

'Take forward their fight' - ADAC

AFTER a wave of detentions in 1981 in Johannesburg, the Detainees Parents Support Committee (DPSC) was formed by relatives and friends of detainees to give each other support and show up evils of the detention system.

DPSC's were formed in Cape Town, Durban, Port Elizabeth and other areas in South Africa.

Last year, the DPSC's made March 12 National Detainees Day, to focus on the hundreds of people then in detention.

In their statement on National Detainees Day, DPSC (Western Cape) said detainees are people struggling for freedom - trade unionists, students, youth and community workers, Black and White alike. Detention is one of the ways in which the unjust apartheid tries to crush all opponents.

We should remember that while

some detainees are released, others are charged. The laws are wide enough to include all opposition to apartheid. Some detainees are made to be state witnesses against others, usually after long spells in detention at the hands of the police.

These laws and trials cannot be accepted as just. The DPSC's and all those fighting detentions, say: **RELEASE ALL DETAINEES UNCONDITIONALLY AND SCRAP THE SECURITY LAWS.**

But the DPSC's also have short term demands - access to detainees by their own doctors, lawyers and families and to end the torture of detainees.

All South Africans who believe in democracy joined the DPSC's on March 12 to salute the detainees who stand for the same goals of freedom and justice for all. The call went out: **"TAKE FORWARD THEIR FIGHT!"**

House sales won't solve the problems

"BUY your houses, or pay higher rents," this is the threat the government made when they announced that 500 000 houses would be sold as from the 1st July.

Is this the government's answer to the housing crisis and the demand for rents people can afford? Cahac and other civic organisations say no.

Housing struggles fought by Cahac and

other civics have always demanded that the government take full responsibility for giving people houses. These houses should also be given at rents that people can afford.

Kotze's response was to set up an investigating committee to look into the housing crisis and the rents structure. They came up with this 'New Housing Deal'

What are the effects of this 'new deal' which

is now forced on us?

People are forced to buy these houses. If you don't, you face large rent increases.

But the majority of our people will not be able to afford to buy their houses. This means that pensioners, widows, most of the workers and millions of people who are unemployed will be forced to pay very high rents.

The houses we live in are in a very bad con-

dition. Often we have problems when the council refuses to maintain our houses.

We have heard nothing about whether the government will repair our houses before they are sold. Are we expected to buy these council houses in their existing bad condition?

With this new deal the responsibility of maintaining houses is thrust onto tenants. They will have to spend money to keep their houses in good condition.

Big businesses will profit because people will have to go to the shops to buy materials and also hire firms to do repairs.

Who actually gains from this 'new deal'?

Burden

At the moment the government receives one third from the rents paid in state owned housing. With this new deal they will now receive the full monthly instalment. This means that the government now gets three times the income that they had before. The financial burden placed on people will be worsened because of:

- high monthly instalments
- having to carry the full responsibility for maintenance
- rates have to be paid to local councils or administration for sewerage services, street lighting, garbage removal etc.
- huge rent increases for people who cannot afford to buy.

From what we have seen the NEW DEAL does not help to solve the present housing crisis. It does not help to solve the problem of the high rents people are presently paying.

Does this new deal serve the interests of the people or those of the government and big business?

Pine Rd. residents don't want to move

PEOPLE living in Pine Road and other areas of Woodstock, Walmer Estate and Salt River, don't know what is going to happen with them. The Council and the Department of Community Development is talking about plans for the whole area. Some people fear that many will have to move.

Last year some residents of Pine Road were told by officials of the Department of Community Development that they would have to leave their houses at some time in the future. So they held meetings and formed the Pine Road Street Committee which is working to get all the people on the Street to stand together.

Some of the houses in the road need repairs badly. Since the 'Group' bought the houses about six years ago they have not done any major repairs. So the Street Committee has asked each family to write a letter stating the most urgent repairs that are needed. These letters will be taken to the 'Group'.

The Residents Association called a mass meeting on 28th March to support the Pine Road residents and to discuss the future of the whole area. Here is what one speaker, the oldest resident in Pine Road told the 250 people who were at the meeting:



'Evict me now and I'll die'

MY name is Frank James de Stadler. I wish to make it clear that for me, this is NOT a political protest, but one of humanism.

As a senior citizen I deserve the right to speak up and do my bit to plea for humanity. Why should I make it a political issue when in truth it is a question of priority?

I've been a resident

of Pine Road for 46 years. I've seen scores and scores of residents come and go, people of different race groups, of different denominations. I've watched children grow from infancy to adulthood. I have raised three generations in Pine Road and I admit that everything must someday and somehow come to an end.

But why, why must it end in such a sorrowful way?

Pine Road has always paid its dues to society. We have never given Cape Town any reason to be ashamed of us. We have never made ourselves guilty of hoodliganism or gangfights. Pine Road has never killed anyone but by natural death. Why must it be killed?

It is lives we are talking about, lives which cannot be renovated like old buildings. Evict me now and I'll die. My

wife and I are old. Our children have all married out of Pine Road. We are alone, but we are happy because we are home.

We have always contented ourselves with the thought of dying in Pine Road where we

have spent the better part of our lives. Show us some compassion by letting us spend our twilight years at the place we've come to accept as HOME!

Why take away this wish from two old folks who have graced Pine Road as pillars of respect through all these years?

I readily admit that development is important. But why must it

be done at the cost of others' happiness.

I say beautify our street by renovating our houses. We have paid our due rent through all these years. Let us live in peace. That I call 'development'.

Pine Road is my life - my life is Pine Road. Don't kill me by eviction. I want to die a natural death in Pine Road.

All welcome at Schotseskloof AGM

THE Schotse Kloof Civic Association will be having their 13th Annual General Meeting at the Bokaap Community Centre, Pentz Street, on Monday April 25.

The committee of the civic association held an assessment workshop to thoroughly assess the organisation. The workshop was attended by various organisations in the area, including mosque and church committees, sporting clubs and school representatives.

At the workshop

people expressed concern about the structure of the organisation and decided that more people from the area should become involved. They also realised that despite many efforts to negotiate with the authorities for more housing and better facilities, nothing concrete was achieved. The council has failed to meet the demands of the Bo-Kaap people.

The workshop recommended that the civic assist in mobilising the youth, students, sporting people as well

as religious bodies to fight for their demands.

The civic called on all people to attend the AGM and build a strong Association.

Support

THE working committee of Bokaap Youth Movement is planning a community library to help students and to make good books available to the community.

A function will be held at the St. Paul's Hall on April 22. All residents are urged to support.



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