

ADVICE OFFICE OPEN

The office of the Western Province Workers Advice Bureau has now opened permanently, and the original Secretary/Organiser, Zora Mhlophakulu, is again working full-time at the office.

**ARRESTS:** This breakthrough has come more than nine months after the office was closed following a raid by Bantu Administration officials when they arrested one of the Advice Bureau organisers because he had not been registered to work for the Advice Bureau. Since then, the workers have continued to organise amongst themselves, while the Executive Committee of the Bureau has fought for its right to employ workers to organise the Advice Bureau affairs.

**OFFICIALS REFUSE:** First, the Department of Labour said that the Advice Bureau had to employ Coloured workers in preference to African workers. After a few months, the Labour Department eventually agreed that no Coloureds were available for the jobs and the Executive Committee was then free to apply for the registration of African workers. But when they went to register the African organisers, the Bantu Administration officials refused to do this.

**COMMITTEE'S RIGHT:** The Executive Committee refused to accept this, and has fought the Bantu Administration Department for the past four months. The Committee was convinced that it had a right to employ workers to organise the Advice Bureau and to employ workers to organise the Advice Bureau and to give assistance to other workers in their struggle for improved conditions - and it consulted lawyers who took up the case of the Advice Bureau.

**SUCCESS:** Finally, the Advice Bureau received a letter from the Bantu Administration Department two weeks ago, saying that the Advice Bureau organisers could be registered. Zora Mhlophakulu has now been registered and is back in the office. Another two organisers are to be appointed by the Executive Committee soon and will then be registered and take up work in the Advice Bureau.

**PERMANENT OFFICE:** These steps are an important step forward for the Advice Bureau, as workers will again have a permanent office through which they will have contact with other workers. There will also be full time organisers who can go around to factories assisting workers and helping them to organise.

The workers have shown, while the office has been closed, that they can organise themselves - more than 1000 workers have organised factory committees and joined the Advice Bureau in the past two months. But the permanent organisers at the office will help the workers' movement to go from strength to strength.

**Issued by:** UCT Wages Commission,  
Students' Representative Council,  
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN.