of many other services and commodities including TRANSPORT, COAL, PARAFFIN.

### ● GENERAL SALES TAX

The increase in GST has been an easy way for the Government to

get more money. An extra R1 737 million will go to government coffers to help pay for their new tricameral parliament.

### ● FOOD PRICES

The drought, higher transport costs, inadequate government subsidies, the monopolisation of the food industry — the entire industry is

owned by only two companies — have all led to higher food prices.

### ● MEDICAL FEES

The Government wants to cut back on expenditure. One way it has done this is to spend less on health services — pushing hospitals to increase tariffs.

## People fight back as the screws turn tighter

For the majority of the people things never did look any better. Life has never been more unbearable under Apartheid - with its tricameral parliament and "black forum", the scrapping of the Mixed Marriages and Immorality Acts, the granting of freehold rights in some areas, and the opening of a few restaurants.

Apartheid is entrenched even further and the screws on the people are turned ever tighter. The evidence of this is in the sustained uprisings sweeping the country.

● THE VAAL where more than 300 000 households have boycotted high

rents for up to 9 months now.

● THE FACTORIES where despite a severe recession, the number of strikes in support of a living wage has increased.

● SOWETO where residents regularly confront councillors on high electricity bills, and where women lead the fight against high medical tariffs.

● KATLEHONG where residents forced the suspension of rent increases and where squatters continue an ongoing battle against forced removal.

● TSAKANE where the community's united stand for

decent homes provoked instigated clashes between hostel inmates and residents.

● DUDUZA where hundreds of residents dumped their sewage at the Administration Board offices in protest against the bucket system.

● RATANDA where thousands boycotted high rents and high transport costs.

● LAMONTVILLE where commuters refused to board buses following fare increases.

● UITENHAGE where massive protests against GST and unemployment led to scores being shot dead.



Fedtraw woman protests against high prices



# Thirty years later...the Freedom Charter still voices the people's demands for a democratic society in South Africa

"What are your problems? What kind of South Africa do you want?"

These were the questions asked to thousands upon thousands during the campaign to draw up the Freedom Charter thirty years ago.

Their demands and ideas of a free South Africa were collected and drawn together in a document called the Freedom Charter. If we were to ask people the same questions today, we would get the same replies.

The problems of apartheid still exist. The demands of the Freedom Charter have not yet been met.

The Freedom Charter has been labled and smeared by the government.

But let us look at what this document says and judge for ourselves.

At such a time it is important that we have a vision of the future — a clear idea of where our daily struggles will take us. The Freedom Charter provides us with this.

## The People Shall Govern!

The Freedom Charter says "all bodies of minority rule, advisory boards, councils and authorities shall be replaced by democratic organs of self-government".

It calls for "every man and woman" to "have the right to vote for and stand as a candidate for all bodies which make laws". "All people shall be entitled to take part in the administration of the country."

The call today for councillors and members of the tricameral parliament to resign and for the black local authorities and tricameral system to be abolished is the same call



The demand that "The people shall govern" grows louder every day. The call today for councillors and members of the tricameral parliament to resign and for the black local authorities and tricameral system to be abolished is the same call made in the Freedom Charter. The recent struggles in the townships has riddled 30 out of the 35 town councils inoperative. Faced with the collapse of this system the government is talking about a "fourth chamber" and "multi-racial local government structures". Yet until the Charter's demand is met these structures will continue to be unrepresentative and undemocratic, and will be rejected.

## All National Groups Shall Have Equal Rights!

The Freedom Charter condemns race, colour and national discrimination and demands a future South Africa where "all apartheid laws and practices shall be set aside." "All national groups shall have equal rights" is a statement for the equality of ALL people. It is a rejection of white domination and unequal representation as entrenched in the new constitution.

This demand is not met by repealing the Immorality Act, doing away with separate post office queues, constituting a tricameral parliament, fourth chamber or black forum. It will only be met when "there shall be equal status in the bodies of state, in the courts and in the schools" and when "all national groups shall be protected BY LAW against insults to their race and national pride".

## The Land Shall Be Shared Among Those Who Work It!

In the rural areas, the bantustan policy has forced many people on to far too little land — and often onto the most barren and infertile land. Bantustan and puppet chiefs often get the best of what there is.

Meanwhile in white farming areas, absentee landlords own vast amounts of unused land and farm workers earn slave wages.

Thus the Charter calls for "all land to be re-divided amongst those who work it, to banish famine and land hunger".

"The state shall help the peasants with implements, seed, tractors and dams to save the soil and assist the tillers."

And for those communities threatened with forced removal the demand is for all to "have the right to occupy land wherever they choose".



The Freedom Charter says the people shall control the wealth from the mines.

## The People Shall Share In The Country's Wealth!

Presently the wealth of our country is not shared. Those who reap its riches are not those who work in the factories, mines and farms. What gets produced, how much

and how much, depends on the profits the bosses can make and not on the needs of the people.

The Freedom Charter calls for the wealth of our country — the minerals beneath the soil, industries and links — to be transferred to the ownership of the people as a whole and to be controlled to assist the well-being of the people.

## All Shall Be Equal Before The Law!

In a free South Africa the Charter says "no one shall be imprisoned, deported or restricted without a fair trial" and that "the courts should be representative of all the people". If this were the case today, 16 UDF leaders would not be on trial for high treason and as many as 10 000 people would not have been arrested on charges of public violence in the last nine months.

Not headlines time and again talk of prison violence in overcrowded jails. Would this be the case if imprisonment was "only for serious crime against the people" and not vengeance" as the Freedom Charter calls for.

The Freedom Charter envisages a very different role for the police and police when it says "The police force and my ... shall be the helms and protectors of the people." Unlike today where they still fear in the people and force unjust laws in the interests of a minority.



Unlike today, in the society envisaged in the Freedom Charter, the police and army shall be the helpers and protectors of the people.

## All Shall Enjoy Human Rights!

In 1955 pass laws were just being introduced for women. Women put up a valiant fight against these laws.

Today with influx control only getting tighter, people continue to resist.

They are fighting just as the women did 30 years ago to see a situation as it says in the Freedom Charter for pass laws, permits and all other laws restricting freedom to travel to be abolished.

"The law shall guarantee to all the right to speak, to organise, to meet together, to publish, to preach, to worship and to educate their children," says the Freedom Charter. Today the laws are doing even less to guarantee these human rights.

Outdoor meetings are banned continuously year after year while all meetings are



Because of influx control, passes are much sought after. However the Freedom Charter says they must go!

often banned for months at a time. Presently in the Eastern Cape and East Rand no meetings are allowed.

Publication laws too have become stricter preventing the publishing of many things which may disturb so-called "law and order".



The rights of workers for decent working conditions and to form trade unions are guaranteed in the Charter.

## There Shall Be Work and Security!

It has taken many long years of determined battle by workers to establish the right to belong to trade unions. Yet the situation is still far from one where "all who work shall be free to form trade unions, to elect their officers and to make wage agreements with their employers". Nor does a situation exist

where there is "a forty-hour working week, a national minimum wage, paid annual leave, and sick leave for all workers, and maternity leave on full pay for all working mothers".

Now when millions are unemployed and their meagre UIF money has long since expired the demand that the government "shall recognise the right and duty of all to work, and to draw full unemployment benefits" is particularly relevant.



The Congress of South African Students (COSAS) has been at the forefront of the struggle to realise the educational clauses of the Freedom Charter. They are also, with other organisations, drawing up an education charter.

## The Doors of Learning and Culture Shall Be Opened!

In schools throughout the country, students faced with a vastly inferior and unequal education system are echoing the Charter's demand for

"free, compulsory, universal and equal education for all children".

The Charter also comments on the kind of education there should be in a free South Africa. Unlike the system today it envisages an education which will aim "to teach the youth to love their people and their culture, to honour human brotherhood, liberty and peace".



## There Shall Be Houses, Security and Comfort!

This clause of the Freedom Charter is concerned about our everyday problems in the townships. It would like to see a situation where: "Rents and prices shall be lowered, food plentiful and no one shall go hungry". "Slums shall be

demolished and new suburbs built where all shall have transport, roads, lighting, playing fields, creches and social centres" and "a preventative health scheme shall be run by the state".

Thirty years later and nothing has changed. So communities have come together and formed community organisations to fight against rent increases and slum conditions. But most of these demands will not be met until the people govern.

## There Shall Be Peace and Friendship!

The Charter, with foresight, says South Africa should "respect the rights and sovereignty of all nations" and shall "strive to maintain world peace and the settlement of all international disputes by negotiation — not war". Within 15 years after the adoption of the Charter South Africa was fighting Swapo in Namibia trying to maintain its illegal occupation.

The Charter could also have

envisaged the situation of civil war in so many of our townships when it says "peace and friendship amongst all our people shall be secured by upholding equal rights, opportunities and status for all".

Clearly the demands and vision contained in the Freedom Charter is more relevant than ever. And it will remain as relevant for as long as the freedoms there set out have not been won.

So today in all parts of the country, the people proclaim: "These freedoms we will fight for side by side, throughout our lives until we have won our liberty."



# Thirty years later...the Freedom Charter still voices the people's demands for a democratic society in South Africa

"What are your problems? What kind of South Africa do you want?"

These were the questions asked to thousands upon thousands during the campaign to draw up the Freedom Charter thirty years ago.

Their demands and ideas of a free South Africa were collected and drawn together in a document called the Freedom Charter. If we were to ask people the same questions today, we would get the same replies.

The problems of apartheid still exist. The demands of the Freedom Charter have not yet been met.

The Freedom Charter has been labled and smeared by the government.

But let us look at what this document says and judge for ourselves.

At such a time it is important that we have a vision of the future — a clear idea of where our daily struggles will take us. The Freedom Charter provides us with this.

## The People Shall Govern!

The Freedom Charter says "all bodies of minority rule, advisory boards, councils and authorities shall be replaced by democratic organs of self-government".

It calls for "every man and woman" to "have the right to vote for and stand as a candidate for all bodies which make laws". "All people shall be entitled to take part in the administration of the country."

The call today for councillors and members of the tricameral parliament to resign and for the black local authorities and tricameral system to be abolished is the same call



The demand that "The people shall govern" grows louder every day. The call today for councillors and members of the tricameral parliament to resign and for the black local authorities and tricameral system to be abolished is the same call made in the Freedom Charter. The recent struggles in the townships has riddled 30 out of the 35 town councils inoperative. Faced with the collapse of this system the government is talking about a "fourth chamber" and "multi-racial local government structures". Yet until the Charter's demand is met these structures will continue to be unrepresentative and undemocratic, and will be rejected.

## All National Groups Shall Have Equal Rights!

The Freedom Charter condemns race, colour and national discrimination and demands a future South Africa where "all apartheid laws and practices shall be set aside." "All national groups shall have equal rights" is a statement for the equality of ALL people. It is a rejection of white domination and unequal representation as entrenched in the new constitution.

This demand is not met by repealing the Immorality Act, doing away with separate post office queues, constituting a tricameral parliament, fourth chamber or black forum. It will only be met when "there shall be equal status in the bodies of state, in the courts and in the schools" and when "all national groups shall be protected BY LAW against insults to their race and national pride".

## The Land Shall Be Shared Among Those Who Work It!

In the rural areas, the bantustan policy has forced many people on to far too little land — and often onto the most barren and infertile land. Bantustan and puppet chiefs often get the best of what there is.

Meanwhile in white farming areas, absentee landlords own vast amounts of unused land and farm workers earn slave wages.

Thus the Charter calls for "all land to be re-divided amongst those who work it, to banish famine and land hunger".

"The state shall help the peasants with implements, seed, tractors and dams to save the soil and assist the tillers."

And for those communities threatened with forced removal the demand is for all to "have the right to occupy land wherever they choose".



The Freedom Charter says the people shall control the wealth from the mines.

## The People Shall Share In The Country's Wealth!

Presently the wealth of our country is not shared. Those who reap its riches are not those who work in the factories, mines and farms. What gets produced, how much

and how much, depends on the profits the bosses can make and not on the needs of the people.

The Freedom Charter calls for the wealth of our country — the minerals beneath the soil, industries and links — to be transferred to the ownership of the people as a whole and to be controlled to assist the well-being of the people.

## All Shall Be Equal Before The Law!

In a free South Africa the Charter says "no one shall be imprisoned, deported or restricted without a fair trial" and that "the courts should be representative of all the people". If this were the case today, 16 UDF leaders would not be on trial for high treason and as many as 10 000 people would not have been arrested on charges of public violence in the last nine months.

Not headlines time and again talk of prison violence in overcrowded jails. Would this be the case if imprisonment was "only for serious crime against the people" and not vengeance" as the Freedom Charter calls for.

The Freedom Charter envisages a very different role for the police and police when it says "The police force and my ... shall be the helms and protectors of the people." Unlike today where they still fear in the people and force unjust laws in the interests of a minority.



Unlike today, in the society envisaged in the Freedom Charter, the police and army shall be the helms and protectors of the people.

## All Shall Enjoy Human Rights!

In 1955 pass laws were just being introduced for women. Women put up a valiant fight against these laws.

Today with influx control only getting tighter, people continue to resist.

They are fighting just as the women did 30 years ago to see a situation as it says in the Freedom Charter for pass laws, permits and all other laws restricting freedom to travel to be abolished.

"The law shall guarantee to all the right to speak, to organise, to meet together, to publish, to preach, to worship and to educate their children," says the Freedom Charter. Today the laws are doing even less to guarantee these human rights.

Outdoor meetings are banned continuously year after year while all meetings are



Because of influx control, passes are much sought after. However the Freedom Charter says they must go!

often banned for months at a time. Presently in the Eastern Cape and East Rand no meetings are allowed.

Publication laws too have become stricter preventing the publishing of many things which may disturb so-called "law and order".



The rights of workers for decent working conditions and to form trade unions are guaranteed in the Charter.

## There Shall Be Work and Security!

It has taken many long years of determined battle by workers to establish the right to belong to trade unions. Yet the situation is still far from one where "all who work shall be free to form trade unions, to elect their officers and to make wage agreements with their employers". Nor does a situation exist

where there is "a forty-hour working week, a national minimum wage, paid annual leave, and sick leave for all workers, and maternity leave on full pay for all working mothers".

Now when millions are unemployed and their meagre UIF money has long since expired the demand that the government "shall recognise the right and duty of all to work, and to draw full unemployment benefits" is particularly relevant.



The Congress of South African Students (COSAS) has been at the forefront of the struggle to realise the educational clauses of the Freedom Charter. They are also, with other organisations, drawing up an education charter.

## The Doors of Learning and Culture Shall Be Opened!

In schools throughout the country, students faced with a vastly inferior and unequal education system are echoing the Charter's demand for

"free, compulsory, universal and equal education for all children".

The Charter also comments on the kind of education there should be in a free South Africa. Unlike the system today it envisages an education which will aim "to teach the youth to love their people and their culture, to honour human brotherhood, liberty and peace".



## There Shall Be Houses, Security and Comfort!

This clause of the Freedom Charter is concerned about our everyday problems in the townships. It would like to see a situation where: "Rents and prices shall be lowered, food plentiful and no one shall go hungry". "Slums shall be

demolished and new suburbs built where all shall have transport, roads, lighting, playing fields, creches and social centres" and "a preventative health scheme shall be run by the state".

Thirty years later and nothing has changed. So communities have come together and formed community organisations to fight against rent increases and slum conditions. But most of these demands will not be met until the people govern.

## There Shall Be Peace and Friendship!

The Charter, with foresight, says South Africa should "respect the rights and sovereignty of all nations" and shall "strive to maintain world peace and the settlement of all international disputes by negotiation — not war". Within 15 years after the adoption of the Charter South Africa was fighting Swaziland trying to maintain its illegal occupation.

envisaged the situation of civil war in so many of our townships when it says "peace and friendship amongst all our people shall be secured by upholding equal rights, opportunities and status for all".

Clearly the demands and vision contained in the Freedom Charter is more relevant than ever. And it will remain as relevant for as long as the freedoms there set out have not been won.

So today in all parts of the country, the people proclaim: "These freedoms we will fight for side by side, throughout our lives until we have won our liberty."

The Charter could also have



# Mineworkers boycott forces down mine store prices

Strikes on the mines have made news headlines time and again over the last year. Less is heard about the boycotts of concession stores, taxis and mine sports facilities by mineworkers concerned to improve their conditions and fight for their rights on the mines. Here SPEAK speaks to NUM officials about the boycotts.

Hundreds of thousands of workers, work long hard shifts under dangerous conditions deep down in the mines. When they come up from the bowels of the earth, they are cooped up in overcrowded, uncomfortable compounds and fed virtually inedible food. Once a year they go home to see their families. And all this for meagre wages.

Mineworkers are no longer prepared to accept such conditions. In the first three months of this year as many as 80 000 workers went on strike at different mines around the country.



At mine store prices washing was an expensive business.

The number grows daily.

Organised under the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) they have not been deterred by brutal police action and mass dismissals. Faced with unbearable living and working conditions they do not have much to lose.

Workers have also demonstrated their power and determination through boycotting concession stores, liquor outlets and taxis which charge high prices.

During these boycotts workers have not only won improvements for themselves but also shown the mine bosses they are a force to be reckoned with.

"Because mines are usually between 20 and 50 km away from towns, workers have no option but to buy almost everything from food and basic necessities to bicycles and presents for their families from the concession stores on the mines," explained Manoko Nchwe, NUM publicity secretary.

"The concession stores take advantage of this and charge exorbitant prices."

"We know there are items for which we are not supposed to pay tax," says shaft steward, John Blom. "But if you go to these stores you pay tax for each and every item including bread."

Prices change daily. For exam-

ple at East Driefontein mine, bread is sold for R1 on Sundays.

Mineworkers also complain that they are sold rotten food, especially milk and meat and that eating places are often filthy.

Workers have even been subjected to body searches in an abusive manner when going to buy a simple loaf of bread.

"Workers came together and talked about the problems of the concession stores," said Blom.

"They decided that it would be better to keep away from these stores. We also told management about our grievances."

At East Driefontein the boycott began in December. Workers made arrangements to get things from Johannesburg or walked 3km to other shops.

At first management did not take much notice. But when they realised the workers were serious, management pressurised the shops to improve conditions.

Workers decided to end the boycott after their shaft steward committee checked to see if the improvements were satisfactory.

"We check regularly to see that the conditions do not revert back to how they were. They know our determination and our power," said a shaft steward.

When the boycott began at another mine, three shaft stewards standing outside the shop were arrested by the police and charged for "intimidating" workers.

On the second day another eight workers were arrested. "At the charge office, the police called management," said Blom. "Management said to the workers he will tell the police to lock them up unless they agreed to use the shop."



Mineworkers have no option but to buy everything from bare essentials to sewing machines from the mine stores.

The workers decided to say they will go back to the shop but when they were released they didn't use the shop.

Through their union, workers were able to share experiences with mineworkers in other areas and so the boycott spread. Concession store boycotts have happened at at least five mines.

At Stilfontein gold mine there was also taxi boycott in November last year. Mineworkers were demanding that taxi-drivers reduce their fares by 50c.

"The taxi drivers were taking advantage of the soft spoken and well-respecting migrants," said Nchwe.

"The taxi drivers were taken by surprise," she said. "They decided to speak to management instead of speaking to the shaft stewards."

"The boycott continued until the taxi association sat down with the shaft stewards and set-

tled the issue. The fares were reduced."

"The boycotts have made our members more committed and more determined," said Nchwe.

"Workers have realised that the union is something which unites them irrespective of whether they come from Malawi or Mocambique or Transkei and which fights for their rights."

Nchwe stressed that the union head office did not organise the boycotts: "One shop owner used to come to our head office all the time. We used to tell him to go and talk to the shaft stewards on the mine and settle the problem with them, not us."

"The role of the union is to bring workers together and educate them that their problems are common and as such they have got to be united in order to be in a position to defeat the big giant the mine bosses."

## Meals on the mines

"We all have to queue. You start by the biggest pot with pap. It is dished up with a small spade they call a spoon. The pap is never properly done, either very stiff or very watery. You get a lump placed on the plate. Next the dirty vegetables...a spoonful. Next, the beans, which are full of small stones and wood particles are added. To the meat pot next...a piece the size of a matchbox and that includes the bone. You end

off with a spoon of tasteless gravy...You are forced to eat everything because the tribal representatives patrol while you eat. They are there to make sure you don't leave the stones and the wood pieces on the table!"

NUM shaft steward said, "Such bad conditions have forced workers to buy their own food at the mine stores. But here too food is rotten and the prices are exorbitant."

# Westdene bus disaster: Who gets hurt the most?

The Westdene bus disaster shocked South Africa. Black and white communities were horrified and responded with sympathy.

But with time people have become less sympathetic in response to the way in which the government and sections of the white community have turned a private tragedy into a national disaster:

- The state president interrupted parliament to announce the disaster.
- Minister of Foreign Affairs, Pik Botha paid a personal visit to the scene of the disaster and attended the funeral.

- The Pretoria council paid the funeral costs.

- A call was made for shops and businesses to shut on the afternoon of the funeral.

- Millions of rands poured into a disaster fund set up for the families.

The question many people were asking was: "What if the children were black?" The response would not have been the same.

The newspapers and radio pay little attention to bus disasters involving black people. Hardly any coverage was given to the bus accident at Kliptown carrying commuters to Eldorado Park which

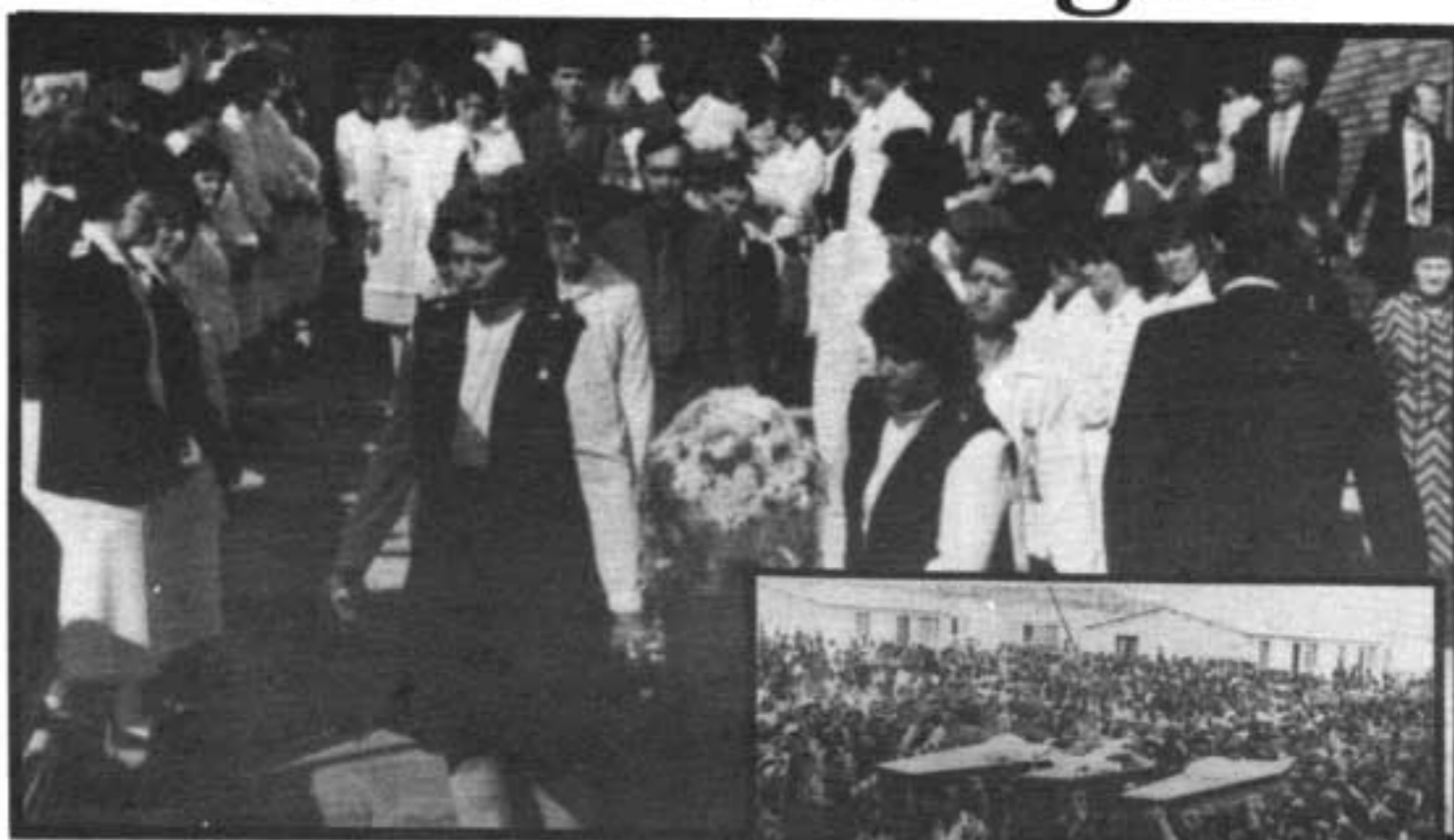
occurred a month later.

Many, if not more, young people were shot dead by police in Uitenhage one week before the bus disaster. Not nearly so much fuss was made of these deaths. No disaster fund was set up.

"Why should a disaster fund be set up for white children, when there is no such thing for the breadwinners shot dead in Uitenhage," asked a person from Soweto.

Many have also been horrified by the two attempted attacks on the life of Mr Horn, the coloured bus driver of the fateful bus. And aghast at the police's response.

After the second attack, a senior police-



man investigating the case had the audacity to tell the press that Horn may have tried to inflict those injuries on himself.

"Where are the police when we need them," asked an Eldorado Park resi-

dent. "Mr Horn and his family are living through a nightmare."

After the accident a city council official announced that fences, at whatever cost, will be erected at the Westdene dam and at bridges in



Klipspruit-West and Eldorado Park. "We are still waiting to see whether fences

will be erected in our areas," said an Anti-PC member in Eldorado Park.



# Organise for power!

Nationwide the black local authorities system has been rejected, and councillors have been forced to resign. Instead more and more people are joining democratic organisations formed by the people, elected by them and accountable to them. Here SPEAK reviews the struggle against the black local authorities and looks at the path ahead.

Communities countrywide are showing the power of their unity against the corrupt and brutal rule of community councils, against rent increases and poor living conditions.

In Sharpeville, Sebokeng, Ratanda, Davyton and Soweto, residents have rallied against rent increases. In the Vaal 350 000 households have refused to pay rent for nearly 8 months now.

In the face of popular pressure councils scrapped rent increases in Ratanda, Daveyton and Soweto.

In Tsakane and Katlehong, residents won a victory against shack demolitions.

In KwaNgema and Driefontein, the community won a three year battle against forced removals to the Bantustans.

In the Eastern Cape, the people of Uitenhage, Port Elizabeth, Craddock and Beaufort West stood up to rising prices and dummy councils. All the councillors in Beaufort West and Craddock

resigned and, in Uitenhage, 15 out of 16 councillors resigned.

Since August last year, 150 councillors have resigned and only 5 out of the 34 councils set up by the Black Local Authorities Act in 1983 are still functioning.

Residents have fought these struggles because they want to live in security and comfort with their families, and make the decisions that affect their daily lives.

### Comfort

Residents are demanding housing at rents they can afford and the right to live and work where they choose; not to live in constant fear of dawn raids and the destruction of their shelters.

They are also clearly saying the Black Local Authorities and Community Councils must go.

These councils were never elected by the people. In the year and a half that they have been in existence, they have not fulfilled any of their election promises to lower rents or

improve conditions. Instead rents have gone up, conditions have become worse and the councillors have proved to be corrupt and brutal.

Many stories are told of councillors allocating licences and houses to friends and relatives.

### Councillors

Pensioners have been evicted from their homes to make way for councillors' relatives and, to get the council to put ones name on the housing list requires a bribe.

Councillors have proved unwilling to listen to the people's problems. They have shot at peaceful demonstrators; refuse to attend residents meetings or allow then the use of community halls.

Residents demand their rights through their own democratic organisations.

Organisations which, unlike the councils, are not imposed on the people.

Democratic organisations are formed by the people themselves. The leaders of these organisations



Active participation builds strong organisations

are elected by the people and are at all times accountable to the people. They do not make decisions on behalf of the people, nor do they impose decisions on the people.

### Participation

Democratic organisations encourage the participation of the people at all times.

The participation of the people in taking up their own problems is the only way that people are able to solve these problems.

But the Government has made it difficult for democratic organi-

sations to function.

The police have detained leaders and charged them. Meetings are regularly banned and community halls are not made available to residents. The police and army occupy townships day and night. False pamphlets are distributed, rumours are spread, and tension is deliberately created within communities.

### Communication

Communication between residents and their organisations is being made difficult, and responsible leadership is being cut

off from the community.

But the strength of democratic community organisations goes beyond just mass meetings and leaders.

### House visits

Organisations use house meetings, a network of street and area representatives, the door to door distribution of pamphlets and newsletters, to consult with the community and maintain ongoing contact.

Active participation and decision making is essential for the democratic commun-

ity organisation.

These methods help ensure organisations remain strong and under the direction of the people. Not only is it democratic, but it also reduces the possibility of ill considered actions and ensures organisations' actions.

Strong organisations rooted in the community bring about the organised unity and action of the community for democracy, and are the organisations through which the community can take control over its own life.

## Free to live together, but .... Apartheid still reigns

The government is preparing to scrap the Mixed Marriages Act and Section 16 of the Immorality Act. But what difference will it make? SPEAK asked people what they thought.

"Its easier than being an outcast but we're still not welcome in broader society", said one person who no longer needs to hide from the threat of imprisonment. Most couples

affected by the laws made the point that while the government may appear to allow mixed marriages, there are many other laws which effectively prevent them from leading a normal life. As one person said: "It means I can be legally married and have legal sex. But nothing else has changed, the Group Areas Act, influx control, separate schooling, separate buses all still pull us apart."

Besides these laws there is still the problem of people's attitudes. "Peoples stares and sneers will

not simply disappear. Racist attitudes have been cultivated in people's minds over the years by the government's racist laws, racist education and so on."

Many people feel that the government's move to scrap the Immorality Act is part of its present political strategy. As one woman said: "It is trying to get out of the hotseat without making any real changes — just like the tricameral parliament"

"They appear to be sharing power with coloureds and Indians but we know that par-



The Immorality Act may go...but the Group Areas Act, influx control, separate schooling, separate buses etc will still keep them apart.

liament works in such a way that only the Nationalist Party has real power."

The vast majority of the people in South Africa are untouched by the removal of these laws.

A resident in

Eldorado Park pointed out that: "The scrapping of the sex laws means nothing to us when we do not have money to buy bread for the children and houses to live comfortably"

A Westbury resident

summed it up for many when he said: "We cannot be thankful to the government for scrapping laws which should not have been made in the first place and which were made without our consent."









# The Wonder Box - A wonderful way of saving money and time

Through GST the government takes food out of the mouths of people to pay for apartheid. The price of food has gone up so much over the past year that many people cannot afford healthy meals. Making ends meet has become more and more difficult.

Yet in order to survive, people have had to invent ways of saving money and still meet their basic needs.

Women's groups all over the country have been investigating cheap nutritious foodstuffs and new methods of cooking. SPEAK looks at some ways to beat the budget.

## MAKING A WONDER BOX

... is easy and cheap ...

You will need two cushions made of mutton cloth or other washable material.

These cushions should be loosely filled with any of the following:

- polystyrene or styrofoam — the stuff used to pack glass.
- small pieces of woolen or nylon material.
- flakes of newspaper



When you have made and stuffed the cushions, find a cardboard box with a tightly fitting lid. Put one cushion in the box, and make a nest in it for your cooking pot. Use the other cushion for covering the pot.

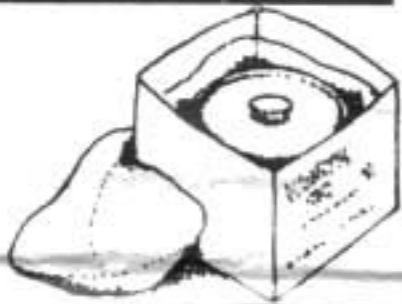


You now have an instant, home-made, cheap slow cooker. Now some advice on how to use it.



Part of Fedtraw's cost of living campaign is teaching women about the Wonder Box. Here Fedtraw members look on as the food cooks

## THE WONDER BOX



This invention is as wonderful as its name sounds.

- It saves money because it cooks with little fuel.
- It is safe because it cannot cause a fire.
- It saves time — cooking for you while you work or shop.
- It is cheap and easy to make.

A wonder box is useful for cooking cheaper cuts of meat and soya beans — foodstuffs which normally need a lot of time for cooking.

## USING A WONDER BOX

Boil your food on the stove for a few minutes until the food is heated right through. It is best to use a pot that is just big enough for the food you will cook.

Put the lid on the pot before you remove the pot from the stove so that the lid can also get hot.

Make sure the nest in the wonder box is ready to

take the pot and that the wonder box is nearby so you don't waste heat carrying the pot around.

Quickly cover the pot with the other cushion, making sure there are no gaps. The more food there is in the pot the longer it will take to cook.

But within an hour or two the wonder box will have done your cooking for you.



MaLetante, vice-president of Fedtraw, puts pot in Wonder Box.

## A RECIPE FOR MRS. SADIE'S STEW

Here is a recipe you can make using a wonder box.

Soak 1 cup of black lentils until soft. Cut 1 large onion and braise in a little cooking oil. Add to the onion 1 cup of mince meat and 1 cup of soya mince (available from Inqualife in West Street, Johannesburg.) Add salt, pepper, cinnamon and curry powder to

taste. Let the mince and soya mince cook for 2 minutes. Add shredded cabbage and grated carrots. Add 3 cups of water and allow the stew to boil for 5 minutes. Place the pot in your wonder box and will be ready in 1 hour.

Porridge, rice and soup can be cooked overnight in a wonder box.



Susan Shabangu, Fedtraw secretary, waits eagerly to taste food

# Advice for all in Reiger Park

Saturday afternoon. A small office behind St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church in Reiger Park.

The Reiger Park Advice Centre operates from here.

People from all over the East Rand come here to find out about their rights and get legal advice.

Some need help with filling out tax forms, others are seeking bail.

More and more people come to the office these days to ask about unemployment insurance.... The centre does its best to help.

SPEAK went along to take a look at the centre and talk to George du Plessis who works there.

## When was the advice centre opened?

The Reiger Park Advice Centre was formed three years ago, just after the Reiger Park Tenants' and Ratepayers' Association brought an interdict against the Boksburg Town Council.

The tenants had refused to pay increased rents and were faced with eviction. The Boksburg Council opposed the interdict and we went to court.

It was the first time in the history of South Africa that a town council has been taken to court and beaten.

During this campaign we found that our people had many other problems.

## What are these problems?

The community has problems with furniture shops illegally repossessing furniture and garages illegally repossessing cars. There are hire purch-

ase, unemployment, pension and housing problems. The official waiting list for houses is 7000.

## How do you go about helping people?

The centre helps out where it can. But if a problem requires professional attention we refer it to lawyers. The Legal Resources Centre and Legal Aid then help us.

## Are people charged for help or advice?

This is part of the reason we started the

centre — because people are too poor to pay lawyers. We help our people free of charge. The advice centre has won many cases.

## Do you only serve the community in Reiger Park?

People come to the centre from as far as Springs, Tsakane, Vosloorus and Nigel.

## Do people have more problems now because of the recession?

Most firms are taking advantage of the

economic crisis and we do get cases of unfair dismissal, and of employers not paying their workers out in full.

## What do you think has been the most important achievement of the Centre?

People are becoming aware of their rights. They are beginning to believe that it is not hopeless to challenge the system.

## And the future?

I'd be pleased if more people got involved, especially the youth.



# Union wins maternity rights

## Working women win rights to have children and keep their jobs

Working women risk losing their jobs if they fall pregnant because they have no legal guarantee of getting their jobs back after giving birth.

This means working women have no right to have children. But trade unions are looking

into this issue and taking up the demands of working mothers and mothers-to-be. These demands include:

- Increasing the eight-week maternity leave as laid down by the government.
- The right to return to work

after maternity leave to the same or similar job without a drop in wages.

- The right to time off to visit clinics before and after pregnancy.

- The right to an alternative job

if the job is dangerous for a pregnant woman.

There are few laws to protect pregnant women and so the bosses do as they like. As one boss said: "There is no need to make concessions as there is a large working group to choose from."

impression that we were very serious that if they did not give us this agreement they were going to have problems.

We first discussed the agreement as union members and as women we drafted the whole thing. We phoned around other unions that have got agreements for ideas we could propose. There were a few things that we had to debate with Metro but most clauses were accepted.

**The clause on paternity — who motivated that?**

Our men (laughs). It is necessary for them to get this paternity leave because they have to come and assist you at that time.

These are the things we pointed out to Metro. Well, they knew because they also took time off when their wives have babies. Some companies do not take fathers as part of what has happened.

This is to show that he is also involved in the same way as the women is involved.

**Does the agreement only apply to African women?**

No, its now for everyone. I think the other women must thank us. Some say the union is very good.

**What do you know of the experiences of women in other jobs?**

Metro is not so nasty. Other companies are worse. My sister's baby passed away. She had to stay away for three days doing all the preparation and she wasn't given any money. And the baby died because of negligence. She could not take her own baby to hospital. She had to ask someone and the particular person who was sent couldn't carry instructions well. The baby was supposed to go back after three days, but this person did not say that the baby should have gone back and as a result she died.

The nurses asked, "Why didn't you come do you think your job is more important than your baby. It is true the job is not important but at that time when the baby is still living you could subsidise. You could ask someone to take your baby to the hospital."

In fact what the nurses forget is that our babies have got to eat.

In fact most of the companies exploit the situation. They know most of our women don't even know their rights. They don't know what they ought to have even if the employers don't want it.

Ja, well I think the best solution is that every woman should belong to a union. Definitely.

**SPEAK interviewed women workers at Metro who recently won major maternity rights. They spoke about the problems they faced at work and of how they struggled to get management to agree to their demands.**

**What were conditions at Metro like before the workers signed a maternity agreement?**

Basically there was no guarantee you would get your job back. It was the manager's discretion if they kept your job open for you. If you work in a department where there's always got to be somebody, they immediately replace you and you could not come back.

Or alternatively they would give you a time. They would say they will keep the job open for you for two months. But who is going to look after your baby? It

**Did you get job back after having a baby?**

Yes, but the conditions were quite difficult. They promised me they would take me back but when I returned I just heard that no, I would not be taken back, for some reason I was not told of. I think if I was not a member of a trade union, I would not have got my job back.

**What did you do with your child when you returned to work?**

My mother is not working so I left the baby with her. She was only seven weeks old when I left her at home.

**Was that enough time?**

Not really. I had to sacrifice breastfeeding. Moreover, I do not know who to put in charge of my my baby. My mother is very sick and I have got to struggle to find people to stay with my baby. Creches do not allow her because she is still very small. They say they take them when they are over two years.

I wish the bosses could understand that most women work and we still have the right to have our babies. I think something should be done — like having creches for small children.

**Have you asked for a company creche?**

Yes! Actually, in our proposals to management we had a clause that said the employers must provide creche facilities. They were not totally against it but they said its something they will still think about since it will involve a lot of things and so on. Perhaps we could approach employers who employ mostly women that perhaps they join hands and build a centrally situated creche, where every-



body can take their children.

**Does the company allow you to take time off when your child is sick?**

It's at the manager's discretion. Some can be very nasty.

**When you were pregnant did Metro make your job a bit easier?**

No ways! It was the same job and the standard performance should be the same. They did not consider that maybe you would get tired.

**And carrying?**

In fact, for the cashiers its only now that Metro have provided proper seats. They used to sit on the — you know like a bus stool. And if you are pregnant you get backache. So you have got to sit comfortably. You can imagine sitting like that for the whole day and our stores are very busy. It's not like OK and Woolworths. Cashiers have to cash up something like 50kg of mealie meal and they have to push it to the other side. Which is very strenuous.

**How did you fight for the maternity agreement?**

Cawusa has signed a few maternity agreements with other companies. We wanted to improve on them. At OK workers got six months unpaid leave but we wanted to try and get paid maternity.

When we started negotiating we had a doctor with us who worked in Soweto and she knew exactly what problems children

encountered. So we got her in to explain exactly to Metro why its so important that we have this agreement. She also stressed that one of the reasons why women have problems when they give birth or why they have children who are sick when they are born is because they experience strains during pregnancy. They may be carrying heavy loads or may be just worried about their jobs.

Some women go to the extent of trying to hide from their employers that they are actually pregnant because immediately you are discovered you are pregnant you are fired.

The other thing is money. Much as you are pregnant you will need money for the baby and knowing that you will be at

home for so many months not having any income makes women tense.

The doctor also explained that most children die as infants because they are not properly fed. They die from things like diarrhoea. Sometimes their grannies look after them because their mothers have to go to work very soon. The grannies are too old to be in a position to measure milk properly or to see to it that the bottles are kept clean. Other babies are just minded by small children who are not capable enough to look after them.

Another thing — at our first sitting we brought everybody. We had about ten shop stewards and about four to five organisers, our secretary, and the doctor. We gave Metro the

## Metro workers cash in!

The maternity agreement negotiated by the Metro workers interviewed here is one of the best in South Africa at present - for black and white workers.

Some of the rights guaranteed by the agreement include:

- 12 months maternity leave with the guaranteed right to return to work.

- Seven of the 12 months are paid leave at 33% of one's salary. This is the highest amount of paid leave for pregnant work-

ers yet negotiated in South Africa.

- Fathers are allowed three days paid leave during birth.

- Mothers can take time off to attend clinics.

- The company will ensure that women workers are not subjected to stressful or strenuous work or unhealthy conditions during pregnancy and immediately after they return to work.

- Pregnant women applying for

jobs will not be turned down.

The Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers Union of SA, to which the Metro women workers belong, is trying to negotiate similar agreements with all companies where they have members.

"The negotiation of Maternity Agreements and the fight against all forms of sexual discrimination is an important part of the worker's struggle", said a Cawusa spokesperson.



# WE MAKE THE WORLD

A page of music, dance, plays, films, books and poetry.

## LYL Concert plays IYY tune

"Youth Action for Unity, Peace and Freedom," is the slogan adopted by the Lenasia Youth League to celebrate the International Year of the Youth.

Under this slogan the LYL held two successful variety concerts and a sports day to bring together youth from Lenasia and surrounding areas to make the theme a reality.

In his message to the youth LYL president Jeets Hargovan stressed: "It is only through united youth action that youth can participate and develop in the overall

struggle for peace and freedom."

He said the aim of the concert was "to gain maximum participation from youth to express their own experiences and understanding of the struggle in South Africa".

Young people in their hundreds helped organise the concerts, decided on the items and performed.

One scholar said: "It was a great experience for those participating — especially to work together with other youth and to develop our thoughts into words and action." Numerous items in

the concert reflected South African society.

The play Uitenhage showed the role of the police and army in the townships as well as the people's resistance to the killings.

Two songs — Boy in Soweto and Song for Africa — told of the struggle against apartheid.

Poetry recitals, break dancing, Indian dancing and disco dancing also made up the programme.

The concert ended with two songs — Youth on the Move and We are the World — stressing the need for Youth Action for Unity, Peace and Freedom.

## UDF People's Festival 1985



Juluka performs for the last time at the People's Festival.

Everyone is entitled to a jawl.

And thousands of people jawled at the UDF People's Festival. Brenda Fasi and the Big Dudes, Jessica Sherman, Juluka, and the Malopoets, to name but a few, lifted people to their

feet and kept them there.

T-shirts, badges and banners from different organisations lent a colourful splash to the scene.

The money from the event is to be used to finance the defence of the Durban treason trialists.

## SPEAK BOOK REVIEW

# Tuttis flight into the past

By Julia Boyd-Harvey and Marjorie Bereza  
Published by Ravan Press

This is a story for the children of Africa. It is about a boy called Tutti.

Tutti's father works on the gold mines and his mother is a domestic worker in Johannesburg. So Tutti and his brothers and sisters stay with their grandparents.

When the drought comes, there is very little to eat and Tutti gets very thin and is covered with sores. He goes to live with his mother in Johannesburg where he can see a doctor and eat some good food.

His mother works for two kindly old white people.

Mr John works at the university and knows a lot about how the people lived in the olden days.

Tutti is very interested. His grandfathers have told him many stories about those times. Tutti wishes to know a lot more. At school the history he is taught is very boring and makes

## TUTTI and the MAGIC BIRD



Julia Boyd-Harvey Marjorie Bereza

him very sad. All he learns about is wars between white and black people and how the black people always lose.

One day as Tutti lay ill in bed, he is visited by the Magic Bird of Africa who takes him into the past to see how the people lived then

Tutti learns much about the way people did their cooking, fishing and mining; he learns of tools they used, their customs and about the slave traders who stole people from Africa.

The book is written in an easy style and is good for children of up to 12 years.

## POETS' CORNER

To mark the 30th anniversary of the Freedom Charter, Mzwakhe Mbuli from Khuvangano, youth creativity programmes wrote this poem. Mzwakhe is also a member of the UDF Trans-

vaal executive and has recently produced a play called "Abasebenzi" which is being performed at various venues throughout the Witwatersrand.

### Noble Charter

Let me remember a day of the vow in Africa.  
A vow that shook foundations of plunder;  
A heroic vow that broke chains of slavery,  
And blurred them beyond recognition.

I remember Kliptown 1955,  
It was like a day of freedom;  
Hearts and hands' joined together,  
The spirit of peace and friendship prevailed  
And dynamically the people's document was drawn.

Before that year of the doctrine  
The deprived people bribed their survival with  
stream of blood;  
Dehumanised majority brought life with rivers  
of sweat  
Terror and felony reigned  
And blood flowed like a river in flood.

The people's march began in 1912.  
A march in quest for freedom,  
The march that ushered man enthusiasm;  
And the people's invincibility ignored state  
intimidation,  
For legislation without representation is  
tyranny.

When the charter was drawn,  
A vision of a true society was born.  
It was like a dark cloud giving way to the blue  
sky.

And the freedom wagon moved with direction  
Yes, the people's agenda was adopted.

Africa's tarnished children did not know,  
That pillars of fascism were shaken,  
Like teeth knocking together in despair.

Pixley Ka Seme's people did not know,  
That Black-white alliance meant fear;  
State fear, insecurity and brutality.

Chief Bambata's colonised people did not  
know,  
That tyranny and death awaited them,  
From time immemorial.

Blood has flowed in mother Africa,  
Remember the blood in Sharpeville;  
Remember the Soweto uprising;  
Remember the ambush raid in Matola  
And remember the merciless massacre in Mas-  
eru.

The entire continent is soaked with blood,  
The blood of galant heroes of the soil.  
Apartheid the obstacle to peace and security  
Shall come to an end.  
The colonised society shall crush and grind colo-  
nial power

And man shall double his assaults against evil  
Ultimately there shall be peace and security  
And the people shall govern.





# SPEAK

THE VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY



30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FREEDOM CHARTER

This year is the 30th anniversary of the Freedom Charter. The Freedom Charter was the culmination of the people's struggles of the 1940's and 50s. Here SPEAK looks at that period of our history.



Above: The demands of the campaigns of the 50s were included in the Freedom Charter  
Right: June 26 1950: National Day of Protest and Mourning.  
Below: Chief Albert Luthuli, president of the ANC.



# The spark of freedom burns in our people's hearts and minds



See page 8 and 9

Since the establishment of people's organisations like the African National Congress and the Transvaal and Natal Indian Congresses in the early part of this century, the struggle for freedom gathered momentum. This paved the way for the exciting developments which occurred in the ten years or so before the adoption of the Freedom Charter.

## Dr Dadoo

In 1945 new people such as Dr Dadoo and Nana Sita took over the Indian Congresses. And when the government introduced laws granting Indians dummy representation, it was treated with contempt and rejected.

Instead the Congresses mobilised Indians into the Passive Resistance Campaign during which more than 2 000 Indians were sentenced to varying terms of imprisonment.

The Passive Resistance Campaign did not only unite Indians behind the Indian Congresses. It also became clear that Indians faced the same enemy as the African and coloureds: the government. It became clear that they should wage joint struggles in the future to achieve their political rights.

And so in March 1947 a joint declaration of co-operation was signed between the ANC and the South African Indian Congress (SAIC) which is more popularly known as the Dadoo-Xuma-Naiker Pact after the presidents of the ANC, TIC and NIC.

In 1949 the ANC adopted a

Programme of Action which emphasised strikes, boycotts, demonstrations and civil disobedience as important political weapons. Previously the ANC had relied on deputations and petitions to the authorities.

Thus the organisations were prepared for the coming to power of the Nationalists in 1948 and the passing of many new laws which would affect the lives of the oppressed people even further.

One of the Nationalists first actions was to silence outspoken opponents of Apartheid and banning orders were issued for the first time. The ANC in the Transvaal and other organisations swiftly called a "Defend-Free-Speech Convention" in March 1950 where it was decided to stage a political strike on 1 May.

## May Day

The strike was a huge success. But it was marred by the intervention of the police who killed 19 strikers.

In response to the May Day killings and to new bills, the Group Areas and Unlawful Organisation bills, the ANC declared the June 26 1950 as a National Day of Protest and Mourning. Workers throughout the country were asked to stay away from work, shopkeepers were asked to close their shops and school children were asked to boycott classes on that day. Once again, it was successful, making it the first national political strike.

As the introduction of unjust laws continued, the ANC and SAIC decided to jointly declare war on these laws and launched



Volunteers arrive at Fordsburg's 'Freedom Square' for the opening of the Defiance Campaign on the 26th June 1952.

the massive Defiance Campaign.

An ultimatum was sent to the Government to repeal six unjust laws by 29 February 1952. These were the pass laws, Group Areas Act, Suppression of Communism Act, Bantu Authorities Act, Separate Representation of Voter's Act and regulations regarding the culling of cattle.

The Government, of course, did not heed the ultimatum and so on 6 April 1952, the 300th anniversary of the white man's arrival in South Africa a Day of Pledge and Prayer was held. Throughout the length and breadth of South Africa demonstrations and meetings were held where people took a vow to do everything in their power to carry out the Congress Call to fight against the unjust laws. These people became volunteers who were to defy the laws.

The first defiers — some of the banned leaders of the ANC and SAIC defied the law on 26 June 1952. By the end of the Campaign in December, 1952, more than 8 500 people in 37 places had defied and gone to prison.

## Defiance

The Defiance Campaign not only focussed attention of the grievances of the people but inspired them to challenge the causes of their misfortunes. In addition the ANC and SAIC became known as representatives of the people's demands.

On the third anniversary of June 26, Chief Albert Luthuli, president of the ANC, made a national call to light bonfires at night around which people should gather to discuss the struggle for freedom. The light from the fires was also seen as a symbol of the spark of freedom which would never be extin-

guished in the hearts and minds of the people.

1953 also saw new organisations springing up. After a campaign by the coloured people to oppose being removed from the common voters role, the South African Coloured People's Organisation was formed. In October 1953 the South African Congress of Democrats representing democratic whites was established.

These two organisations together with the ANC and SAIC became known as the Congress Alliance. And in 1954 when the South African Congress of Trade Unions and South African Federation of Women were established, they also became part of the Congress Alliance.

It was this alliance which was to spearhead the campaign to collect demands for a Congress of the People where the Freedom Charter was drawn up.