

## THE DAY VLOK FEARED THE WOMEN'S STRENGTH

People of South Africa are up in arms. They are demanding a new South Africa like never before. They have been marching through the big cities making their demands for future South Africa.

Women, too, chose a day in September 1989 to put forward their demands. Their march was to take place in Pretoria. They went from office to office organising women for the march. Women made colourful banners with strong messages, all showing the anger of women.

The government heard the rumour that the women were coming. They rushed to court to ban the march. Vlok, the Minister of Police, told his police to put barbed wire across the streets to stop the women from going to the church service. He called hundreds and hundreds of police. He really shivered, for he knew that he had touched the women, he had touched the rock. He was surely going to be crushed. Pretoria was buzzing with police, all fearing women and their banners.

Women are a force to reckon with. The South African government knows that way back in the 50's, the women defied the banning of their march and came out marching. The police stopped the women from marching in Pretoria but they had made their point. The women together are strong.

# YESTERDAY

# TODAY &

# TOMORROW

Students protesting against an Inkatha warlord. Mandla Shabalala, who came out of court free after allegedly killing a young boy in KwaMashu. The killings in Natal townships are continuing. Many activists have been killed by killer squads and none of the killers have been brought to justice. This has been going on since 1987. More than 2 000 people have been killed since then. When will it stop?



Photo by: Rafs Mayel



Photo by: Benny Gool - Afrapix

## Another Giant is Born

The Garment and Allied Workers Union and Algamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union of South Africa have come together to one big strong union. The workers in the clothing industry will now speak to the bosses in one powerful voice. Women workers in the photograph are singing songs during the launch of the new union.

The name of the new union is the South African Clothing and Textile Union.

## Our Fathers' Struggles Are Ours Too

More than 900 drivers of Durban Transport Management Board (DTMB) went on a month long strike in August 1989. It was a long and bitter struggle over better wages and working conditions. The drivers work long and tiring hours. They are up and out of their houses as early as three in the morning. But they are not getting a living wage.

The bus depot is next to Phambili High School. The students were watching the developments with interest, as some of them have their fathers working at DTMB. The dispute went on until all the drivers were fired. People started going to the depot hoping to get jobs of the dismissed workers. Phambili students could not take that lying down. They went straight to these people and told them never to wait for their fathers' jobs. One student said, "We wanted to make it clear that we are very much part of our fathers' struggles."