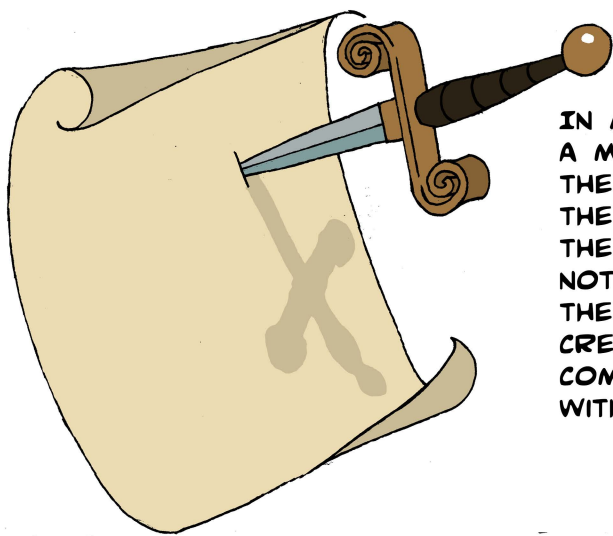


CROSSROADS BECAME KNOWN AS 'A PLACE FULL OF TRANSKEI WOMEN.' THIS WAS BECAUSE WOMEN WERE IN CHARGE OF THE MAJORITY OF THE HOUSEHOLDS IN THE CAMP. ADDITIONALLY MEN WORKING IN THE CITY HEARD THAT THERE WAS A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE COULD LIVE AS FAMILIES.



IN SPITE OF THE POLICE RAIDS THAT WOULD FOLLOW, CROSSROADS GREW RAPIDLY. FROM 20 SHACKS HOUSING 100 PEOPLE IN FEBRUARY 1975...

...TO SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 4000 AND 7000 PEOPLE LIVING IN 1017 SHACKS IN APRIL OF THE SAME YEAR.



IN MARCH 1975, A MONTH AFTER THE FOUNDING OF THE SETTLEMENT THE FIRST EVICTION NOTICES CAME AND THE MEN AND WOMEN CREATED SEPARATE COMMITTEES TO DEAL WITH THE THREAT.

THE INCREASINGLY BOLD LEADERSHIP ROLE OF THE WOMEN IN THE CAMP RAISED SOME EYEBROWS.



IN ADDITION TO SEEKING THE ADVICE OF THE BLACK SASH (A LIBERAL ORGANIZATION UNIQUE, AT THE TIME, IN ITS CONCERN FOR THE INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS OF URBAN AFRICAN WOMEN) THE WOMEN FORMED A DELEGATION TO APPROACH THE LOCAL BANTU AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER.

