

admission of guilt fine. Where your defence is very simple so you don't need a lawyer you may not claim free legal aid. It is not available where you were involved in a traffic offence or any offence involving a motor car nor is it available where you have admitted committing the offence except in special cases where you need a lawyer to explain to the court why you had good reasons for committing the offence. Free legal aid cannot be claimed for preparatory examinations in the Magistrates Court.

### Civil Cases

Legal aid is available in all civil cases. However the problem must not be a very small one and it must be of such a nature that if you will you benefit - in other words it must not be a very small problem. To enjoy free legal aid you must have a good claim or if you are the defendant, a good defence.

### In what courts may you claim free legal aid?

You are entitled to claim free legal aid in all the courts:- The Bantu Affairs Court, the Magistrates Courts, and the Supreme Court.

However because the costs in the Bantu Affairs Court are already low it will have to be a fairly big matter for you to claim legal aid. If you wish to claim legal aid for a matter in the Bantu Affairs Court, in Pietermaritz Street go and speak to the Clerk of the Court, there every day of the week, and explain your case to him.

If you require legal aid for a case in the Magistrates Court or the Supreme Court then you must go to the Magistrates Court in Pietermaritz Street any day of the week and make an appointment to see the Control Magistrate on a Thursday morning to whom you will explain your story.

If you satisfy the Bantu Affairs Commissioner or the Control Magistrate that you are entitled to free legal aid he will send you to a lawyer (of your choice). The lawyer will decide if you have a good case. If you have he will act on behalf of you and the Government will pay his costs. However you may be required to pay some money but it will be very little in proportion to what you would have to pay had you not received legal aid.

So if you are involved in a court case as defendant or if you wish to make a claim against someone and you think you are entitled to free legal aid go and see the Control Magistrate if it is a Magistrate's Court matter or the Clerk of the Court at the Bantu Affairs Court if it is a Bantu Affairs Court matter.

- - - - -

### TRADE UNION GOES AHEAD

Last Saturday at Edendale Lay Ecumenical Centre 200 Pietermaritzburg (metal) workers gathered. They heard the temporary executive of their trade union speak about the union. The constitution of this new union, the first Black Union in Natal was presented to them. They liked it, and applauded their executive strongly. Jonathan Ibbisi of Alcan was elected the first chairman. Moses Mbanjwe is to work for the union as organiser and secretary. After the meeting nearly all those present signed up immediately, and got the yellow membership cards of the African Metal Workers Union.

Some people asked if a union is not illegal. The answer is NO, trade unions for Blacks are not illegal. There are already several Black unions in South Africa. Most of them are in Johannesburg. They are quite open with nothing criminal about them. Our union in Natal too is quite legal. The Boss at International Harvester has already said he will recognise the union. Other firms will have to recognise it too, as it grows stronger and stronger, bigger and bigger.

- - - - -

### CHAPTER OF WORKERS' RIGHTS

White South Africa is gradually being awakened to the plight of the black

worker. The worker has paid for our country's prosperity with his poverty. Now South Africa has reached the point where a start should be made to allow the worker to benefit from this prosperity. If he is not to continue to be exploited, the black worker must have a Charter of Rights.

This Charter has been drawn up by the students of the Wages Commissions at universities throughout the country. The students are asking the white South Africans to support the Charter.

Workers should also try to get support for this Charter, which sets out the rights of all workers. It is only when these rights have been guaranteed by the employers and by the government that the exploitation of the workers will end.

#### CHARTER OF WORKERS' RIGHTS

1. EVERY WORKER, REGARDLESS OF RACE, COLOUR OR CREED, SHOULD HAVE EQUALITY OR OPPORTUNITY IN RESPECT OF TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT.
2. EVERY WORKER SHOULD BE ABLE TO CHOOSE THE PLACE OF HIS/HER WORK WITHOUT EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE.
3. EVERY WORKER SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO FREE ASSOCIATION AND THE RIGHTS TO ORGANIZE.
4. EVERY WORKER SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO STRIKE AFTER ALL NON-DISCRIMINATORY CONCILIATION PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED.
5. EVERY FAMILY SHOULD BE PAID NOT LESS THAN THE EFFECTIVE MINIMUM LEVEL.  
In most areas, the Effective Minimum Level is roughly R30 per week
6. NO WORKER SHOULD BE COMPELLED TO WORK OVERTIME, AND WHERE OVERTIME IS WORKED, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS WORKED PER WEEK INCLUDING OVERTIME SHOULD NOT EXCEED 56 HOURS.
7. THE RATES OF OVERTIME SHOULD BE AS LAID DOWN IN THE FACTORIES, MACHINERY AND BUILDINGS WORKS ACT, BUT EVERY WORKER SHOULD BE PAID THE EFFECTIVE MINIMUM LEVEL BEFORE OVERTIME IS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.
8. EVERY WORKER SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO THREE WEEKS LEAVE PER ANNUM.
9. EVERY WORKER SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO TWENTY-ONE DAYS SICK LEAVE PER ANNUM WITH FULL PAY.
10. ALL WORKERS SHOULD QUALIFY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE, WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION PENSIONS AND MEDICAL BENEFITS.

The 10 points above are in addition to, and not excluding, the Factories Machinery and Buildings Works Act.

- - - - -

#### Congratulations Simon Mchize

Congratulations Simon Mchize of Scottish Cables! Months of hard work paid off when he successfully ran the Comrades Marathon from Pietermaritzburg to Durban. The second "unofficial" (that means Black) runner home, he was rewarded with a silver medal - but not from the official organizers. They did not recognise him as an official entry. It is like the Black trade unions - you can form one, but it is not an "official" union!

Mr. Mchize did the hard work, and ran the race anyway. And he got a silver medal.

- - - - -

IT IS TIME TO CUT PROFITS