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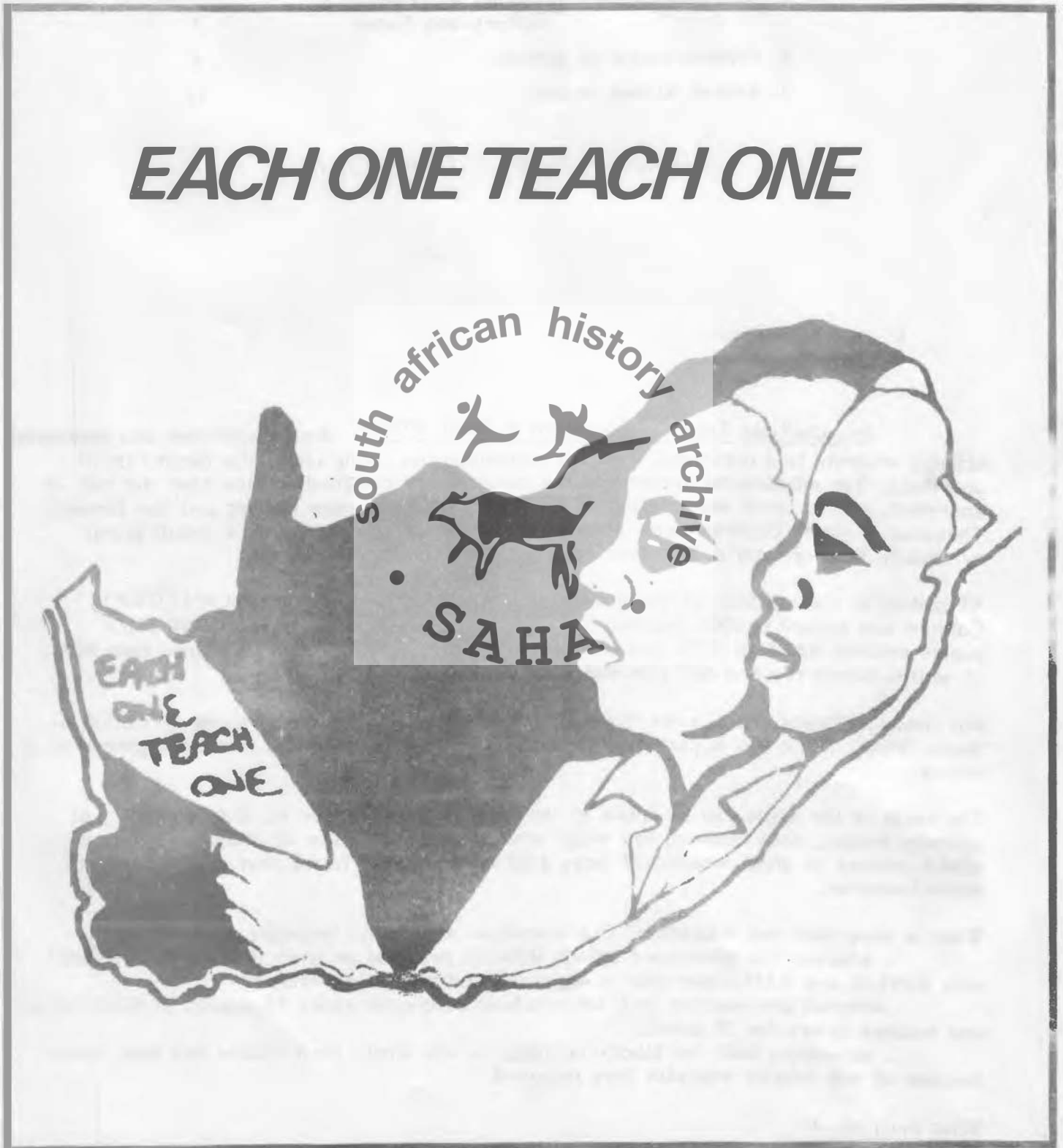
# COSAS

MARCH/APRIL 1983 No.1

## NATIONAL NEWSLETTER QUARTERLY

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 61875, MARSHALLTOWN, JOHANNESBURG, 2107

### *EACH ONE TEACH ONE*



***COSAS THEME 82/83 'STUDENT WORKER ACTION'***

1. Introduction: Crisis in Education in South Africa	
2. National Congress and National Council	Page: 1
3. Branch Reports	2
4. Role of a National Newspaper	4
5. Multi-Racial or Non-Racial Sports	5
6. Science	6
7. Detained, Banned, Poisoned and Missing Siphiwo and Topay	7
8. Representation at Schools	9
9. Worker student action	11

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Introduction: Crisis in Education in South Africa

We as exploited and oppressed school students find ourselves, with our communities living under the harsh rule of apartheid. The educational systems of our country are designed to strengthen the rule of apartheid, and to serve the interest of the factory bosses, mine owners and the farmers. Thousand of young children enter primary school every year, but only a small group eventually finishes matric. and even fewer go to university or college.

According to the statistic of the government, less than half of the Blacks (African, Coloured and Indian) in 1974 reached Std.2 by 1977. The figures are: 402,496 black pupils entered sub A in 1974, but only 186,698 were in Std 2 in 1977. More than 90% of whites pupils reached Std 2 in the same period.

But these statistics tell a wider story. They tell the story of the crisis of education in South Africa. The crisis is part of a bigger political and economical crisis the government is facing.

The roots of the crisis can be found in the type society we live in. It is a country of poverty, hunger, homelessness, low wage and a high death rate of children. But it is also a country of great wealth, of large gold mines, of big farms that export food to other countries.

What is wrong with our education? Our education is unequal because:

- . whereas the government spends R931,00 per year on every white child, it spend only R253,00 and R139,00 per year on coloured and african children :
- . whereas one teacher in a white school caters for every 18 pupils, in black school one teacher caters for 39 pupils.
- . also about half the black matriculants who wrote their exams last year failed- because of the inferior education they received.

What must we do?

We must combine our education with, with labour of our parents, the workers, so as not to confine education to schools or to textbooks reading only. We cannot divorce ourselves from the struggles and lives of our parents. We demand free education for all students in South Africa. We demand a peoples control over education.

## NATIONAL CONGRESS

The National Congress of COSAS was held in May 1982 in Cape Town and the following students were elected to the National Executive Committee

President : Sheperd Mati  
Vice President : Irvan Parage  
Secretary General : John Mlungisi  
Publicity Secretary : Lize Ngokoto  
National Organisation : Tshediso Matona, Simphiwe Ngema  
Treasurer : Toivo Mokgojoa.

The "Student worker action" was adopted as a theme for 1982 - 1983. Through this theme COSAS intend to educate its membership about the workers struggle and how do student struggle relate to workers struggle.



Left to right: (back row) Lize Ngokoto, Toivo Mokgojoa, Lulu Johnson  
(front row) Irvan Parage, Tshediso Matona, Sheperd Mati

## NATIONAL COUNCIL

The National Council meets quarterly. At this meeting branches review their development within the organisation assess the activities in which the branches have involved and decide which direction the organisation need to go from there. The fourth National Council was held in Wentworth, Durban from the 9- 12 December 1982. The National Council was attended by representatives from Regions of COSAS in South Africa except the Eastern Cape. It was very unfortunate that the Eastern Cape delegation was stopped by Transkei on the way to the National Council.

The Policy and Programme of Action were readopted. Lack of financial was seen as the one of the main problem in COSAS. It was suggested that



finance committees be set up in all branches to look into various methods of fund raising such as Jumble Sales, Drama festivals, Gumbas, braai etc. was suggested. For the last few months COSAS is concentrating more on student problems at school, that too much emphasis on community issues. In this way we can attract/draw in many new students into the organisation. There have been definite moves in the Eastern and Western Cape towards forming regional structures which meet at least once a month. This also promotes greater contact and understanding among students. It has also pointed out that COSAS has now 44 branches nationally and is still growing. This indicates that COSAS is becoming the true voice of student in South Africa, despite the problems they are going through in their growth.

The next National Council will be in June 1983. How can we make this success? A few suggestions were made on that. By organising Regional Councils in which we can elect reps, who will reflect a genuine position and reports of their branches. Review, reflect and compile reports during Regional Councils. At the Regional Council we also review the following:-

(a) Involvement at school

What sort of activities did our members involve themselves in? What was the response of the students, parents and Teachers to such activities? How did we benefit as an organisation from them?

(b) Extension:-

How many members are in our branches? What role have our members played in these structures?

Let us make all efforts and use energy at our disposal to make June 1983 National Council a success.

EACH ONE TEACH ONE

EXPULSION OF ONE STUDENT IS AN EXPULSION OF ALL STUDENTS.



BRANCH REPORTS

PORT ELIZABETH

Harrassment of the branch members has been the order of the day. This is witnessed by the continuous raids at the homes of COSAS members, taking away all useful reading books and constitutions. On one occasion 14 branch members were taken to Sanlam offices (Security) for questioning. Despite all these attempts to break down this Port Elizabeth branch, there is still determination to work.

They are now organising extra-tutorial classes to help members and other interested students. The branch is meeting once a week.

BLOEMFONTEIN

The branch in this area is working under difficult circumstances. It suffers isolation because of its geographic placement and because of the history of less political activity of the area. Members are working towards establishment of structures in their schools. Recently Maud Setilo, Oupa Mothupi and others were also detained by the security police under Section 22.