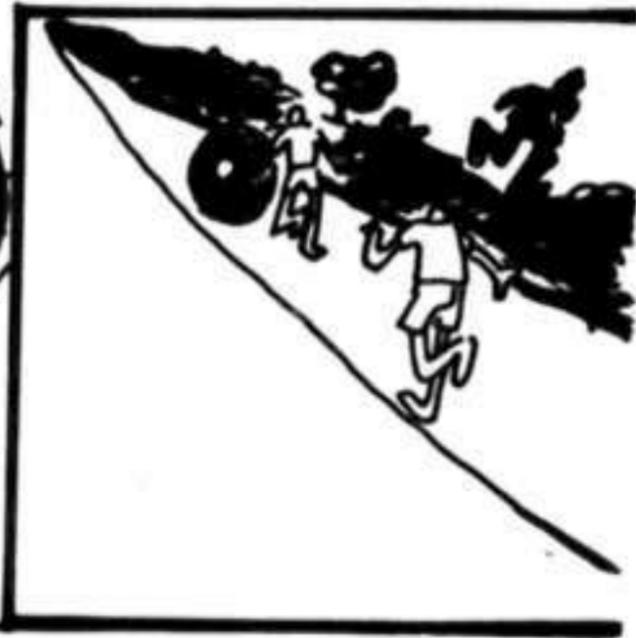
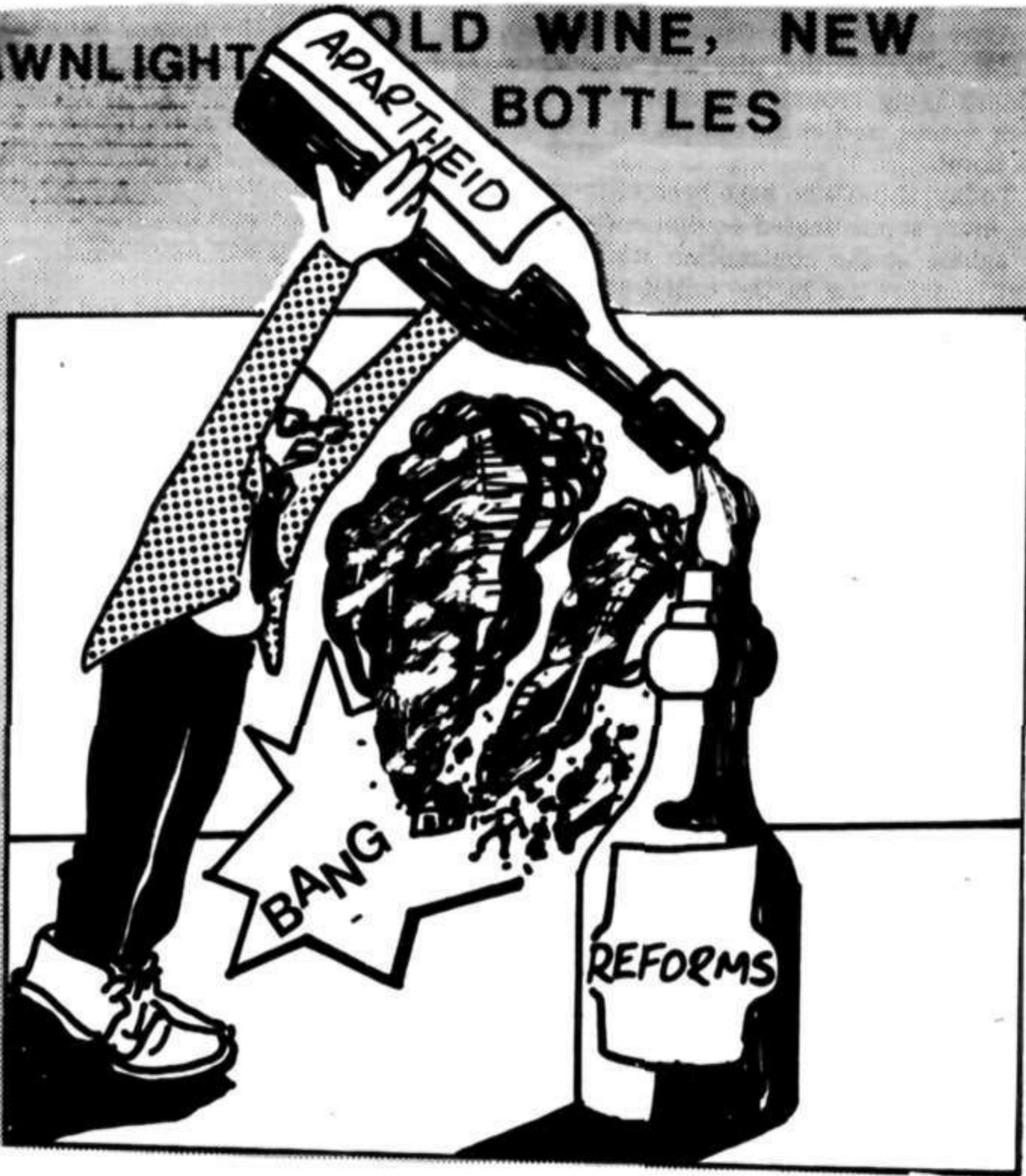


DAWNLIGHT OLD WINE, NEW BOTTLES



SPOTLIGHT ON THE NORTHERN CAPE

Two comrades from the area who have recently joined Umkhonto we Sizwe speak to DAWN

VRYBURG is a small cattle rearing town in the Northern Cape Province. Among the industries in the area we have Epol Animal Feed which also produces fertilisers. There are also industries which specialise in dairy products; milk, cheese, butter and fruit juices. Pico Fashions is also a clothes manufacturing industry in the area.

HUHUDI

Huhudi is a township near Vryburg with its people faced with serious difficulties under the laws of apartheid. There are no proper streets except Nosipoa, which is the main road from the township to town. There is only one high school, Bopanang, and two big beer halls and one men's hostel.

The current problems facing the people is forced removals. They were forced to move from Huhudi to Pudimoe in 1979. According to the Northern Cape Administration Board the removals had to be carried out because:

1. Huhudi was not well planned;
2. To make room for the extension of Vryburg;
3. There was no more space for housing; and
4. Pudimoe is a beautiful place for agriculture.

In 1979 the first group was forced into trucks and taken to Pudimoe, just a year after the introduction of community councils in the area. No action was taken

by the community but that was because then there were no people's organisations.

Another group was taken away in 1982 but still the chairman of the community council, Dikole, did nothing. The people were just in darkness until Huca was established in 1983 to oppose the community councils.

YOUTH ORGANISATION

Huhudi Youth Organisation came into being following the schools boycott in July 1983. In Bopanang High School where the boycott raged on for two months, the principal called in the police. Twenty six students were arrested. The school boycott had an impact in mobilising the students and the people of Huhudi.

With the formation of Huyo and Huco, the community councils lost support among the people. Despite police intimidation of members and activists of Huyo and Huco, the organisations grew in strength.

The leadership of Huyo was broken up after its president was taken away secretly by police for interrogation. He resigned after his release, but Huyo stood firm and continued the resistance against removals to Pudimoe. In schools teachers used classrooms as platforms to condemn Huyo and Huco.

VILLAGES

Vryburg is surrounded by villages; Ganyesa, 70km from Vryburg and Dryharts, 50km away. Mangope claims that these areas

fall under Bophuthatswana. Because of unemployment, a lot of people from these surrounding villages go to Vryburg searching for work. Men are employed on the farms, working for a bag of mealies a month.

In 1983 these areas were also affected by Mangope's rage against donkeys which extended to areas like Kuruman, Ganyesa, Tlaskgameng and others. Opposition in Kuruman was fierce. Seoposengwe Democratic Party and Kuruman Youth Unity spearheaded this opposition.

For many years before the formation of Huco and Huyo the people of Huhudi endured apartheid in silence. When Huyo was formed it involved itself fully in the problems of the community and the whole community was inspired by this new spirit of the youth. As a result Huco was formed, including Huhudi Detainees Parents Support Committee and a branch of Gawu and Cosas.

UDF

All these organisations are affiliated to the UDF. The people support the UDF because they know what it stands for. The people have a high regard for the African National Congress as a fighting organisation and their vanguard but there is little of its literature in the area. This is due to the lack of a strong ANC underground presence in the area.

People are ready to take part in both legal and illegal methods of struggle. If the ANC can make itself more felt in the area, the trucks and lorries of the racist army en route to Namibia will be decreased in Vryburg.

THE DONK NORTHE

THE RESISTANCE against the killing of donkeys is a landmark in the history of political resistance in the Northern Cape. The student schools boycott, workers strikes, community actions and resistance against forced removals are some of the few events which have pushed the tiny semi-rural areas of Mothibestad, Sishen, Huhudi and Kuruman into the limelight of political activity.

Largely the Northern Cape is a dry region within the Karoo. Economic activity centres around cattle breeding, agricultural farming, mining and a few light industries. About thirty asbestos mines are found around Kuruman and Priska and lung cancer resulting from asbestos mining affects about 270 miners in every thousand.

Many towns and neighbouring villages are heavily polluted with the lethal blue asbestos dust. Mesothelioma — the cancer of the leural lining of the lungs and abdomen — kills hundreds of African miners every year.

The dust lingers in every corner of Priska, and elsewhere in the Northern Cape, including buildings, vegetable gardens, residential areas and play grounds. Five centimetres thick blue asbestos dust on roof beams in schools is a common sight. Many mines still do not provide protective respiratory gear for the many miners who toil to their death for a pittance.

The Northern Cape is made of traditional village type settlements. The difference here, unlike in traditional villa-