

Apartheid

After 37 years, that terrible disease called Apartheid has reached its crisis. Its deep and evil sores are now festering on the surface of our land for everyone to see. There are some people who believe that government reforms will solve the problems. But if we look at the problems that we've got we'll see just how big those reforms will have to be if we are to solve them.

Unemployment and poverty

No one is sure but there are somewhere between one million and three million people unemployed. On top of this there are many more millions living in poverty and near starvation. This means that not only will jobs have to be created for the nearly 250 000 youngsters leaving school each year, but also for the more than one million people who have no jobs now. As well as this, those newly created jobs will have to pay a wage that takes people out of poverty — a living wage.

Starvation in the homelands

One of the greatest tragedies of apartheid has been the effect it has had on the land and on production in the rural areas and in the so-called homelands. These areas have collapsed and cannot produce enough food to feed even a small part of their population. To change this requires that a lot of money be spent on roads, dams, irrigation, better crop seed and proper marketing facilities so that the people can sell their produce. Towns, schools and hospitals will also have to be built.

The apartheid cities

Apartheid was a policy that made a minority very rich by keeping the majority poor. A look at the apartheid cities shows this clearly. In their centres we find big

and beautiful buildings. Around their centres we find good and plentiful housing for whites. But further away from these we find millions of people living in 'matchbox' houses or in shacks. They have poor roads, no electricity, not enough schools, not enough hospitals and no real places for entertainment. These are the apartheid created slums. More people live in them than in the beautiful centres of the cities. How much will have to be spent to

different parliaments and on the 'independent' and 'semi-independent' states. Such a large organisation is very, very expensive and takes up more and more of our wealth, only to produce more and more misery and repression.

The giant monopolies

The South African economy is controlled by a few very big and powerful companies. These companies started with the gold mines but have now expanded to cover almost

spend it on machinery rather than creating jobs for people.

South Africa's wealth is being misused

What faces us? We have a situation of unemployment and poverty that must change. We need to rebuild the rural areas. We need to rebuild the cities. But in the present situation this is not possible because the apartheid State swallows up all the wealth and the monopolies export their profits and create no jobs here in South Africa. Also, South Africa relies heavily on selling or exporting products to other countries. But these countries for some years now have been having economic problems so they are not buying South Africa's products.

Faced with these problems the government is spending more money than it is able to collect in the form of taxes. This causes inflation which once started keeps on going as everyone increases their prices to protect their profits.

These things affect the balance of payments and then the value of the Rand compared to the money in other countries falls. This is because the South African monopolies and everyone else are trying to get their money out of South Africa.

The real problem is that the wealth of this land is being misspent. It needs to be spent on creating jobs, rebuilding the rural areas and cities. But at the moment the wealth is being spent on the apartheid State. Also, it is being misused by the giant monopolies.

What we need is a government that will be prepared to make very big changes as to how we spend our wealth. And a government that is large enough to be able to challenge the monopolies for control of that wealth.



make these places liveable? The answer to that is very, very large amounts. What increases in wages are needed so that people can improve their lives? The answer is very big improvements.

The apartheid State

To oppress millions of people for a long time, a very big and expensive kind of State is needed. Huge amounts of money are spent each year on the police, the army, the Administration Boards, three

every sector of the economy.

Their decisions control millions of Rands and millions of jobs. Their decisions have been a major cause of unemployment. These companies have taken the large profits they have earned in South Africa and put them in other countries to open factories there. The profits have been used not to create new jobs but rather to buy hundreds of smaller companies. When they do use the money in South Africa they prefer to

in crisis