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INTRODUCTION

The last five months have seen heightened resistance to the Black Local Authorities in townships throughout the Transvaal. This resistance has varied from spontaneous protests to the five month-long boycott of rent increases by over 300 000 households in the Vaal Triangle. It has forced over 37 councillors to resign and left the Black Local Authorities without a shred of legitimacy in the communities they are supposed to govern.

Despite this the campaign against the Black Local Authorities is not over. While councils may not operate effectively, townships are not democratically controlled by residents. Many townships have a constant police and army presence and reports of the establishment of council police forces in many townships suggest councillors are arming themselves for a fresh assault on popular organisations.

The recent detentions of UDF leaders, make it clear that the government aims to seriously weaken progressive organisation before considering further co-optive strategies. The existence of UDF and the campaigns waged against the Black Local Authorities and tricameral parliament have shown that further co-optive strategies would have little chance of success in the absence of a serious assault on extra-parliamentary opposition.

This makes an evaluation of the campaign against the Black Local Authorities and the strengths and weaknesses of affiliates on the civic front an urgent priority.

This report is divided into the following sections:

- \*Structures of local government in African areas
- \*The aims of the Black Local Authorities
- \*The Anti-Black Local Authorities Campaign
- \*The rent increases
- \*The state of Black Local Authorities in the Transvaal
- \*the state of community organisation in the Transvaal
- \*The way forward
- \*Appendix

## STRUCTURES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN AFRICAN AREAS

Since 1971, African areas have been under the direct control of Administration Boards. These boards had close links with the then Department of Bantu Affairs and their task was to administer African areas in such a way that the temporary nature of "urban" Africans was entrenched.

As a result the Boards ploughed vast sums of money into the development of huge dormitory towns inside the Bantustan borders and neglected the development of housing and services in African townships outside bantustan borders. Democratic local government structures were non-existent and instead Africans were given an advisory role through the Urban Bantu Councils.

In the wake of 1976, the government attempted to direct popular anger away from the administration boards and in 1977 established community councils which in the words of the ex-director of Wrab:

"The community councils must consider matters and take the rap if things go wrong" (Sunday Tribune 4/5/80).

After 1977, over two hundred community councils were established nationwide. In the elections that followed the low polls demonstrated clearly that representation on dummy bodies was no substitute for political rights in a united South Africa.

At present there are three local government structures in African areas: town and village councils established under the Black Local Authorities Act with the power to administer townships under their control; community councils with certain administrative powers given to them by the development boards; and local committees established under the Black Local Authorities Act with only an advisory role.

While the powers that each of these bodies has may vary, they have the following characteristics in common:

- \* All of them have been imposed on the community without its consent.
- \* They all impose the government's policy of self financing which means people living in these communities are forced to pay for housing, services and community facilities from rent

and service charges with no assistance from the central government.

- \* These bodies will be forced to carry out or at least agree to the government's policies of forced removals and shack demolitions as the minister has wide ranging powers to ignore their recommendations or to overrule any decisions they make not in line with apartheid policies.
- \* All these bodies have a long history of corruption, broken promises and maladministration of the areas under their jurisdiction.

In 1982, the Black Local Authorities Act was passed, setting up town and village councils in thirty two African communities. These bodies were given the power to administer these areas and to take responsibility for raising finances, providing services and controlling the allocation of houses.

The Black Community Development Act aimed to change the administration boards into development boards whose role in future would be to plan development for the communities under their control. In practice the development boards continue to administer many African communities even where town and village councils have been established. This stems from the wide powers given to the minister in the Black Local Authorities Act and the fact that the minister often designates the boards to act on his behalf in particular townships.

#### THE AIMS OF THE BLACK LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The following strategies of control and co-option were embodied in the Black Local Authorities (BLA):

##### \* Ideological co-option

- \* Ideologically, Koornhof's strategy was designed to convince people that they were gaining control of their own affairs.

In the post-76 period a major aspect of government strategy has been to offer Africans living in urban areas the promise of better living conditions. The introduction of 99-year leasehold is part of this offer.

However the government was aware that economic and material advancement alone is insufficient to co-opt, or redirect people. Some form of political and ideological incorporation is also necessary. The BLA aimed to redirect people into "civic affairs" and away from political struggle, with the illusion that avenues were opening for them to run their own communities.

\* "Bantustanisation" of oppression

The struggles of the 1970's led the government to realise the administration boards were doing less to control and disorganise resistance than to focus it. The neo-colonial policy of setting up black administrations in the bantustans had succeeded in containing struggles in rural areas so the government set up similar structures in urban areas.

The first step in the "bantustanisation" of township oppression was to introduce community councils to take the flack for unpopular measures such as rent increases and evictions.

The boards continued to be in the front line at important points of conflict such as shack demolitions and pass raids. The new BLA's were an attempt to put the council in the frontline at all points of conflict - demolitions, raids, rent increases and evictions. They would appear to run the townships, both to plan "improvements" and control people's access to houses, lodgers permits and licences.

\* Limiting numbers of urban Africans

The fact that the new councils were told to raise their own finances, was not simply because the central government is in debt.

It has been the government's policy for decades to starve African townships of money. The aim has been to make it as difficult as possible and as unattractive as possible for Africans who are not allowed jobs in the cities to live in the townships.

Since the Riekert Commission the government has tried to reduce the numbers of urban 'unemployed' and make Africans' stay in the urban areas.

\* Creation of divisions

As with the other "reform" proposals, control and the creation of divisions is the name of the game. The government knows that certain divisions lie just under the surface and hopes to harness and expand these into fully-fledged political and ideological divisions. Middle class elements are to be set apart in elite suburbs with 99-year lease and home ownership schemes. Workers are to live in rented houses. Shacks housing illegals will be demolished and houses raided for illegal occupants. People in rented accommodation will continue to be evicted for non-payment, while those in owned housing will have slightly greater security.

THE ANTI - BLACK LOCAL AUTHORITIES CAMPAIGN

Student, women's and civic organisations and trade unions launched the Anti-community councils campaign to boycott the BLA elections because:

- \* The BLA was imposed on the African majority without their consent.
- \* The BLA aimed to strengthen the policies of separate development and divide rural and urban people.
- \* The new act did not have the power to effect change in the townships.
- \* The new act aimed to win credibility for the government overseas.
- \* The councillors were to implement government policies.

The anti-community council campaign supported by all UDF affiliates aimed to:

- \* Show that the Nationalist government's laws were not acceptable to the majority of people.
- \* Strengthen organisations.
- \* Popularise the demands of the people.
- \* Unite people from different communities to build civic structures in African communities.
- \* Teach activists to do mass work.

Various methods were used to popularise the campaign:

- \* Activists distributed pamphlets explaining why the election boycott.
- \* Public meetings were called.
- \* In some areas, activists went door to door.

### The gains of the election boycott

- \* The boycott demonstrated the overwhelming rejection of these councils by the African majority. Eight percent of the adult population or 150 000 out of 1 850 000 adults eligible, took part in the elections.
- \* More than half the councils were unopposed egMhluzi, Alexandra, Kwa Nobuhle and Evaton.
- \* The low percentage poll discredited the government locally and internationally.
- \* The boycott greatly discredited the community councils even before they took power.
- \* The campaign resulted in the creation of new Civic organisations , for example Vaal Civic Association, Alexandra Civic Association and the strengthening of existing Civics for example the Soweto Civic Association
- \* The UDF was widely popularised in African communities.

### The response of the government

Anti election groups were harrassed in a number of ways:

- \* Public meetings organised by those opposed to the elections were banned while those organising the election campaign were given every assistance including training in electioneering
- \* Members of youth, civic, and student organisations were called to report to the Security police where they were asked about their organisational involvement
- \* There was a high police presence outside anti-election meetings and people attending were photographed
- \* Popular leadership was indefinitely detained. Mohalkeng Civic Association and Kagiso Residents Organisation were particularly badly affected by the detention of leading activists.

### THE RENT INCREASES

After the inauguration of the BLA, the councillors were faced

with the task of running bankrupt councils. The councils inherited large debts from the community councils and from the administration boards. For example:

- \* The Soweto Council has a debt of R33 million
- \* The Alexandra Council a debt of R875 840
- \* The Mamelodi Council a debt of R2,4 million
- \* The Atteridgeville and Saulsville Councils debts of R2,9 million

In addition to the outstanding debts the councils soon accumulated new ones:

- \* In an effort to win credibility many councils embarked on schemes to upgrade township conditions, in particular electrification and road tarring schemes.
- \* Councillors voted themselves large salaries, fancy cars, new council chambers and mayoral houses. One time Soweto mayor, 'ET' Tshabalala was the highest paid councillor in the country, earning R5 000 a month. On the East Rand the ERDB announced that all white officials seconded to the councils were to have their salaries doubled.

With the sale of liquor outlets, and the failure of councils to win the incorporation of industrial parks into their borders, the councils' only source of finance was to increase rents and service charges.

Between March and September last year, 14 councils on the Witwatersrand announced rent increases. Residents dissatisfied with the quality of housing and services as well as the corruption and mismanagement of the BLA, opposed the increases .

In Katlehong and Davyton, opposition to rent increases was led by opposition councillors who called residents meetings to discuss the increases. In Soweto, Ratanda , Davyton and Tembisa, councillors realised that they were heading for confrontation with residents and suspended the increases.

In the Vaal, the Civic Association warned the Town council to suspend the increase. Since the tragic events of September last year, over 300 000 households have refused to pay rent in the Vaal.



The demand by students for democratic Student Representative Councils country-wide co-incided with problems faced by the residents as a result of the BLA. As in 1976, this co-incidence of students demands and resident problems generated resistance not only to the rent increases but to all forms of apartheid rule in the townships. To the call for lower rents and SRC's was added the call for the BLA to resign.

Since September last year, over 37 councillors have resigned, including the entire Ratanda and Mankweng Councils. A recent article noted that only 4 out of 22 councils on the Witwatersrand were still functioning. Vuyisile Siyothula of the Tembisa Town Council stated his reasons for resigning as:

- Ineffectiveness of the town council
- complete loss of credibility by the councillors
- Lack of adequate protection for councillors
- Residents had no confidence in the town councils and called them 'Dummy Bodies'
- The failure of the government to provide a financial base for the councils
- Staffing of the Councils was not properly planned by the government. The councils depended on staff from the Development Board who were paid exorbitant salaries. These salaries decreased the finances of the town councils.
- The refusal of black academics to serve on the town councils and their criticisms of them.
- People who served on the councils were semi-literate and did not have suitable qualifications (Star 5/12/84)

#### THE STATE OF BLACK LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN THE TRANSVAAL

The resignations of councillors and the suspension of the rent increases has been an important victory for the Front and its affiliates in local areas. Popular resistance has further discredited the councils, but they remain in nominal control of the townships and where they have resigned, administration has been handed back to the Boards. Residents are as yet in no position to democratically run their own areas.

The question remains as to the extent to which the councils have failed to co-opt and divide residents and what strategies of control they are likely to use in the future.

### Failure of ideological co-option

The corrupt nature of the councillors themselves and the campaigns against the rent increases mean that the councillors have lost what little credibility they may have once had.

At this stage government plans to salvage the councils by creating its 'informal, non-statutory forum' to debate constitutional issues affecting Africans has little chance of undermining the call for national political representation of African people. The challenge it presents to the UDF and its affiliates lies not in its acceptability but in its ability to co-ordinate, strengthen and support individual councils isolated by mass resistance. The recent attempts by the Urban Council's Association of SA (UCASA) to prevent the resignation of Katteridgeville mayor ZZ Mashao because of the way this would be exploited by opposition groupings is an indication that leading councillors realise the need to strengthen their organisations.

### Failure of material co-option

The government's inability to provide the material base for the councils has limited their ability to fulfill election promises. With the shelving of the rent increases, even less money is available for upgrading. Esau Mahlatsi, mayor of the Lekoa Council indicated this after the shelving of the Vaal rent increases in October last year.

At present many councillors are campaigning actively for the government to expand their financial base. They have demanded the inclusion of industries within their borders and access to municipal traffic licences and fines as well as government subsidisation of services. Recent recommendations by the Croeser Working Group suggest that white businesses should be taxed to benefit local government particularly in African areas. With the present recession and government cutbacks this seems a likely option for financing the BLA.

### Control and Division

However none of these solutions will work unless the BLA find a more effective way of smashing popular resistance and dividing the united opposition they face.

The town councils have been unable to win allies among the better off sections of the working class or middle class. Their policy of allocating houses, trading licences and other benefits to friends and relatives has aroused the wrath of thousands of aspirant traders and businessmen. Opposition councillors have been ruthlessly dealt with, narrowing the support base of the councils still further: Katlehong councillor Sukazi was suspended from the council and expelled for demanding that the council discuss the unrest in the area. Another Katlehong councillor Khoali was detained by the security police after resigning his council seat.

The recent decision to form private police forces points to an increase in the repressive function of the BLA. The proposed private police forces find parallels in Lennox Sebe's 'Green Berets' who conducted a campaign of terror against residents during the Mdantsane bus boycotts in 1973 and 1983. The extent of their activities has made it impossible for any above ground organisation to operate in the area.

The formation of private police units suggests that the councils have not explored the very loosely defined functions of the BLAA to the full.

A significant recent trend has been the involvement of the Soweto Council in shack demolitions in Protea. This suggests that with rising unemployment and the government's commitment to tie influx control to legal housing and jobs, the council will play a more active role in shack demolitions and expulsion of so-called 'illegals'. This development could be particularly serious on the East Rand where large numbers of people live in shacks.

#### THE PRESENT STATE OF COMMUNITY ORGANISATION IN THE TRANSVAAL

The gains made during the anti-election campaign by various organisations strengthened and popularised the UDF at a mass level. This popularity in turn led to the birth of new organisations in various places such as the Ratanda Civic Association in Heidelberg, Ekangala Civic Association in Bronkhorstspuit, Leandra Action Committee in Leslie and the Seshego Civic Association in Pietersburg.

At a mass level, the anti-tricameral and anti-BLA election campaigns together with the education and rent protests have mobilised large numbers of people. While these people may identify with the UDF, Cosas and civic organisations, these organisations have not succeeded in consolidating.

When the UDF was formed older organisations put all their efforts into popularising it. Activists were drawn from older organisations to do the front's work. This meant activists gave less attention to building organisation leading the weakening of these organisations.

Ensuring that one's organisation has consolidated mass support in its area of operation is of utmost importance to building the front and furthering the struggle against apartheid.

The following weaknesses can be identified in organisations operating on the civic front:

- \* Many of the organisations have no long term working programmed to direct their activities
- \* Many of these organisations respond to issues spontaneously and at times with little understanding.
- \* NOT EXPLORED The leadership has a limited understanding of the broader struggle. Repression has contributed to this weakness as organisations have never had time to develop leadership at all levels.
- \* Some of these organisations are content to identify with the front and allow it to direct their progress rather than embarking on local campaigns and activities this does not build local structures
- \* The lack of an inter-civic forum has contributed to the lack of co-ordination of civic activities and the failure to share experiences and skills

## THE WAY FORWARD

The following issues need to be considered by the Front in taking forward its campaign against the BLA:

- \* How can the Front generalise the campaign against the BLA throughout the country
- \* How can we popularise the people's demands for an alternative to the BLA
- \* How can the Front assist civic organisations and other organisations to overcome the problems of lack of resources, and leadership
- \* How can the Front channel new organisations into its fold
- \* How can civic organisations overcome lack of co-ordination
- \* How can civics establish closer links with trade unions to fight recent attempts to have outstanding rents deducted from wages

Town And Village Councils in South Africa

Mohlakeng  
Wesselton  
Alexandra  
Bela -Bela  
Atteridgeville  
Bohlokong  
Daveyton  
Diepmeadow  
Dobsonville  
Evaton  
  
Galeshewe  
Ikageng  
Jouberton  
Kagiso  
Katlehong  
Kayamnandi  
Kwaguqa  
Kwanobuhla  
Kwa Thema  
Lekoa  
  
Lingelihle  
Mamelodi  
Mangaung  
Mhluzi  
Rini  
seeisoville  
Soweto  
Tembisa  
Thabong  
Tokoza  
Vosloorus  
Watville

Community Councils still in existence

Aberdeen  
Ashton  
Colenso  
Parys  
Ceres  
Nduli  
Leandra  
Jamestown  
King Williams town  
Langa  
Nyanga  
Gugulethu  
Drift  
Sands  
Nyanga 111  
Middelberg(Cape)  
Lydenburg  
Robertson  
Nkqubela  
Stellenbosch  
Mfuleni  
LEKOA

Local Committees in existence

Local committees are advisory boards which are established in terms of Section 5 of the Black Local Authorities Act of 1982. All existing advisory Boards are now called Local committees or 'Committees'. The function of the committees is to advise the Development boards administering the area.

Stanger

Umzinto

Cedarville

Chrissiesmeer

Howick

Kwathandeka

Relebohile

Thapelang

Tshepong



Resignation of Councillors

| <u>Date resigned</u> | <u>Name</u>              | <u>Position</u>      |
|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 9/11/84              | Kebane Moloi             | chair Duduza         |
| 9/11/84              | Elliot Phahlane          | Deputy "             |
| Oct 84               | Entire Ratanda Council   |                      |
| 29/10/84             | Mankweng :entire council |                      |
| Oct 84               | Jan Modise               | Evaton               |
| 14/1/85              | Paul Mahlatsi            | Lekoa                |
| "                    | Meshack Mahlatsi         | "                    |
| "                    | Patrick Mpulenyane       | "                    |
|                      | Jan Mokwen               | "                    |
| November 84          | Z Z Mashao               | Mayor Atteridgeville |
| December 84          | Pitje                    | Mamelodi             |
|                      | SC Masila                | Tsakane (mayor)      |
|                      | Buthelezi                | " (deputy)           |
|                      | Vuyisile Siyothula       | Tembisa              |
|                      | Justice Piso             | "                    |
|                      | Solomon Letsoalo         | "                    |
|                      | S M Songo                | "                    |
| January 85           | Khoali                   | Khatlehong           |
|                      | Jacob Sekete             | Thokoza (mayor)      |
|                      | C Mfazi                  | Seeisoville          |
| 20 February 85       | A P Lefafa               | "                    |
|                      | 2 others                 | "                    |

| VAAL<br>NAME  | ORGANISATION   | LOCAL AUTHORITY   | ISSUE  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>LEKOA<br/>Sharpeville<br/>Sebonkeng<br/>Bophelong<br/>Evaton<br/>Boipatong</p> | <p>Vaal Civic Association<br/>Sharpeville Anti -Rent Committee<br/>Vaal Women's Organisation<br/>Cosas<br/>Azapo<br/>Orange Vaal General Workers Union<br/>Engineering and Allied Workers Union<br/>The entire leadership of all these organisations has been detained and the VCA has been taken over by a reactionary grouping</p> | <p>Two councillors were killed 6 councillors resigned and the rest went into hiding. Rent increases were suspended until after June 1985.</p> | <p>1 September Council raised rents in all townships under its control by R5.90</p> <p>Electricity tariffs by 10c a unit. the electricity levy was increased from R12.50 to R15 per month</p> <p>At the same time the councillors announced that their salaries would be increased by between R200 and R300 a month.</p> <p>All progressive organisations in the area joined together and called meetings during August 1984 to oppose the increase. They wrote letters to the council and circulated a petition. The council refused to lift the increases.</p> <p>On the weekend before the increases were due to be imposed, residents met and decided to boycott the increases and to stay away from work in protest against the increases.</p> <p>300 000 residents have boycotted the increases until the increase is scrapped. 300000 residents have refused to pay rents until the increases are scrapped.</p> |

| WEST RAND  | ORGANISATION                   | LOCAL AUTHORITY  | ISSUE   |
|------------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| ALEXANDRA  |                                | <p>Alexandra Town Council</p> <p>Mayor Rev. Sam Buti</p> <p>April 1984 the town council had a deficit of R875 840</p> <p>In September the council decided to suspend R1 500 000 project to convert an old brewery building into council chambers</p> <p>March 1984, Buti asked Botha to unban the ANC and PAC</p> <p>Buti returned as mayor and the deputy mayor-Makhubire Molepo Thomas was found guilty of extortion and fined R500 or 5 months.</p> <p>In December 1984 Buti challenged the Sandton Town council to incorporate industries within the borders of Alexandra so that it would become financially viable. This would enable the council to receive R1 900 000</p> <p>ATC is to spend R123 000 on the formation of a police force. The decision was to increase the existing police force to 65 and to add nine sergeants. Included in the budget were tearsmoke riot shields, helmets, sjamboks, and bomb blankets. The council said this police force was necessary because of recent unrest and its duties would be to prevent crime and to enforce council by-laws.</p> | <p>Rent increases : people in the new houses have been paying R10 rent. The council wants to put up rents to R124.55 and R139.55 for four and six roomed houses. People living in temporary buses and huts have been promised first option on new flats, but they are afraid they will not be able to afford the rents at R183 for a family flat and R113 for a bachelor flat. Presently paying R 10-R25</p> <p>IN December 1984 the ATC reduced the rents to R100 for a bachelor and R160 for a family flat.</p> <p>Phase One Neighbourhood Committee established to oppose the increases in the new houses. residents said they would not pay more than R40-R50 for 4 and 6 roomed houses</p> <p>Buses and Zinc Representative Committee</p> <p>Formed in October to resist the high rents in the flats and to protest against the fact that houses had not been built for them. They resolved to boycott the flats until an acceptable rental was fixed.</p> |
| BEKKERSDAL | Bekkersdal Residents Committee |  | Rents increased in April 1984. Still uses the bucket system   |
| MOHLAKENG  |                                | <p>Was elected as a village council in November 1983. It is now a town council. This means councillors get higher salaries.</p> <p>council elections postponed until January 1985, still dont think they have taken place.</p>   |   |

EST RAND

NAME

ORGANISATION

LOCAL AUTHORITY

ISSUE

GAGISO

Village Council Mayor 'Zokes' Moeketsi

Rents increased on 1 July  
R7 on 1 July;  
R7 on 1 October 1984

In November newspaper reports noted that the councillors were angry with WRDB for dragging its feet over the electrification of the township.

'These people dont live with us in the townships, but they should know by now that we are open to attack from residents if we dont do what they want'

Councillor Modiba ' We have become a fully fledged town council for a year now, but it seems wrab officials still think that we are a community council'

City Council

Mayor ET Tshabalala deposed and replaced by Edward Kunene.

Dr Koornhof wrote of R33 million debt of the new council in March 1984.

councillors ensured themselves for R100 000 each and insured the mayoral chain and 2 luxury cars for R50 000  
Councillor J Mkalose suspended for 45 days for evicting pensioners

ET allocated 7 residential sites to himself to develop

Mayoral allowance of R5 000 per month is the highest in the country presently His deputy gets R3000 and the other councillors R 1 500

Sofasonke party accused Councillor Manyosi of corruption and demanded he be expelled from the council

STC refused to allow reporters to attend council meetings because they told lies.

Council looking into establishing a tollgate at the entrance of Soweto encouraging buisnesses to be established in the area and getting licences from the Johannesburg City Council.

SOWETO

Soweto  
civic  
Association  
branches:  
Mofolo  
Chiawelo  
Dlamini  
Phiri  
Mapetla  
Thladi/  
Moletsane  
Meadowlands  
Orlando West  
Orlando East  
  
Diepkloof  
Klipspruit/  
  
Pimville  
Mzimhlophe

Rent increases

The electricity levies will increase from R12 to R29 by 1986.

Water tariffs increased from R10.5 to R12.65 for the flat rate.

Clinic fees raised from R2 to R7

electricity Levy  
rents  
Evictions  
Water Cuts  
Bus fare increases  
Bulk buying  
Sale of homes  
Aid centres  
Squatters

| NAME        | ORGANISATION               | LOCAL AUTHORITY  | ISSUE  |
|-------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| DIEPMEADOW  |                            | <p>Diepmeadow town council<br/>Mayor : J C Mahuhushi</p> <p>DTC to spend R200 000 to renovate council offices to convert into a double story mansion for the mayor.</p> <p>Diepmeadow council says it will evict all pensioners illegally resident in rooms, shacks, and hostels</p> |  |
| TUMAHOLE    | Tumahole Civic Association |  | <p>Protest against the rent increases broke out in July 1984. Causes were rent and GST increases but underlying questions were unemployment dissatisfaction with the community council and difficulty in obtaining trading sites. The taxi business is also owned by councillors. Residents demanded that councillors should only take decisions with the council's consent.</p> |
| HEEISOVILLE |                            | 4 members of the Council resigned their seats  | School boycott   |
| MANKWENG    |                            | Entire council resigned immediately after the election because the poll was so low   |  |

| EAST RAND<br>NAME | ORGANISATIC'  | LOCAL AUTHORITY  | ISSUE  |
|-------------------|---|--|--|
| KATLEHONG         | East Rand People's<br>organisation<br>Katlehong Youth<br>Steering Committee | <p>Mayor : A P Khumalo</p> <p>Conflicts between councillors:<br/>centred on Khoali who refused to<br/>attend council meetings and<br/>was suspended. He later resigned and<br/>was detained by the security police<br/>Mogorosi also suspended and later<br/>assasinated.</p> <p><u>Sale of liquor outlets</u><br/>Khumalo opposed to the sale of<br/>the liquor outlets because he said<br/>they were too expensive, blacks<br/>would be used as a front by<br/>white buisnessmen, and he also<br/>said the council needed the income<br/>from the liquor outlets.</p> <p>Mr Sukazi absented himself from<br/>several council meetings because the<br/>council refused to discuss the<br/>causes of the riots.<br/>Khumalo said that in terms of the<br/>BLA his seat could be declared<br/>vacant.</p> | <p><u>Issues</u> Water cuts, rent, education,<br/>shacks</p> <p><u>Water cuts</u><br/>Betw, March and April 84, water was<br/>cut off to 20 000 residents while<br/>pipes replaced. Not enough water<br/>provided by tanker, and residents<br/>had to walk 4km. The new pipes<br/>immediately burst because made of<br/>asbestos instead of steel and the<br/>pressure was too strong for them.<br/>Rumours were that residents would<br/>have to pay for the wasted water.</p> <p><u>Shacks</u><br/>March to December 1983 68 000<br/>people had their shacks demolished.<br/>In jan.84 50 000 people left homeless<br/>after shacks demolished by ERAB.<br/>29 000 sent to the homelands.<br/>In Katlehong there are 2x number<br/>of shacks than there are houses</p> <p>Rent was increased in the area<br/>from 1 July 1984. Council said<br/>the reason was to :<br/>-upgrade sewerage network</p> <p>Unrest started in Katlehong in<br/>September, no clear cause, but<br/>appears to be related to the schools<br/>situation.</p> |
| THOKOZA           | Thokoza Progressive<br>Party (TPP)  | <p>Mayor Mr Jacob Sekete, resigne in<br/>November 1984. New mayor Mr Matsoso</p>   | <p>Rent increase<br/>Tokoza council raised rnets by R8 73<br/>which was to cover the upgrading of<br/>sewerage and electricity.<br/>TPP orgnaised a meeting of residents<br/>who decided to defy paying the rent<br/>increase and told the mayor and<br/>the chairman of the management committe<br/>to get out of the meeting.<br/>The Town council set up a commission<br/>of enquiry to look into:<br/>- the rent increase<br/>-a housing scheme, and site and service<br/>-making additional sources of finance<br/>available eg from Alberton town Council<br/>' and car licences being made available</p> <p><u>Shacks</u><br/>Councillor A N Yende charging<br/>squatters rent to live on a piece<br/>of land he obtained as a buisness<br/>site. No sanitation provided.<br/>EARAB says it is illegal and shacks<br/>will be demolished.</p>   |

| EAST MANU<br>OWNSHIP | ORGANISATION   | LOCAL AUTHORITY  | ISSUES   |
|----------------------|--|--|--|
| TEMBISA              | <p>Moya Youth Movement</p> <p>Tembisa Civic Association</p> <p>Cosas</p> | <p>Councillor Vuyisile Siyothula resigned for the following reasons: ineffectiveness of council complete loss of credibility with residents lack of protection for councillors residents called councils dummy bodies government did not provide a financial base for the councils Staffing of the councils was not properly planned by the government salaries decreased the of the councils Councillors were semi-literate Black academics refused to serve on the councils other councillors who resigned were Justice Pitso, Solomon Letsoalo, S M Songo</p> | <p>rent</p> <p>education</p> <p>electricity tariffs</p> <p>Rent was increased by R4</p> <p>Opposition to the rent increase led by the Civic Association, Cosas, Moya and Hospital View residents, who later pulled out</p> <p>Residents finally won the repeal of the rent increase in September 1984</p> <p>Rubbish bins in Tembisa were not emptied for a month after the stay away because the ERDB said it was not safe.</p> <p>Rents in Tembisa will go up by R4 in 1985 to cover salaries of white officials that will double.</p>     |
| TSAKANE              |  | <p>SC Masila mayor, resigned together with his deputy, Buthlezi</p>  | <p>rents and shacks</p>  |
| EKANGAL              | <p>Ekangala Civic association</p>  |  | <p>transport (Putco and SASTS recently incorporated into KwaNdebele</p>  |
| <u>RATANDA</u>       | <p>Ratanda Civic Association</p> <p>Cosas</p>                            | <p>Entire Community Council resigned</p> <p>Elections for a Black Local Authority could not be held because no one put forward their names as a candidate.</p>   | <p>Community council announced R5,50 rent increase. Residents took a decision to boycott the increase. Residents called on ERDB to explain the rent increase.</p> <p>In late August the community council resigned and the ERDB suspended the rent increase</p> <p>In January the ERDB threatened to evict residents who did not pay the increase. residents took a decision not to pay the increase and ERDB agreed not to evict families, but to look into other ways of obtaining the outstanding rent</p> <p>Other issues: Education</p> |

| EAST RAND<br>NAME | ORGANISATION | LOCAL AUTHORITY  | ISSUE   |
|-------------------|--------------|--|---|
| <u>KWATHEMA</u>   |              | <p>Mayor Reverend Mzamane</p> <p>Council elections postponed until January 1985</p>  | <p>Issues: education, flooding, high house prices, water cuts</p> <p><u>Flooding</u><br/>Houses in Mthembu Village were built on a swamp and flood during rainy season. Residents asked the ERAB to rebuild the demolish these houses and rebuild new ones on dry land.</p> <p>110 Stands have been allocated to a building company for prestige houses, residents feel that the company is exploiting the housing shortage as the rent is R250 , excluding the bond repayment.</p> <p>Residents had water cut off for over a week in June and had to fetch water from Tsakane and Duduza, 8km away. The council had not even tried to supply residents with water tankers.</p> |
| <u>WATVILLE</u>   |              | <p>mayor Noel Mlokoti</p> <p>Council demanded granting of 99 year leasehold in Watville and threatened to resign if it was not given. The mayor went to visit Koornhof and said that council could not solve housing backlog or raise income without 99 year leasehold.</p> <p>In November the councillors said that they had achieved nothing by way of developing the area since they were voted to power and they blamed the government for retarding progress in the area. 99year leasehold was granted in February 1985</p> <p>Council terminated the services of 3 white officials because of the poor state of the budget. They would save R 60 000 a year by terminating the services of these officials</p> |   |



| NAME           | ORGANISATION | LOCAL AUTHORITY  | ISSUE   |
|----------------|--------------|--|---|
| VOSLOOSRUS     |              | <p>Mayor Mr Mahlangu<br/>Mayor Gideon Mgoduka</p> <p>Town Council raised site rent from R15,70-R17.70 to cover the costs of temporary accomodation for white council officials. The Council will spend R150 000 on temporary offices and R2,5 million permanent offices<br/>Electricity levy increased from R7-R10.</p>  | <p>residents criticised the council for building a new women's hostel instead of building flats for families</p> <p>Vosloosrus People's Party called on the council to resign</p> <p>Housing shortage<br/>Cuouncil failed to build 250 homes for lower income families. They only build expensive houses that are beyond the means of ordinary residents.</p> <p>VPP called on residents to sign a petition to protest against the rent increases, this petition was to be handed to the Town council and the Dept. of Co-operation and Development.<br/>The petition asked that the rent inc. increases be suspended until 1985 or scrapped altogether.</p>  |
| <u>DUDUZA</u>  |              | <p>Five out of seven councillors resigned from the council and then rescinded their decision.</p> <p>The mayor and his deputy vowed never to return to the council, because of a call from the residents and lack of protection from the government. They said they would only be prepared to come back if they could have a free hand to run the towahlp without interference from the Board</p>  |   |
| <u>DAVYTON</u> | Erapo        | <p>Mayor Tom Boya</p> <p>'councillors have allowed themselves to be used by the Government in order to increase rent. the government is too scared to do this on their own and also they do not have the welfare of councillors at heart. When town councils were introduced under Black Local Authorities, we were all optimistic that we were going to achieve success, but soon thereafter, we discovered that being a councillor or serving in a Government created institution was difficult and dangerous at the same time.'</p> <p>Shadrack Sinaba(councillor) led a group of squatters to Holfontein farm and then charged them R50 each to squat, 31 women had their shacks demolished by Erab.</p> | <p>Erapo organised a public meeting attended by 2000 people to protest against 50% bus fare increase and 50% rent increase. the meeting decided to go on paying the old rent and to boycott the buses.</p> <p>In September 1984, the Council lowered the rent increase by R5. Boya said the rent increase was necessary to cover slaries, maintenance loan charges, and welfare services. The council had a deficit of R3 million</p> <p>Boya said the council needed R100m to wipe out the housing backlog He said he wanted to encourage the establishment of factories within the borders and also receive traffic licences from the Benoni Town Council.</p> <p>Davyton Town Council fired five senior white officials because they were not prepared to co-operate and were working against the decisions taken at council meetings.</p> |

| NAME                         | ORGANISATION  | LOCAL AUTHORITY   | ISSUE   |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|
| MAMELODI                     | Mamelodi Action Committee                                 | <p>Mayor: Alex Kekana<br/>Council plans to establish its own police force. The council says it will not be used to enforce apartheid, but to protect residents and their property against criminals.</p> <p>Mamelodi Town council inherited the debts of the former town council including more than R2,4 million.</p> <p>Councillor Pitje debated the issue of lodgers fees and said that lodgers should not have to pay fees.</p> <p>Pitje also said that councillors should not involve themselves in evicting poor people from their homes.</p> <p>councillor Simon Mabusu said that all sickly people who could not afford to pay rent should get a medical certificate and could be excused from paying rent until they were fit to work again.</p> <p>December 1984, council announced that it will spend R7,6 m on upgrading roads, providing houses for council employees, extension to public toilets at stations, development of parking areas for taxis and buses and improvements to sewerage network.</p> <p>councillor Pitje criticised the council for spending money extravagantly on cars and a police force. He announced his resignation from the council, said disillusioned</p> |   |
| SAULSVILLE/<br>ATERIDGEVILLE | Asro Atteridgeville and Saulsville Residents Organisation | <p>Mayor ZZ Mashao resigned<br/>The council said this increased their deficit to R2,9 million. Cuts in essential services would happen because of this. Mashao said that the increases were justified. He said his council was angry with the government's failure to subsidise the infrastructure and services in the urban areas. If the government is prepared to subsidise the local authorities, my council will have a better chance to convince residents that they must also play their part in paying for services they consumed.'</p>   | <p>Council raised rents by 20% for site, church and businesses. Asro protested against the increase. So did the Atteridgeville Chamber of Commerce of which Mr Mashao is chair. Mashao disassociated himself from this move.</p> <p>In August the tariff increases were declared illegal as they had not been approved by the minister. 500 residents signed a petition rejecting the increases and calling for the resignation of the whole council</p> <p>In September the council decided to suspend tariff increases following widespread unrest.</p> |

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