

# United against elections in Actonville

ACTONVILLE is gearing up against the Management Committee elections on 31 October. Eight community organisations have formed a United Front to persuade the people of Actonville not to vote for these dummy committee elections.

These organisations are: East Rand branch of the Transvaal Indian Congress; East Rand area committee of the UDF; Actonville Rents Action Committee (ARAC); Benoni Student Movement; Eastern Transvaal Football Association; Actonville Reform Church; and the Squash Rackets Association.

The campaign is being spearheaded by ARAC and the TIC.

Like the campaign against the tri-cameral elections our activists will be visiting the homes of people with the message that a vote for the Management Committee is a vote for high rents, housing shortages, and overcrowded backrooms and garages.

In particular, we will be explaining to the people that the Government's new housing policy will mean that the Government will not provide housing for us. The Government says that housing is not their responsibility, but our's.

ARAC and the TIC are confident that the people will heed the call to stay away. The elections are already

a farce as only 40 percent of the people are registered voters.

Whatever the outcome of the elections, therefore, the Management Committee will not be able to claim that it represents the people. The election will also be a forerunner to the new plans for local government which the Government hopes to introduce next year for whites, Coloureds and Indians.

These plans entail:

- the autonomy of local authorities
  - the power of the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning in relation to local government
  - the setting up of regional councils to provide regional services.
- These proposals are fundamentally undemocratic. Power will be totally concentrated in the hands of the Minister.

for example, the Minister will decide on:

- the extent of autonomy for a local authority
- the setting up and dissolution of regional councils

The regional councils will provide services to a region that local authorities will have to buy. For example, water. These regional councils are not elected bodies.

Members of these bodies will be nominated by the Administrator on

the basis of who he thinks has the majority support in the local authority. The public can be excluded from attending regional council meetings.

Furthermore, because the Administrator nominates members according to how much money they can contribute to the running of the region, the Coloured and Indian authorities - which are generally poorer - will have fewer votes than the wealthier white authorities.

This means that Coloured and Indian local authorities will be outvoted on the question of the cost of services, development projects and community facilities.

The proposals for local government like central government exclude the majority of our people, the African people. Their future will be decided separately by Town Councils and Development Boards. This will further divide African people from Indians and Coloureds.

This is why the call from all our progressive organisations on the East Rand is to oppose the Management Committee elections, and to strengthen our community-based organisations like ARAC and the TIC so that we can fight for a better deal.

# UDF - 1 year of united action



**UDF commands the support and respect of thousands of South Africans**

IN just over a year, the UDF has become a national mass movement which has won the support and respect of thousands of South Africans.

The UDF has earned this support because of the hard work, the organization and united action waged by its affiliates. Today, 600 organisations with an estimated membership of over a million people, are affiliated to UDF.

The presence of the UDF has been felt in urban and rural areas, in our

communities, in factories, mosques, Churches and temples. From the distant corners of the Transvaal, to the West and East coast, the UDF has become our symbol of hope for a new life.

Whilst the government is determined to divide our people, the UDF has united us. The recent anti-election victory, the rejection of the Black Local authorities late last year, has showed us what we can achieve when we are united and organised.

Through the UDF we have come to see that our struggles against Botha's army, mass removals and the new constitution are one. It is a struggle for a single South Africa, free of the Group Areas Act and Bantustans. It is a struggle for a non-racial and democratic South Africa.

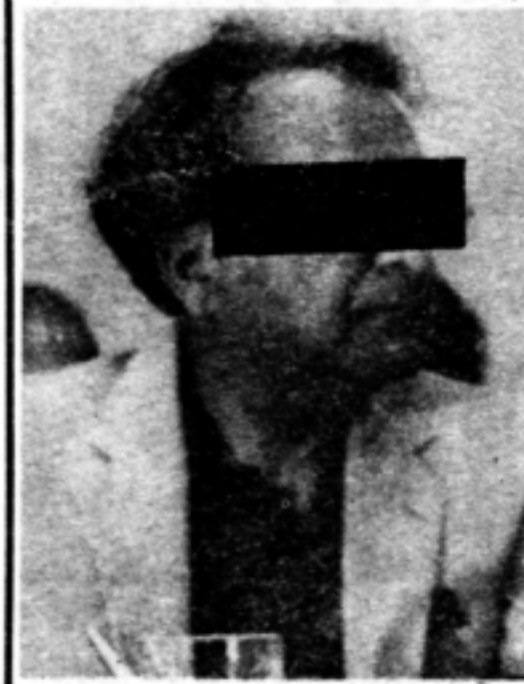
But the UDF has achieved this and more. It has been the springboard for the emergence of organisations and campaigns where our people have been silent: In the rural areas of the Northern Transvaal, in Natal, the Eastern and Western Cape, thousands of people have rallied behind the call of the UDF.

The elections are now over. The question that we are all asking is: where does UDF go from here? It is a question that all of us should be thinking about.

There are many areas in our country which remain unorganized. There are many people still who have not heard of the UDF. This message should be taken to every corner of the country.

A new phase has been opened in our struggle. We need to take this fight further. We need to build on the united action of the past 14 months.

Congress is an affiliate of the UDF. We pay tribute to a great front of our people. We say - forward to freedom



**Essop Jassat, President of the TIC**



**Ram Salojee, Vice-president of the TIC**

## Release our leaders now

**We demand the release of leaders of the UDF, the Release Mandela Committee and of the Indian Congresses.**

**Our stand is clear: Botha's hand picked stooges can never speak for us.**

**We want our heroes and heroines to take their rightful place in our country, to guide us in our fight for a country free of inequality, injustice and oppression.**

**We call for the unbanning of the banned, the immediate and unconditional release of the detained and imprisoned.**

## Truth behind Vaal struggle

THE people in the Vaal townships of Sebokeng, Evaton, and Sharpeville have won a hard battle to have rent increases scrapped. They have also persuaded many unpopular community councillors to resign.

These councillors came into office 8 months ago when the Local Authorities Act and its dummy councils were imposed on the people.

The Vaal Civic Association was started last year to fight for the rights of residents. It has branches throughout the township.

When rent rises were announced, the Vaal Civic organised the people. Residents say they cannot afford the rents of R50 - R70 because of the high cost of food and GST.

Many workers have been layed off because of unemployment.

People held meetings. A stay-away was called for September 3. On that day, thousands of people marched to the council offices.

Like Sharpeville, twenty years ago, they were met by bullets, while they shouted 'Asinamali'. Many people were injured, crippled or maimed by police bullets. Mothers have lost their children.

This was the last straw. Suffering and oppression pushed the Vaal residents over the brink. This became clear in their anger the march.

A high price has been paid by the residents. Their rejection of community councils is our rejection of management committees. It is a demand for a decent life and for full rights in a democratic South Africa.

## Support Simba workers



CONGRESS wholeheartedly supports the struggle of workers for fair labour practices and for good wages and working conditions.

We therefore reject with contempt the dismissal of 464 workers by the Simba Quix company on 13 August 1984.

The dismissal follows a strike by the workers who wanted to get three of their colleagues re-employed. These three are members of SWEET, FOOD AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION.

Before the strike, repeated attempts by the union to get the three reinstated had failed. The company refused to deal with worker representatives.

Instead, an ultimatum was issued saying that workers would be fired if they failed to report for work. The

workers did report, but asked for time to discuss the matter.

They were only granted 25 minutes. When this time was up, the personnel manager announced over a loud-hailer that the workers were dismissed.

Workers who were on leave at the time, but who refused to distance themselves from the union, have also been fired.

Prior to this mass dismissal, Simba management had been openly antagonistic to the union. Now scab labour has been hired.

In solidarity with these dismissed workers, CONGRESS calls on all its members and supporters, as well as traders, to heed the call of the Simba Workers' Committee not to buy Simba products.

**LONG LIVE THE WORKERS' STRUGGLE !!!**