

# SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS

AM 102

①

P.O. BOX \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

30 PROGRESS BUILDINGS,  
156, COMMISSIONER STREET,  
JOHANNESBURG.

TO ALL AFFILIATED  
TRADE UNIONS.

31st December, 1955.

The Secretary,  
African Food & Canning Workers' Union,  
44, Stal Plein Buildings,  
Plein Street,  
CAPE TOWN.

Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_  
By *B. Zolotarev*  
Date *31/12/55*  
No. *63 Progress Bldg*  
Datum *31/12/55*  
Verwysings No. \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Comrades,

I have to advise you that the Management Committee of S.A.C.T.U. at an emergency meeting held to discuss the I.C. Bill unanimously resolved to hold the Annual Conference of S.A.C.T.U. on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th March, 1956, in Cape Town. Therefore, kindly commence preparations for the sending of delegates and observers to the conference.

You are no doubt aware of the fact that the threatened introduction of the I.C. Act Amendment Bill has precipitated the calling of this Conference.

It is therefore intended that the Conference be the culmination of a great campaign against the I.C. Act Amendment Bill.

For your information we enclose a copy of the details of the campaign which we have sent to all Local Committees and trust that you will offer all your co-operation.

### RESOLUTIONS TO CONFERENCE.

The Management Committee has further resolved that all resolutions for conference must be submitted by affiliated Unions by not later than the 25th January, 1956.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this communication immediately.

With Trade Union Greetings,

Yours Fraternaly,

L. MASINA. *L. Masina*  
GENERAL SECRETARY.

ENCL.

"AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL"

# SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS

P.O. BOX \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

TO ALL AFFILIATED  
TRADE UNIONS AND LOCAL  
COMMITTEES.

①  
A.M. 103

30 PROGRESS BUILDINGS,  
156, COMMISSIONER STREET,

JOHANNESBURG.  
31st December, 1955.

Dear Comrades,

I have to advise that the Management Committee of the South African Trade Unions has proposed that the undermentioned items constitute the agenda for the 1st Annual Conference of S.A.C.T.U. to be held on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th March, 1956, in Cape Town and you are urgently requested to submit amendments and/or suggestions by not later than the 25th January, 1956.

## PROPOSED AGENDA.

- |  |  |                                  |
|--|--|----------------------------------|
|  |  | Bewysstuk No.....                |
|  |  | Gekry by..... <i>H. Makhanya</i> |
|  |  | Deur..... <i>M. M. M. M.</i>     |
|  |  | Te..... <i>163 Progress St</i>   |
|  |  | Datum..... <i>31 Dec 55</i>      |
|  |  | Verwysings No.....               |
1. Presidential address.
  2. Fraternal Greetings.
  3. Election of Committee
    - a) Credentials Committee
    - b) Resolutions
  4. Report of General Secretary.
  5. I.C. Act Amendment Bill.
  6. Native Labour Settlement of Disputes Act.
  7. Credential Committee Report.
  8. Financial Report.
  9. Freedom Charter.
  10. Resolutions.
  11. ELECTIONS :-
    - a) President and two Vice Presidents.
    - b) Treasurer.
    - c) National Executive Committee.
  12. CLOSURE.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of the above memo immediately.

With Trade Union Greetings,

"Forward to Conference!

Yours fraternally,

L. MASINA. *L. Masina*  
GENERAL SECRETARY.

"AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL"

✓  
S.A. CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS.

30, Progress Buildings,  
156, Commissioner St.,  
JOHANNESBURG.

26th January, 1956.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

Dear Comrade,

The next meeting of the Management Committee will be held at the above address on Wednesday, 1st February, 1956, at 5.30 p.m. Please make every effort to attend.

Yours fraternally,

*L. Masina*  
L. MASINA.  
GENERAL SECRETARY.

# SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS

P.O. BOX 6781.  
PHONE 23-6501.

30 PROGRESS BUILDINGS,  
156, COMMISSIONER STREET,  
JOHANNESBURG.


26th January, 1956.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

Dear Comrade,

For your information, we enclose herewith copy of the Minutes of the last meeting of the Management Committee, held on the 19th January, 1956.

Yours fraternally,

  
L. MASINA.  
GENERAL SECRETARY.

# SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS

W I T W A T E R S R A N D LOCAL COMMITTEE.

P.O. BOX 6781.  
PHONE 22-9026.

30 PROGRESS BUILDINGS,  
156, COMMISSIONER STREET,  
J O H A N N E S B U R G .

TO ALL AFFILIATED TRADE UNIONS:

9th January, 1956.

Dear Comrade,

RE: CAMPAGIN AGAINST THE INDUSTRIAL CONCILIATION  
AMENDMENT BILL.

As you are aware, the Management Committee of the South African Congress of Trade Unions has issued directives to all local Committees and affiliated Trade Unions in respect of the above Bill.

It has fallen upon our shoulders to smash the attempt by the Government to introduce the I.C. Amendment Bill; the reactionary, colour-bar and frightened Trade Union bodies have not urged the working people of South Africa to fight this Bill in any determined manner, nor have they shown real opposition to it.

It is important for the workers to know that immediately on the formation of the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions, approaches were made to the Trade Union Council to join with us in the fight against the I.C. Bill. This offer was categorically rejected by the Trade Union Council, who stated that they were conducting their own campaign against the Bill. To our knowledge, no such campaign is being conducted by them.

Therefore it is our task to take the initiative and lead the workers actively into battle to stop the Bill being passed. To achieve this aim, we have resolved to hold a Conference of all local Trade Unions on SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5th, AT NO. 3 TRADES HALL, 30, KERK STREET, JOHANNESBURG, AT 10 A.M.

## CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS AND DELEGATES.

All local unions are requested to elect delegates, and as many observers as possible to attend the Conference. As it is our intention to make the Conference truly representative of the workers, the number of observers is not limited in any way, and any number can attend.

/You are.....

To all affiliated Trade Unions.

9th January, 1956.

You are also requested to call special general and executive meetings on this matter, when resolutions should be adopted condemning the Bill. All resolutions should immediately be submitted to S.A.P.A., as well as New Age, the local Committee and Workers' Unity.

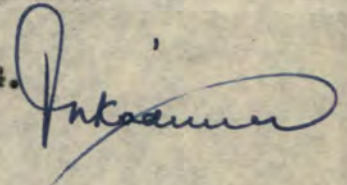
If you require any assistance whatsoever, please contact the above address. If you wish a speaker from the local committee to address your executive, general shop-steward or any other meeting, notify us immediately.

Please respond to this communication immediately and prepare now for the biggest trade union conference ever held in the Transvaal.

With Trade Union Greetings.

Yours fraternally,

J. NKADIMENG.  
SECRETARY.



Attention: Bey Leveld  
for J.H.G. Branch  
Recd. 11/11/56.

# SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS

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PHONE 23-6501

P. O. BOX \_\_\_\_\_

6781

30 PROGRESS BUILDINGS,  
156, COMMISSIONER STREET,  
JOHANNESBURG.

18th July, 1956.

Dear Comrade,

The National Executive Committee of the South African Congress of Trade Unions has given serious consideration to the present position of the workers and the Trade Union movement of South Africa.

It will be agreed that the promulgation of the Industrial Conciliation Act No. 28 of 1956 presents a new and complex situation to the workers. There is no doubt that the Act threatens to undermine the strength and unity of the Trade Union movement.

In addition, there is the growth of unemployment which, accompanied by the effects of the Industrial Conciliation Act on the Trade Union movement, constitutes a grave threat to the conditions and living standards of the workers of South Africa. It is said that there is no unemployment in South Africa because the figures of the Department of Labour show only minor fluctuations in the monthly totals of registration of unemployed workers. But these figures do not take into account the thousands of African workers who do not register with the Department of Labour.

My National Executive Committee is perturbed by the fact that, despite the adverse effects on all workers of the rising cost of living, (admitted even by the figures of the Department of Census and Statistics) there has been no adjustment of cost of living allowances by the Government since March, 1953.

We believe that these serious matters can only be dealt with successfully in the interests of the workers if there is maximum co-operation of the entire Trade Union movement. It is necessary to develop a common policy for the Trade Union movement which must be followed by concerted action.

In order to arrive at such a common policy, my National Executive

/2 . . . . .

**" AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL "**

18th July, 1956

Committee suggests that a discussion Conference of Trade Union delegates be called as soon as possible.

We are at present engaged in preparing detailed, well-documented reports on the issues outlined above with a view to submitting these for consideration before such a Conference. However, we feel that the policies which such a Conference might work out will be immensely more effective if they really represent the consensus of opinion of the largest possible number of Trade Union representatives. For this reason I have been instructed to enquire whether your co-ordinating body will agree to convene such a Conference with us on the lines suggested above.

The proposed Agenda is as follows:-

- i) Industrial Conciliation Act No. 28 of 1956 and the Native Labour (Settlement of Disputes) Act as they affect the workers of South Africa.
- ii) Unemployment in South Africa.
- iii) Cost of Living Allowances.
- iv) Influx Control.

We sincerely hope that in view of the serious problems facing the workers you will give this suggestion your most sympathetic consideration.

My National Executive Committee is open to any alternative suggestions which might assist in furthering the immediate needs and interests of the workers. At the same time I am to stress the importance of early action on these matters. We hope that your reply will not be unduly delayed.

With Trade Union Greetings,  
Yours fraternally

*Leslie Massina*  
LESLIE MASSINA  
General Secretary: South African  
Congress of Trade Unions.



# SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS

PHONE 23-6501

P. O. BOX 6781.

30 PROGRESS BUILDINGS,  
156, COMMISSIONER STREET,  
JOHANNESBURG.

19th April, 1956.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

Dear Comrades,

For your information, we attach hereto Minutes  
of the 1st Annual Conference of S.A.C.T.U. Please acknowledge  
receipt.

Yours fraternally,

*L. Massina*  
L. MASSINA.  
GENERAL SECRETARY.

SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS

W 114 SAETU. (Witw local)

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P.M. 105

PHONE 23-6801

P. O. BOX

30 PROGRESS BUILDINGS,  
156, COMMISSIONER STREET,  
JOHANNESBURG.

*Duplicate*

17th May, 1956.

WITWATERSRAND LOCAL COMMITTEE.

CIRCULAR NO. D/56.

TO ALL LOCAL AFFILIATED TRADE UNIONS:

Dear Comrades,

RE: NATIONAL TRAINING CAMPAIGN.

The 1st National Conference in Cape Town unanimously decided to train new leaders in the Trade Union movement immediately. The Management Committee of S.A.C.T.U. has implemented this resolution and all local committees have been instructed to commence training new leaders immediately. In view of the above, your Local Committee has decided to launch its local training campaign on Saturday, May 26th, at 30 Progress Buildings.

You are urgently requested to ensure that two students from your union attend these lectures. We give below full details of the campaign.

- (a) A series of 12 lectures is to be conducted.
- (b) These lectures are to be held each successive week-end until the course has been completed.
- (c) Each Union is invited to send two students.

The lectures are as follows:

- 1) Our Modern Society & How it arose; 2) What is a Trade Union.
- 3) Short History of the International Trade Union Movement.
- 4) Short History of the Trade Union Movement in South Africa.
- 5) Trade Unions as a Weapon in the Struggle of Workers.
- 6) Trade Unions and the Struggle for Liberation in South Africa.
- 7) How to organise a Trade Union. 8) Workers' Solidarity,

Bewys-tuk No. .... 19).....

Gekry by *A. M. Mabasa*

Deur *J. M. M. Progress Bldg*

Te *57 12 56*

Datum *57 12 56*

Verwysings No. "AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL"

CIRCULAR D/56. (Contd.)

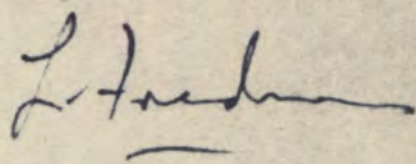
- 9) Workers' Solidarity.
- 10) Relationship between workers and their Union.

We are convinced that you will participate in our training campaign in a most enthusiastic manner, and we await your reply as to what arrangements you have made in this connection.

With Trade Union Greetings,

Yours fraternally,

L. FRIEDMAN.  
SECRETARY.



SACTU.

S.A. CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS.

AM. 79

①

30, Progress Buildings,  
156, Commissioner St.,  
JOHANNESBURG.  
26th January, 1956.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

Dear Comrade,

The next meeting of the Management Committee will be held at the above address on Wednesday, 1st February, 1956, at 5.30 p.m. Please make every effort to attend.

Yours fraternally,

*L. Masina*  
L. MASINA.  
GENERAL SECRETARY.

Bewysstuk No.....  
Gekry by.....  
Deur.....  
Te.....  
Datum.....  
Verwysings No.....

*B. Makhanya*  
*63 Progress Bld.*  
*5/1/56*

# SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS

— (2)

P.O. BOX 6781.  
PHONE 23-6501.

30 PROGRESS BUILDINGS,  
156, COMMISSIONER STREET,  
JOHANNESBURG.

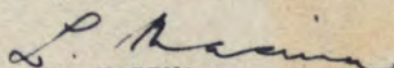
26th January, 1956.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

Dear Comrade,

For your information, we enclose herewith copy of the Minutes of the last meeting of the Management Committee, held on the 19th January, 1956.

Yours fraternally,

  
L. MASINA.  
GENERAL SECRETARY.

"AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL"

# SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS

P.O. BOX .....

PHONE .....

30 PROGRESS BUILDINGS,  
156, COMMISSIONER STREET,  
JOHANNESBURG.

TO ALL AFFILIATED UNIONS, LOCAL COMMITTEES  
AND MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

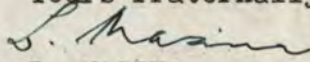
Dear Comrade,

RE: FIRST ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

1. Venue of Conference: Conference will be held from the 1st to the 4th March, at the SALT RIVER MUNICIPAL HALL, VOORTREKKER ROAD, SALT RIVER, CAPE TOWN. The 'phone No. is 58411. The Hall is next to the Salt River Station, and all the Parow and Belville buses stop at the door. Please advise all delegates accordingly.
2. Resolutions to Conference: Unions are requested to submit to Head Office, resolutions for discussion by Conference. Please let us have your resolutions early, so that our Agenda may be prepared.
3. Amendments to Constitution: Attached please find amendments to the Constitution, submitted by the National Union of Laundering, Cleaning and Dyeing Workers' Union. Please go through these amendments and let us have your comments. Should unions still wish to submit further amendments to the Constitution, these must be submitted to Head Office immediately.
4. Petition Forms: Unions are urged to intensify the Petition Campaign, and to get as many signatures as possible before Conference.
5. Delegates: Head Office is anxious to know how many delegates will be attending, so that we can go forward with our arrangements. Local Committees are requested to inform us immediately of the position.

Please treat the contents of this circular as urgent.

Yours fraternally,



L. MASINA.  
GENERAL SECRETARY.

A1(62) SACT4  
TYL

*File B.158*

SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS

PHONE 23-5501  
P. O. BOX 6781.

30 PROGRESS BUILDINGS,  
156, COMMISSIONER STREET,  
JOHANNESBURG.

16th April, 1956.

The Joint Hon. Secretaries,  
Tvl. Indian Youth Congress,  
37<sup>th</sup> West Street,  
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Friend,

Your letter of the 30th March has been placed before the Management Committee of S.A.C.T.U., and I have pleasure in advising you that Mr. A. Mphahlele will represent our organisation as a Fraternal Delegate at the 11th Annual General Meeting of your Congress on Sunday 27th May, 1956, at the Duncan Hall, Johannesburg.

With best wishes for the success of your meeting.

Yours fraternally,

*L. Massina*  
L. MASSINA.  
GENERAL SECRETARY.

"AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL"

S. A. CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS

CIRCULAR NO 3/56

16th April, 1956.

TO ALL LOCAL COMMITTEES & AFFILIATED TRADE UNIONS:

Dear Comrades,

RE: MAY DAY.

Further to our circular letter No. 4/56, dated 5th April, 1956, we attach hereto "Speakers' Notes" for use at May Day Meetings.

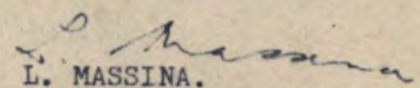
These notes give the background to "May Day", and explain why it is that this is the most important Day in the Workers' calendar.

It is of the utmost importance that workers should know and understand why the 1st of May is regarded as the day on which they rededicate themselves to the struggle. It is up to us to see that May Day 1956 is celebrated throughout the country in a manner which will inspire the workers to greater struggles for freedom and a better and happier life for all.

Please let us have a report on what YOU are doing to make this May Day a great success.

With Trade Union greetings.

Yours fraternally,

  
L. MASSINA.  
GENERAL SECRETARY.



CIRCULAR NO. 7/56:

16th April, 1956.

TO ALL AFFILIATED UNIONS:& LOCAL COMMITTEES:

Dear Comrades,

RE: APPEAL FOR TEXTILE WORKERS.

On the 19th March, 1956, we sent out a circular (No. 1/56), asking for assistance for the textile workers out on strike at Worcester.

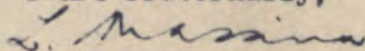
This Union, one of the most militant and active, now reports that 30 workers employed at Roodepoort have been charged with an alleged go-slow strike, and are to appear in court on the 25th April, and in addition, 365 workers employed at Amato Textiles have also been charged under the vicious Native Labour Settlement of Disputes Act, and are to be brought up in court in Benoni.

The struggle of the Textile Workers is a wonderful example of solidarity and militancy to all workers, and they must be given every encouragement in their battle against exploitation. We once again appeal to all affiliated Unions to send donations to S.A.C.T.U. to assist these workers.

Let the call go out for unity everywhere - support the textile workers.

An injury to one is an injury to all!

Yours fraternally,



L. MASSINA.  
GENERAL SECRETARY.

# SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS

① P.M. 117

PHONE 23-6301  
P. O. BOX \_\_\_\_\_

30 PROGRESS BUILDINGS,  
156, COMMISSIONER STREET,  
JOHANNESBURG.

6781

18th July, 1956.

Bewysstuk No. ....  
Gekry by *A. Mahlangu* .....  
Deur *Gilroy* .....  
Te *63 Progress Bldg.* .....  
Datum *18/7/56* .....

Dear Comrade Verwysings No. ....

The National Executive Committee of the South African Congress of Trade Unions has given serious consideration to the present position of the workers and the Trade Union movement of South Africa.

It will be agreed that the promulgation of the Industrial Conciliation Act No. 28 of 1956 presents a new and complex situation to the workers. There is no doubt that the Act threatens to undermine the strength and unity of the Trade Union movement.

In addition, there is the growth of unemployment which, accompanied by the effects of the Industrial Conciliation Act on the Trade Union movement, constitutes a grave threat to the conditions and living standards of the workers of South Africa. It is said that there is no unemployment in South Africa because the figures of the Department of Labour show only minor fluctuations in the monthly totals of registration of unemployed workers. But these figures do not take into account the thousands of African workers who do not register with the Department of Labour.

My National Executive Committee is perturbed by the fact that, despite the adverse effects on all workers of the rising cost of living, (admitted even by the figures of the Department of Census and Statistics) there has been no adjustment of cost of living allowances by the Government since March, 1953.

We believe that these serious matters can only be dealt with successfully in the interests of the workers if there is maximum co-operation of the entire Trade Union movement. It is necessary to develop a common policy for the Trade Union movement which must be followed by concerted action.

In order to arrive at such a common policy, my National Executive

/2 . . . . .

"AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL"

18th July, 1956

Committee suggests that a discussion Conference of Trade Union delegates be called as soon as possible.

We are at present engaged in preparing detailed, well-documented reports on the issues outlined above with a view to submitting these for consideration before such a Conference. However, we feel that the policies which such a Conference might work out will be immensely more effective if they really represent the consensus of opinion of the largest possible number of Trade Union representatives. For this reason I have been instructed to enquire whether your co-ordinating body will agree to convene such a Conference with us on the lines suggested above.

The proposed Agenda is as follows:-

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- ii) Unemployment in South Africa.
- iii) Cost of Living Allowances.
- iv) Influx Control.

We sincerely hope that in view of the serious problems facing the workers you will give this suggestion your most sympathetic consideration.

My National Executive Committee is open to any alternative suggestions which might assist in furthering the immediate needs and interests of the workers. At the same time I am to stress the importance of early action on these matters. We hope that your reply will not be unduly delayed.

With Trade Union Greetings,  
Yours fraternally

*Leslie Massina*

LESLIE MASSINA  
General Secretary: South African  
Congress of Trade Unions.

# SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS

①

PHONE 23-6501

P. O. BOX \_\_\_\_\_

Bewysstuk No. ....  
Gekry by *H. Matlang* .....  
Deur *H. Matlang* .....  
Te *30 Progress Buildings* .....  
Datum *1st August 1956* .....

30 PROGRESS BUILDINGS,  
156, COMMISSIONER STREET,  
JOHANNESBURG.  
1st August, 1956.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE;  
Verwysings NO. ....

Dear Comrade,

The meeting of the Management Committee on 1st August, 1956, had to be adjourned as there was no quorum. One of the reasons for this was the fact that there was an emergency meeting of the Garment Workers' Union Executive Committee so that three members of our Committee were unavailable. However, as this is the second meeting which has had to be adjourned in the past month, we feel that the time has come for a serious assessment of the situation.

The Government has made its intentions with regard to all workers quite plain. Under the I.C. Amendment Act of 1956 and the Native Labour (Settlement of Disputes) Act it has the machinery at its disposal to destroy the Trade Union movement in South Africa. It is not necessary, at this point, to go into the history of the formation of S.A.C.T.U. but it is the only non-colour bar Trade Union co-ordinating body in South Africa and, as such, it has a particular responsibility to all workers. Its tasks are to win over to its principles the mass of workers in the country; to organise the thousands upon thousands of unorganised workers; to advise; help, strengthen in every possible way its affiliated Unions; to weld all workers into a mighty force to fight the anti-worker policies of the Government.

The members of the Management Committee were elected because they had the confidence of the workers who regarded them as fit and responsible to carry out the tasks outlined above. What a sad reflection it is, therefore, that some of these members have not yet learned the most elementary lesson of Trade Unionism namely, the necessity of attending meetings. Non-attendance at meetings is excusable only in cases of severe illness or the absolute priority of other work (e.g. as with the Garment Workers' Union members mentioned above). There are no other excuses. If members of the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of S.A.C.T.U.) are not disciplined nor responsible enough to understand this, the outlook for Trade Unionism in South Africa is bleak indeed.

It is a matter of great distress to us to write such a letter, but we would be failing in our responsibility to the workers if we did not take to task those members who have betrayed the trust placed in them by the workers they represent.

The adjourned meeting will take place on Wednesday, 8th August, at the above address at 4 P.M.

Yours fraternally,

LEON LEVY: President:

*L. Massina*  
L. MASSINA. Gen. Secretary.

D. MATEMAN: Treasurer:

"AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL"

AM 86

SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS

Phone: 23-6501.

①

30 Progress Buildings,  
156 Commissioner Street,  
Johannesburg.

I. ... NO. .... 3rd August 1956...

G. kry by..... *P. M. ...*

Deur..... *Milling*

Te..... *63 Progress Bld.*

Datum..... *5/8/56*

TO ALL LOCAL COMMITTEES:

Dear Comrades,

We wish to draw your attention to Government Gazette No. 5719, dated 20th July, 1956, proclaiming that a Wage Board Investigation into the Milling Industry is to be held. The Board will sit at the following places and dates:-

- 1) Durban: In the Board Room, Department of Labour, Masonic Grove, off Smith Street, at 9.30 a.m. on 16th August, 1956.
- 2) Cape Town: In the Board Room, Department of Labour, Corporation Street, at 9.30 a.m. on 5th September, 1956.
- 3) Swellendam: In the Court Room, Magistrate's Office, at 10 a.m. on 7th September, 1956.
- 4) Port Elizabeth: In the Board Room, Department of Labour, Standard House, Queen Street, at 9.30 a.m. on 10th September, 1956.
- 5) Johannesburg: In the Board Room 222, Department of Labour, New Magistrates' Courts, Marshall Street, at 10 a.m. on 25th September, 1956.

For many years the progressive Trade Union movement has been engaged in organising Milling Workers. In the Transvaal the African Milling Workers' Union was established in 1943 and since the formation of the South African Congress of Trade Unions a Union has been established in Port Elizabeth.

This Wage Board investigation gives a great opportunity to improve the wages and working conditions of milling workers and the Management Committee urgently directs all Local Committees to throw in all their weight in rallying milling workers round their demands. In order to achieve the best possible results from this investigation, the Management Committee suggests the following:-

- a) Issue questionnaires as per attached copy to all milling workers to be completed and returned to S.A.C.T.U. or the Local Committee.
- b) Hold General Meetings of Milling Workers in your area and explain to them the position.
- c) At factory meetings of Milling workers elect delegates to be present at the hearing of the Board so that they can demonstrate their strength to the employers and the authorities.
- d) Obtain additional demands from workers for submission to the Wage Board.

We urgently request you to respond to this important directive and let us have a report as soon as possible. Within the next few days you will be receiving the demands of the Transvaal Milling Workers which, we trust, will be backed up nationally.

LONG LIVE THE UNITY OF THE WORKERS.  
FORWARD TO HIGHER WAGES AND A HAPPIER LIFE FOR ALL !

With Trade Union Greetings,  
Yours fraternally,

L. MASSINA.  
General Secretary: S.A.C.T.U.  
Management Committee.

LLM 92  
SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS

Bewysstuk No. ....  
PHONE 23-6501 Gekry by Lesthe Masina 30 PROGRESS BUILDINGS,  
P. O. BOX 6781 Deur Alley 156, COMMISSIONER STREET,  
Te. 63 Magners Geleus JOHANNESBURG.  
Datum 5/12/56  
Verwysings No. ....

14th August, 1956.

TO ALL LOCAL COMMITTEES AND TO ALL AFFILIATED UNIONS:

Dear Comrades,

Your urgent attention is drawn to the item under Suspension of Standing Orders on Pages 1 and 2 of the minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on 8th August, 1956 (Minutes enclosed herewith).

This item refers to the move made by the South African Council of Trade Unions (the T.U.C.) to form a Liaison Committee between itself and African Trade Unions. The proposed Liaison Committee will completely by-pass S.A.C.T.U.

In the enclosed minutes the matter is fully discussed and it was agreed by the Management Committee that meetings of all Unions affiliated to S.A.C.T.U. should be called in each Province to discuss this attempt to split the Trade Union movement. Local Committees are forthwith asked to arrange these meetings as soon as possible. If further advice or information is required it will be given by the Management Committee.

For Transvaal Local Committees and Affiliated Unions:

A special meeting to discuss this matter has been arranged for Sunday, 2nd September, 1956 at Hall No. 3 Trades Hall, Kerk Street, Johannesburg from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

As this is a matter of the utmost importance to the Trade Union movement all Local Committees and affiliated Unions are asked to attend.

Transvaal Indian Congress: All-in Conference on Group Areas Act on 25th and 26th August, 1956 at the Gandhi Hall, Johannesburg.

Local Committees in the Transvaal are requested to send delegates to the above Conference.

With Trade Union Greetings,  
Yours fraternally,

L. MASSINA.

General Secretary.

Bewysstuk No.....  
Gekry by.....  
Deur.....  
Te.....  
Datum.....  
Verwysings No.....

*A. Mabasa*  
*63 Progress Bld*

①

A.M.S.

SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS

Telephone: 22-9026.

30 Progress Buildings,  
156 Commissioner Street,  
Johannesburg.

No. 9/1.

6th September, 1956.

To All Local Committees and Unions: (Transvaal)

Dear Comrades,

1. RE: "WORKERS' UNITY" DAY - SUNDAY, 23RD SEPTEMBER  
1956

"Workers' Unity" Day will take place at Kliptown on Sunday, 23rd September, 1956 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The sub-Committee has made the following arrangements:-

- a) SPEECHES:
- i) Chairman: Opening Address.
  - ii) Position of Trade Unions Today.
  - iii) Trade Unions and Political Organisations Peace.
  - iv) What is S.A.C.T.U.? What is its task?
  - v) Passes for Workers. Influx Control.

b) ENTERTAINMENTS:

- i) Penny Whistle Bands Competition
- ii) Choirs.
- iii) Swing Bands.

We hope to make this a real Workers' Unity Day. It will be an opportunity for workers from Johannesburg, the Reef and from other Transvaal towns to get to know one another and to gain an understanding of Trade Union principles. The discussions will be extremely fruitful.

All Local Committees and all Unions are asked to advertise this day widely to workers and to make such that there will be a really worthwhile attendance. We want to see hundreds of workers meeting and talking together. When the arrangements have been finalised, posters and leaflets will be sent to you to help in the task of making the meeting as widely known as possible.

2. RE: S.A.C.T.U. DANCE - BANTU MEN'S SOCIAL CENTRE,  
SATURDAY, 13TH OCTOBER, 1956. TICKETS 6/- EACH.

The MELOTONES BAND and the AFRICAN SWINGSTERS will provide the music. There will be refreshments. This should be the most successful social event of the year. Please advertise this widely among your members. Tickets and posters will shortly be sent to you.

3. RE: MRS. VIOLA HASHE: SECRETARY, SOUTH AFRICAN  
CLOTHING WORKERS' UNION.

We enclose, for your information, a copy of a letter sent by S.A.C.T.U. to the Mayor of Roodepoort-Maraisburg, asking for the immediate withdrawal of the inhumane ban on our comrade, Mrs. Viola Hashe. All Local Committees and Unions are urged to make similar protests to the Mayor.

With Trade Union Greetings,  
Yours fraternally,

L. MASSINA. *L. Massina*  
General Secretary.

**Collection Number: AD1812**

**RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961**

**TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961**

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