

Time to renew subscriptions

Readers who took out subscriptions in April last year should remember that these subscriptions have now lapsed.

Subscription forms and details of the new rates are on page 16 of this issue.

Unions to defy law

20 000 object to fares increases

THE people who packed the smart offices in the Nedbank Building, Fore-shore, came with a common message from their communities: "We can't even afford the present busfares - how can you still expect us to pay another increase?"

More than 150 representatives from 32 community organisations, churches and trade unions, had gathered to listen to the hearing by the National Transportation Commission to City Tramways' application for higher busfares.

Mitchells Plain Bus Service Limited and Associated Bus Service Limited also applied for an increase of between 12 and 28 per cent.

Petitions

And to show they were not speaking for a few, the people handed in a petition signed by more than 20 000 people in the different communities.

"This is a grave matter. The people want to be heard," the people said.

And when they were heard, the people spoke with loud voices and drew applause from the others about their hardships in the townships, where they had been forced to move because of the Group Areas Act.

"Once we were all living near our places of work, but because of the law we today have to travel many miles by bus to get to work. We have to get up early and come home late at night," one said.

Mrs Anna Arendse, a pensioner speaking for the Clarkes Estate Tenants Association, said she would be forced to walk if the busfares went up.



• They came with a common message

"I won't even be able to go to hospital," she said.

A representative from the Hanover Park Civic Association said old people sometimes had to stand from Hanover Park to Cape Town in City Tramways' "cattle trucks" which brought in more money for the bus company.

A member of the Lotus River/Grassy Park Ratepayers and Tenants Association said they did not even have bus shelters in

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Women meet and pay tribute

ON Sunday, August 9 1981, the 25th Anniversary of National Women's Day, thousands of women all over South Africa rededicated themselves to the struggle for a democratic South Africa.

In the Western Cape, close to 2 000 people - mostly women - attended a commemoration organised by the United Women's Organisation together with other

organisations including DWA, CUPC and Rape Crisis.

The crowd thronged the cinema in Elsie's River where the commemoration took place after it was forced to move from Crossroads.

Mr Nxobongwana broke the news that he was forced to ask the women to move, at midday on Saturday, 8th August, only a few hours before the meet-

ing would start.

The huge tent in which the meeting was to be held was already being put up when the chairman of Crossroads Committee, under threat from BARB officials, was forced to ask the Planning Committee to find another venue.

But it was clear that neither the change of venue nor the police

intimidation could break the spirit of the women.

Banners bearing the theme of the day "Izwe lethu", A place to live, welcomed women from all over the Western Cape and visitors from further afield.

There were posters in celebration of Women's Day and displays on women against passes, women against

civil system, state attempts to control and interfere in the internal affairs of trade unions, banning and detention of trade unionists as well as the harassment of union officials and workers by the Ciskeian authorities.

The unions agreed to defy certain laws which blocked the workers struggle.

They said they would defy attempts by the state to stop unions giving financial assistance to striking workers.

Representatives also agreed to refuse to allow officials from the Department of Manpower entry to union offices if those officials were going to interfere in the unions internal affairs.

The conference was such a success that delegates agreed to meet again by November this year. The feeling of all the delegates was clearly that unity in the workers' struggle was very important.

Only with unity could the workers' interests be defended against the bosses and the state.

evictions, women and housing, women and the violence committed against us.

The women sang their song, the words "Igama la makosikazi, malibongwe" (Let us praise the name of women) are a tribute to the hundreds of women who rallied to commemorate National Women's Day in Elsie's River.



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