

Lum/086/0034/27

### THE GUEST SPEAKER'S SPEECH

Dora Tamana, the guest speaker, opened the road on the second day of the Conference. Dora Tamana's speech was strong and clear. It opened our eyes to the organisation of South African women in the past and pointed to the road for organisation in the present.

### LOVE

"I have come to speak to you out of love for you," Dora Tamana said. Aunt Dora Tamana described how she was arrested during the state of emergency. But she did not leave her children behind. She told the police to wait outside while she collected her children. And they went to jail with her. Aunt Dora urged the women: "Women, if you are caught, don't leave your children behind."

### FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN

Dora Tamana recalled the Federation of South African women.

In 1954, when the Federation was born, all women felt the pains of birth. There was a great uprising of women from all Africa. All colours were together in the Federation - black, white, Indian, and Coloured. "Do not forget," Aunt Dora said, "that even the whites cannot live happily until our country is free. And remember, too, that we women are equal with our men. When the women came together in the Federation days, men did the cooking and cleaning.

And that is how it should be," the guest speaker said.

### 20,000 WOMEN MARCH TO PRETORIA

The Federation led 20,000 women in a march to Pretoria. The women marched in protest against the Pass and the rising cost of bread. Then, as now, women could not keep their children alive because of the hard conditions of living, Dora Tamana said.

### BIRTH OF THE U.W.O.

The Federation, Aunt Dora said, was born under 4 organisations-the ANC, CPC, NIC, Congress of Democrats. But then the government came and banned those organisations. The government uprooted them from the people and crippled the Federation - crippled the child of the people.

The women looked around, wanting once more to stand up.

The time to stand up came in the late 1970's when the women's organisation was born again. That was a time of high rents, getting higher and higher.

The government put us in stables for horses, not houses. There are not ceilings, no floors, no doors, but the rents are high.

"We had to find a strong organisation to fight for us."

This organisation is the U.W.O. The U.W.O. has grown in strength since 1978, till we have the Conference today.



### CALL THE WOMEN TO JOIN

"Now that we are strong, call the women to join," Dora Tamana said.

Hambani makosikazi!

Mothers release yourselves!

### WE STAND FOR:

The U.W.O., the guest speaker said, stands for:

- creches for children;
- free unitary education;
- jobs for all, irrespective of colour;
- proper homes for all.

Dora Tamana said that she remembered reading about houses being built in Mitchell's Plain, for people who were squatting. Interested, Aunt Dora looked closer and saw that they charged R40.00 a month.

"Where must people get it?" she asked.

### CRYING FOR RELIEF

"All people are crying for relief," the guest speaker said. "People of all colours."

"Our people demand better lives."

There are no old age homes for our people. There is no care for the sick. There are no creches for our children. We have no proper place to live. We can't live where we want to. Group areas break us up. It is difficult to know each other. "It is the government that makes us quarrel amongst each other, to weaken us," Aunt Dora said.

### NONQOSE

"Before we were separated, the country belonged to all", the guest speaker said. But the old people were deceived. They were tricked as we saw in the play Nonqose. The Nonqose story in our history tells of how the white man took our land, with promises of heaven that never materialized.

### THE PASS DIVIDES US

We are not in a trap, Dora Tamana said, but these chains are still with us today. The pass and the way it divides us, are our chains. The pass divides contract workers and permanent workers. Contract workers have to think of supporting two houses, so they are scared to stand up against oppression. We must unite to fight against the pass and this division, the guest speaker said.

Senzeni na? Senzeni na?

What have we done? What have we done?

### STAND TOGETHER

"Women, stand together," Dora Tamana urged. Build the organisation. Make it strong.