

THE BULLETIN OF THE WORKER AT PIETERMARITZBURG

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We hope from next year all the firms will listen to us, the request made by the honourable chief Buthelesi that the holiday of Shaka should be honoured like a public holiday.

(Ithiswa) by Wage Commission,
C/o S.R.C.,
University of Natal,
PIETERMARITZBURG.

Workers may send their letters to this address below. If you have a complaint and also afraid that you may loose your work, do not write your name.

THE CHIEF M.G. BUTHELEZI TABULATES PROBLEMS IN THE FACTORIES

Chief Mr Buthelesi, the head of the Zulu Government, gave a speech in connection with the cause of having no peace in the factories, that is in the firms. He named these three things which are most important.

- 1) Little salaries
- 2) The way the work committees fail to function. He said white employers are sometimes like "scare-crows" in the committees of the workers or if there are staunch men who speak on behalf of the workers not just men by name, these staunch men are not treated well by the bosses "that is why we want unions that our people should voice their reasons timeously, without being looked ill and illtreated by the employers."
- 3) The other thing is the migratory labour, that is workers who are fetched from their countries and are housed in compounds and do not live well. Months are stipulated till the end.

DLADLA ASKS FOR BLACK UNIONS

Referring to a shocking happening which happened in Carletonville in the Reef of the loss of lives. The honourable, B.I. DLADLA of the Zulu Government, if there was a union representing these workers in advising the authority of work in connection with salaries, that disaster would not have happened which is so bad. They would have to now leaving work, and the police, if they had the union.

In the meeting of the union which was in Durban, Dr Dladla said the unions cause understanding with each other and better unity amongst the workers and employers.

He even said the presence of the unions does not encourage strikes amongst the people. But it is actually the employers who force workers to strike.

Dladla made himself part of the black unions and encouraged the workers all to join the unions the whole country.

METAL AND ALLIED WORKERS' UNION

At Alcan and the metal union.

The leaders of the Union found fault with the Alcan factory which had its head office in Canada. Because they purposely

are not interested in the Black Union.

The leaders have already informed the consul of Canada who will report to his Government about that issue and then they would report it over to the Alcan factory in Canada.

THE UNION GROWS

The union has more than five hundred members of the Alcan workers, which means they are more than half of the eight hundred workers.

THE UNION HAS MADE A REQUEST TO REPRESENT WORKERS

The metal union was contradicted by Alcan at a meeting which was held by the National Industrial Council. This was to revise the work. This revision mean different types of work inside the factories and also has to do with salaries of those types of work. The authority of Alcan said they wanted a committee of the workers in this very important meeting. But six members out of seven members who are in the committee are members of the union. All of those who had offices refused totally to go to that meeting and said they wanted their truthful representatives who is a "mother" of the union who will advice each other with the authority of Alcan. The union would be the truthful representative of the workers. What the workers did which pleased the honourable Diadia of the Zulu Government who is actually the person who asked that the union and the authority of Alcan should work hand in hand. That meeting had to be remanded.

THE RAISING OF THE SALARIES AT ALCAN

The beginning of October the workers of Alcan's wages were raised by 20% which seems is a right wage if we do not consider other things. The money for the workers which we may say are, lay-byes started from 33¼ per hour and was 40c.

Those at the head of the union of Alcan exerted pressure that the wage of a person who just starts should be 40c per hour during the meeting of the workers which was held. That was pleasing expecting something great.

THE SPEECH OF THE CONVENOR

We have heard important speeches from our leaders on whom we rely who have ears. Those who have half deaf ears, and those who heads which decide on their own will not hear a Zulu problem goes "One takes too long to do something he gets himself into trouble" where as European say "A bird takes off first finds the feed". Then a person who does not listen to the advices of this government is like a person who is to be rejected or a person who does not want to listen.

In this speech I am referring to those who deceive themselves by saying they know too much and yet do not know that they know nothing. Some of the workers in a firm or under one employer one finds that they are divided in two. There is one side of the clever people and there is a side which is called foolish. But if we look well it is that side which calls itself clever who are foolish. Firstly the black unions represent and support the black workers. Therefore there is no need that there should be a person who does not know that he should be under a union whilst working at his firm. Therefore a two-sided person is not needed amongst the black workers. What type of person

who is two sided? It is that person who is not under a union of blacks, whites, Indians or the coloureds. Is that person who is like, when it is said that blacks have hard heads. It is that person as is said that a black man has not reached that stage to be independant or do something that will build him. It is that person we may call a "sell-out", a person who sells out his people because he wants to be patted on the back by a white boss, a person who does not think for his people that he also work in order to keep himself alive. It is that person who want to suffer up to death. That is a two sided person.] X

Zulus it will lead us no where to keep on complaining about suffering irrespective of being granted all sorts of rights to use. Speaking too much will not help us, only acts and doing something and struggle for our rights to assist us. There has never been a person who advised his enemy where to hit him if he wants to win. Therefore your boss will not tell you what to do so as he should hear your complaints. He will only say one thing to you that is to work harder, if you do not want to take your jacket and walk out of the gate. Therefore there is one thing which will make us succeed. It is a union of the workers that they be united. Enemies come in easily amongst people who are not united more so if you are at the same place. Even the bosses, because very much pleased when they see that their workers are divided in two. They reach their goal. We refer to those men who are only men because they wear trousers, but their brain being dead.

Zulu let us change our minds and look with other eyes. Things are now changed, one who does not see will never see. Whites say "if the grass lies flat it is awoken by the fire". Are you waiting for that flame? We will overcome all which is a problem to us if we are united.

Let the deceivers be finished, the sell-outs who have black skins. Let us not hero worship position at work.

WE WILL SUCCEED WHEN UNITED

Iaisebenzi (New Bulletin) has heard about a shocking way the workers live at Magenge at Pietermaritzburg.

Workers are made to work 18 hour shifts (from 12 midday till 6 am the following morning). From there they go to the compound to rest where they do their cooking which they buy themselves. They sleep a little and then go in again on another shift. Workers work for 90 hours per week. According to law they are supposed to work for 45 hours per week for those work a five day week. But they may work extra hours (overtime). The workers of Magenge who work from 12,00pm to 6,00 which means they work more hours than what they are supposed to work per week which means they work 45 hours more (overtime) per week. That in itself is a crime. The factory law still states that workers who work shifts must be given time of about an hour to rest (lunch). There is no worker at Magenge who gets time to rest during his shift. Another shift starts at 6,00 in the morning to 4,10pm and they too do not get time to rest. These workers work 50 minutes overtime and they should be paid for it. Isisibenzi (New Bulletin) is expected to investigate widely this conditions at Magenge therefore if you get a broad explanation about this subject, it will be pleased.

The General Factory Workers Benefit fund have heard about it and say it will be investigated soon.