

Comment

Union cannot be divided

FOR two years the independent trade unions have tried to build unity in the trade union movement. There have been many problems and differences between the trade unions.

But today, trade unions recognize the importance of unity. They know that they cannot continue to be divided. A conference between independent trade unions held in Cape Town recently, could pave the way towards a united trade union movement.

Workers and their trade unions are facing difficult times. United action is needed to fight against high prices and low wages; against retrenchments and unemployment; against victimisation by the bosses and attacks from the government.

It is a time when all democratic people's organisations need to unite and resist the constitutional proposals and influx control.

The trade union movement cannot afford to be divided in these times.

Mthize's death is our loss

SAUL MKHIZE, a community leader and chairperson of Driefontein Civic Association, was shot dead by the South African Police.

All over South Africa and in the world outside, there has been outrage against his death. It is an outrage against this method of silencing our people.

Saul Mkhize fought for the rights of the people. The right to their land, the right to live where they choose. It is the land of the people of Driefontein. They have built a community — roads, schools, churches. They have grown their own food. They have resisted the forced removals as part of the government's homelands plan.

The people of Driefontein's struggle is a just one. It is for this struggle that he died.

Saul Mkhize's death is not only a loss to the people of Driefontein, but a loss for the people of South Africa.

Who is to blame?

EIGHT people have died at Crossroads. We are told it is the result of faction fighting. Of tensions between 'legals' and 'illegals'.

Who is to blame.

When people have no homes and live under overcrowded conditions. When they have no say and no rights in the country of their birth.

When the government sows blatant divisions between the people by giving some 'rights' to be in the cities and not others. Can a people be in the country of their birth illegally?

Surely, the answers are clear for all to see. South Africa belongs to all who live in it.

Let us not find simple answers to problems which are caused by the vicious laws in our country.

We need good schools urgently

DEAR GRASSROOTS

AS one of your readers, I want to thank you for your news. I read your newspaper for nearly a year now and have found it very interesting!

I am a scholar at a highschool in Bridgeton. I am in Std. 7 and am 16 years old. You have probably read about our accommodation problems at school here. They say that our problems have been solved, but I don't think so.

Three of our classes have to be held at a church. Some of us find it very difficult to learn our subjects, because our teachers have to walk far to get to another class. This means we have a short time for education.

GRASSROOTS, it is very hard to be a scholar, because some of us are not so lucky to get to the right schools. They have money to build unnecessary buildings, but no money to build good schools. We need those very urgently.

Our community here in Oudtshoorn is very verkrampt. They don't want to get involved with these things here.

If you talk about justice, they want to arrest you. They say you are "poison" for the community.

But I don't care what they do to me, because it is the truth.

Yours sincerely
OUDTSHOORN
SCHOLAR



ADAC replies to Grassroots

Dear Grassroots,

AS an organisation formed to publicise and work around the unjustness of the detention system, we want to thank you for your article on the new Internal Security Act of

1982 (Advice page 13), in the last issue of Grassroots.

It raises many important questions for people organising in trade unions, civics, or youth and womens organisations.

However, we feel it was a mistake to put the article on the new laws next to the one which dealt with what a person could do if arrested. Being detained and being arrested are two different things, and should be treated as such.

When we talk about detention, we are talking about being taken in by the police under the Internal Security Act.

The government uses this as a weapon against its opponents. These people oppose the government because of its unjust policies. These

people who are helping to build organisations to struggle for a free and democratic society.

The other article discusses what to do if you are arrested. This means when a person has been arrested by the police because of a crime, or because the police think that the person has committed a crime.

We wish to point out that people who are detained are not held because they have committed crimes. They are held because of their political beliefs.

If they are accused of having committed crimes, then it is because the government has made the laws so wide that any opposition to its unjust policies can now be called a crime.

Yours
Detention Action Committee (ADAC)



GET UP, STAND UP!

HI ROOTS

'Boycott the PC' of Lansdowne is correct (Jan. GRASSROOTS). The government has got nothing to do with 'equality', 'the franchise' or 'citizenship'. It is trying to sell the oppressed masses buttered-up apartheid.

Countrywide, even in a meeting near Pretoria, the people have rejected the PC — and the hateful 'Koornof' Bills. This is not because "blacks" have been left out. No. The PC has been rejected because:—

- It consists of nominated stooges

- It is racist and undemocratic — the people only know about the Human race, not about 'Coloureds, Indians, Blacks and Whites'.
- Apartheid will be entrenched, in the hands of a Hitler-like dictator — the 'pillars of apartheid' will remain

The PC is a glorified Management Committee dummy system; and the people have totally ignored this system.

We see the Labour Party's role, against the will of the people. The fat-cat puppets in the Party say they have not changed policy. That is correct — they have always been warped, twisted, racist, sellouts — it is nothing new that they are eating Curry and Apartheid.

Slavery

Progressive, democratic trade unions, civic and residents associations and sporting organisations have long ago voiced their complete rejection of the PC and the system of legalised slavery.

The true way to democracy and freedom is with the

organisations of the people — NOT in the Labour Party and its friends in the SAIC, Community Councils, Management Committees and "Governments" like "Kwazulu".

Misled

Do not be fooled by government propaganda like the "information" all households received; do not be misled by the liberal papers and TV — look for the newsletters of the people — look away from the PC and the 'Koornof' Bills.

Stand by and build up your local organisation to do the PROPER job of fighting for the rights of all exploited and poor people.

Get involved in the work towards democracy — struggle today and tomorrow for a country free of injustice and inhumanity.

GET UP, STAND UP.

Athlone

'n Genot om Grassroots te lees'

Liewe Grassroots

kry.

Met trots kan ek erken dat dit vir my nog altyd 'n genot was om u tydskrif "Grassroots" te lees. Hoewel ek dit nog maar eers die afgelope jaar begin lees het, kan ek alreeds erken dat dit my geweldig verryk het. Veral wat my politieke sy betref.

Omdat ek in Oudtshoorn was die afgelope jaar, as 'n student, kon ek gereeld 'n uitgawe by die boekwinkel ver-

Ek sit egter nou met 'n probleem noudat ek terug is in my tuisdorp Robertson, aangesien dit nie hier beskikbaar is nie.

Ek sal dit dus waardeer as u my met raad kan bedien hoe om maandeliks 'n uitgawe te kry. (Die Desember uitgawe ingesluit).

Ook sal ek meer inligting omtrent die ontstaan van Grassroots waardeer aangesien dit

baie interessant behoort te wees.

E. Africa

GRASSROOTS reply:

Dear E. Africa — At the back of each issue of Grassroots there is a subscription form. This can be filled in, posted off to us and you will receive an issue of the paper each month. If you are interested in selling copies to others who want to read the paper, please contact Grassroots at 32-2117 or 22-0264.