

Hailo My people,

July 1974 No 4

BUSINESS CONFERENCE TO ALL AFRICA

Before last year actions from other countries of Africa though they satisfied the needs of workers in those countries they did not work hand in hand with conferences and businesses except business and conferences in different countries. There was a portion amongst people who were followers of communism and followers of the Westeners even it be so there are Christians and Islams. This again is a number of commerce and conferences which had no relation with these different bodies, each was independant.

By not coming together this caused indifferences from workers by different countries and the whole of Africa. They did not have the influence on countries or O.A.U. To add to this some countries were difficult towards commerce because they were afraid that it may interfere with the provincial authority eventually with the control government.

Though it is so in May 1973 commerce and conference of an African met. Aims of the meeting was to put differences caused by people overseas and to exclude them from commerce and conferences convened by O.A.T.U.U. which is a body above all Africa and overseas.

AIMS OF O.A.T.U.U. are :-

1. To have uniform the way conference (conferences in 4 different countries).
2. To promote good relationship.
3. To promote relationship and preaching how countries work.
4. To see that workers are not exploited through the colour of their skin.

There is at least 280,000 000 people here in South Africa. Amongst them millions are working (some full time or partial (partly)). There are 8 million members of O.A.T.U.U. which means only 1/6 of the members in South Africa are members; only after a year it came into existence. It is easy to realise that according these figures workers in Africa do important work for the whole country. It can be seen the countries which do not want Trade Unions of this kind will make its laws more stringent towards the unions of this kind. But O.A.T.U.U. has shown these countries that it does important work and that it brings together workers and the ruler in things to bring about Progress. It has shown that the workers have a share in the profits of their country being the labour of their hands. These countries realising the usefulness of O.A.T.U.U. and that it has the powers to press, it allowed the establishment of Trade Unions.

One of the reasons which accused O.A.T.U.U. to voice the grievances of the workers of the whole world is that workers should be allowed to strike for the goods produced by their hands to be sent to South Africa. There was a lot of controversy before a solution was reached. It was a solution was a little difficult when they realised that workers in South Africa did not have anybody on their behalf in their country.

O.A.T.U.U. pressed the wage gap should be done away with between the wages of a black man and a whites in South Africa and that workers should have Trade Unions. It suggested that

it would bring about the difference, that it may think leaving of these strikes. This is one of the agreements which were made by O.A.F.U.U. last year. What is necessary is that Trade Unions should have branches in the whole of Africa, which is allowed that any grievances be voiced of the whole world. In that way things which fall short things concerning organisati. of African Unity and the United Nations where ever these organisations want to take action in connection with things concerning countries in Africa.

THINK BEFORE YOU BUY

With a meagre salary of R14 per week of which R8 goes for rent, Dr Khuzwayo with a wife and three children still at school, he was not a wealthy man. His wife was not well and he had decided to buy her a radio.

On Friday after receiving his salary Dr. Khuzwayo went pass a shop. There were many radios displayed small and big; he liked one of them.

"That radio is very beautiful" says a salesman, "Look, it has this", pointing at certain things. "Do you want to buy it?" "Khuzwayo wanted something small. "How much have you got on you?", asks the salesman.

R14 replied Khuzwayo though he did not want to use it all.

Instead of the salesman telling Khuzwayo how much the radio costs, he merely told him that he would pay a small amount of R10 and that he would be expected to pay R2 per week. "You have got to think fast because there are other people who would like to buy it", says the salesman, telling lies.

SIGN HERE

"I will take it", says Khuzwayo very soon.

"Sign her", says the salesman smiling.

Dr Khuzwayo was very happy with what he had bought, that encouraged him to pay his instalments for his radio regularly for many many weeks. As the time went on he started to worry, because he could not effect payments regularly because his wife had to go to the hospital and his son did not have the money for school books. He then realized that he should have bought a cheaper one.

R20 was required at the hospital. This amount of money was wanted within a month. Money was scarce. He could not pay for his radio for the following four weeks.

He was faced with buying school books or pay for his radio which he had bought on account. He began to be disappointed.

GOODS WILL BE TAKEN

at this time he received a letter from the owners of the shop notifying him that if he does not pay they will come and take his radio. He tried to go to them to explain his difficulties, but they told him they had nothing to do with it, and further told him that all they are interested in is that he pays failing which they will take away his radio.

He started paying every week and then after four weeks, when he came home from work, he found that the owners of the shop had taken away the radio. The following day he went to the shop and he was told that he could get back the radio only if he pays the balance of R84 in full. He asked them to return his money. They laughed at him and asked him if he read on the form which he signed when he bought the radio.

Khuzwayo /)

Khuzwayo had already paid R52. The whole amount for the radio was R136 and also realized the R26 was in excess.

There was nothing which he could do, he had lost. The shop owner had gained R52 and that the radio they would sell again.

There are various difficulties of this type and they befall many, everyday. How can a man protect himself against such problems.

HERE ARE A FEW ADVICES

1. If you have no sufficient money, think well if that thing you would like to buy is not necessary or you just would like to have it, if it is not necessary, do not buy it.
2. If you have decided to buy something do not be in a hurry to buy it from the first shop where you see it. Try and look around elsewhere and compare the prices. Go to other shops and see how they sell it.
3. When you look at an article in a shop do not allow a salesman to make you interested or buy. Be careful, these salesmen only want your money.
4. Compare the prices of the articles you buy and see what it costs or which you pay in instalments and which is better. Ask the salesman to tell you the difference in prices, if he does tell you, leave that shop immediately.
5. If you buy an article and do not pay in full you will pay extra more than what would have if you paid in full. If you are not in a hurry, better wait and collect the money and then pay for it in full. If you adopt that system, you will find that you have saved a lot because you pay in full.
6. Before you sign a form similar to the one signed by Dr. Khuzwayo that you would pay the amount of money stated within a stipulated time once you fail to pay. The article you bought may have bought may be taken back by the shop.
7. If a salesman says sign a form known as Hire Purchase form, you must make sure that you understand everything which is written on it together with the goods you buy are tabulated therein, and what the price is, etc. Do not sign before you make sure that you understand.
8. Should you be in arrears, try to pay.
9. If you cannot pay, your goods will be taken back by the shop. This only happens if they have an order which allows them to deposes. If they have not such order, do not give them the goods.
10. If your goods are repossessed, you have lost and the money you have paid already and will not be refunded.
11. Should it happen that you pay the whole amount before the fixed time, make sure that you get refunded with some of money.

Should it happen that someone should find himself confronted with the Hire Purchase problems even you it can happen to you. Be careful, read and be aware of these advices.

This is published by the new industrial act affecting black workers. (with the aid of claims) In September 1973 the old act failed to improve in black workers.

This new act creates a record of the committees written for black workers in the factories or in other industrial areas. It excludes from labourers and workers in the European towns civil servants and gold and coal mine workers.

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THE AIM IS THIS

- (i) To stop friction black workers and others.
- (ii) To prepare according to law for black workers and
- (iii) To arrange conditions of committees between employers and also that such concerns employees only.

This act gives blacks people not to strike. Though for reasons workers may strike for it does not give concessions more so for workers who do not do hard work.

This act gives workers the rights to form committees for them even including their employers.

According to this act both these committees are permitted to be members of department of labour for blacks.

In big factories it is allowed that in any branch of the firm (factory) to have workers committee and then a union or is formed which will be registered by both committees.

In July 1973 Urban Training Project called a meeting of five black Trade Unions. Its aim was to discuss with these two committees.

Workers agreed the workers committees was better than a committee includes employers, for these reasons :

1. Representatives of this committee are elected by the workers.
2. And the regulations are made by the workers themselves.
3. Workers arrive at a decision with informing employers first.
4. Representatives are elected by members everyday.
5. In big factories many committees are formed which are under the main committee.

Whereas the Liaison Committee is elected by workers together with their employers. Half of the members are elected by workers and the other half is elected by employers. Each and every member is elected by consent of both workers and employers. The time when representatives are at work their time is honoured by employers.

Workers committees consist of three workers and not more than 20 in number, in the whole factory or any portion of the factory. In order to be a representative one should be less than a year or more than two years.

Workers committee has a right to invite the employers or his representative to attend its meetings. Failing which the other chairman of the representatives should present complaints to the employer.

This act compels every committee to satisfy itself according to their decision.

It allows to be present in the regional committee. This committee consists of representatives elected by the government, not elected by the workers. In this committee workers may elected to attend Industrial Council Meeting. Though they will not be given the right to elect. Realise that these committees are not at all the same. But it does not mean that their presence is against the formation of Trade Unions.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

This is the second edition for the workers which we present to you printed as a real news bulletin. We hope that workers have enjoyed it more than the previous one.

At the moment we do not know if the readers enjoy and like what is printed in this workers bulletin. We expect that you should write and inform us of what you think about this "Workers Bulletin" or what you want to be printed in this bulletin.

If there is news you would like other readers to know about or want to relate what happened to you perhaps at work. Tell us about it and we will print it in the "Workers Bulletin". Most of the news printed here stresses one thing of workers want something on a higher standard and good living they are obliged to stand together with workers and the Trade Unions. Most workers are afraid and think it may be against the government policy. That is not the truth. There is no government which refuses anybody the right joining such movements. So workers do not worry themselves that they land in prison if they form such committees or join Trade Unions. There are many workers who have joined these unions and it has helped them to receive better salaries and higher working positions. Most workers cannot live or progress well if even under good conditions if they are not united. These unions are allowed by the government. Most of the workers are aware of this, but they need be informed by the workers.

Workers unite—then derive good living.

If you would like the workers bulletin or would like to know about the committees or unions you may write to the Industrial Aid you will find their address as you read on in this bulletin.

Wage Commission
 C/o S.R.C.
 Students Union Building
 Wits University
 2 Jan Smuts Ave.,
 JOHANNESBURG.

I.A.S. STARTS ADVICE BUREAU

Industrial Aid Society has opened a school for workers in their offices in Eree Street. This school is opened to everybody who is a member of the workers, and who do not want to be members, would like to attend school and meet workers and directors at the given address.

This school will part with the knowlidge in connection with the regulat^{ions} under which we should work ourselves to our rights as to progress and other advices of necessity to workers. Some workers have benefitted and there is still room to assist others.

It is being asked why committees have opened such schools. The speaker of such union explained most workers do not know anything about the law and their rights at work. Others do not know how to voice their complaints to their employers in connection with their salary, workers committees and trade unions. It is through them when formed that they may be assisted. Therefore I.A.S. expects that this school should assist those workers to enlighten them in this connection.

At present this school is on Saturdays afternoon at 2 o'clock. But should other scholars desire to be taught at some other time the committee will endeavour to do so.

All members who would like to be so assisted may come and contact us and the committee at

Industrial Aid Society,
 305/6 Sacta House,
 277 Eree Street,
 JOHANNESBURG.

FROM OUR READERS

Dear Sir,

It is with pleasure that such strides have been taken to get us out of darkness where we are. It is a good thing amongst us blacks to have the Workers Bulletin, to show that the light is moving, nigh towards the workers.

Sir, I met somebody reading the Workers Bulletin this month and I wondered what he was reading about till after he had read he lent it to me to read. From the beginning to the end I appreciated it to know about a new way concerning workers in this country. Sir, please help and inform me what is required for this booklet and how to get it to be able to read it every month; if I may receive one written in English, Afrikaans or Zulu.

Thanks.

Yours faithfully

B.S.M.