We wish to urge our youth to let their voices be heard by writing articles for our youth page about issues of interest to them.

Please send articles to: Pupils Forum PO Box 10674 Johannesburg 2000

or contact the Education reporter at: (011) 23-2721/5



A COLD war is looming between Daveyton parents and teachers after local stu-dents accused their educators of not perfoming their duties.

At a meeting called by the local branch of the Congress of SA Students (Cosas) ty assignments.

The students' meeting was poorly attended because most Daveyton residents were attending another meeting called by the town council to discuss the rent issue.

Only about 20 parents turned up at the meeting at the Lionel Kent Centre. They left angry and urged other parents and teachers to meet immediately.

According to the meeting's organisers, teachers had been informed of the meeting, but had not attended it.

Responding to questions from angry parents about why students had not called the meeting earlier, Cosas branch president Stanley Rapodile said a crisis committee had been elected some months before. This committee had been expected to call parents, students and teachers to meetings to discuss the education crisis in the town-

However, this committee had not fulfilled its tasks.

A parent who lives near Rivoni Secondary School said she always saw teachers and students moving in and out of the school and she had wondered when any learning took place.

Rapodile said the shortage of teachers and textbooks also had a detrimental effect on schooling.

A few weeks ago, students staged a sit-in at the Department of Education and Training's Highveld regional offices in Springs to demand textbooks.

A few days later textbooks were delivered to some schools. However, according to Rapodile, these were too few and one textbook still had to be shared by up to eight students.

Parents at the meeting were also told of he misuse of a school vehicle by school au- | Teachers' Union (Sadtu) on October thorities.

the crisis which their children faced in the | Education Union of SA (Neusa). schools. He said the best way to do this was to form Parent-Teacher-Student Asso- | THE initiative to form Neusa was taken afciations.

had suspected that all was not well in the were passive and failed to respond to Banschools, as parents had not been asked to tu education and the brutality of the state attend any meetings for some time.

"We decided to call a parents' meeting | because we foresaw trouble. Some students by 1980, the organisation was already opeven went to the extent of threatening to Rapodile. He added that the teachers' response when approached by the students had not been an encouraging one.

"When we ask them why they are not teaching us, they say: 'We will get our salaries whether you pass or not'," said Rapo-

Since the meeting was poorly attended, those parents present mandated the students to arrange another meeting for this weekend. All parents, teachers and students in Daveyton are requested to attend.

Parents to intervene in last weekend, students revealed that teachers, mainly in high schools, spent most of their time in school staff rooms working on their University of SA and Vista University of SA and



Neusa members on the East Rand march with students earlier this year to highlight demands for better education facilities.

This is the last in our series on how teacher organisations view the launch of the SA Democratic 6. PUPILS FORUM spoke to the giant Rapodile called on parents to intervene in | teacher organisation, the National

ter the 1976 uprisings, as some teachers A parent told PUPILS FORUM that he | felt that teacher organisations at the time against pupils.

Neusa president Curtis Nkondo said that,

Sadtu a realisation of Neusa's aims

erating nationally, despite state repression. It was banned in February 1987 until February 2 this year. After its unbanning, the organisation grew rapidly and it now commands a large membership throughout the country.

Nkondo said the establishment of Sadtu is a victory for Neusa, because one of the objectives at the organisation's launch had been to form a single non-racial teacher body to fight apartheid education.

Asked if affiliation to a political party jeopardised Neusa's service to the community, Nkondo said: "It should not, because,

when we adopted the Freedom Charther, we believed its aims were those of everybody. When we say 'the doors of learning | and culture shall be open to all', who does not wish that to happen?"

• Meanwhile, teachers from the Bolobedu Teachers' Union (BTU), in the Far Northern Transvaal, have distanced themselves from the remarks made by their president, Molebatsi Masedi, to PUPILS FORUM two weeks ago. Masedi said the organisation was opposed to affiliation to Neusa because Neusa was affiliated to the UDF.

physically attack the teachers. Students are considering not writing examinations beconsidering not writing examinations beconsidering they are not ready " said Books crisis at Zululand University

UNIVERSITY of Zululand students have expressed concern over the lack of study facilities at the institution and say their academic progress is in jeopardy.

One student, who asked to be identified only as "Penn", told PUPILS FORUM that students queue for more than two hours to get access to the library, because it can only accommodate a few students at a

Other claims are that there is a massive shortage of books and that lecturers have

advised students to use other libraries at the University of Natal and Durban-Westville campuses.

In addition, according to the reports, university authorities had deliberately ordered books written in Afrikaans. This had made it difficult for most students to use them.

Because of the shortage, many students had taken five or six years to complete four-year degrees.

Students also complained of unfair marking of examination scripts, which, they claimed, had resulted in frustration and a high drop-out rate.

A costly gate built recently, made students believe that the university authorities were more concerned about security than students' academic performance.

At the same time, students expressed concern over the rector's alleged refusal to guarantee students' safety on campus.

The rector reportedly refused to guarantee students' security during an Inkatha rally and, fearing a repetition of the 1983 incident when some students were killed in clashes with Inkatha supporters after a rally, students fled the campus for about a week.

University spokesperson Carel de Villiers admitted that the library was poorly equipped and said the university was in the process of getting financial aid from overseas in order to acquire books.

He said that, as far as unfair marking was concerned, they had not received any complaints and were not aware of any.

De Villiers said more than a quarter of a million rand was spent on a gate for the engineering faculty.

Fort Hare looking for people's rector

AS part of the process of transforming itself into a "people's university", Fort Hare University will soon appoint a new rector.

This follows the appointment of a new council at the university a few months ago.

The decision on the new rector will, for the first time, be reached after consultation with the entire university family of academics, workers and past and present students.

ly-elected council, University of Cape Town economics professor Francis Wilson, the new rector will be sought both inside and outside the country.

"Advertisements for the post will be made, locally and internationally, very shortly," he said.

Major changes have swept through the university since the Ciskei coup which toppled president Lennox Sebe early this year.

Sebe's ousting gave students and workers the opportunity to step up the pressure for senior management officials to resign.

Among those who resigned is the former rector, John Lamprecht, who was reported to have been seconded by the South African government. According to the reports, Lamprecht and other top officials at the university had previously enjoyed Sebe's protection when pressurised to quit.

Reports from the university indicate that it is currently looking at engaging in research to identify areas that need improvement and ways of assisting the community.