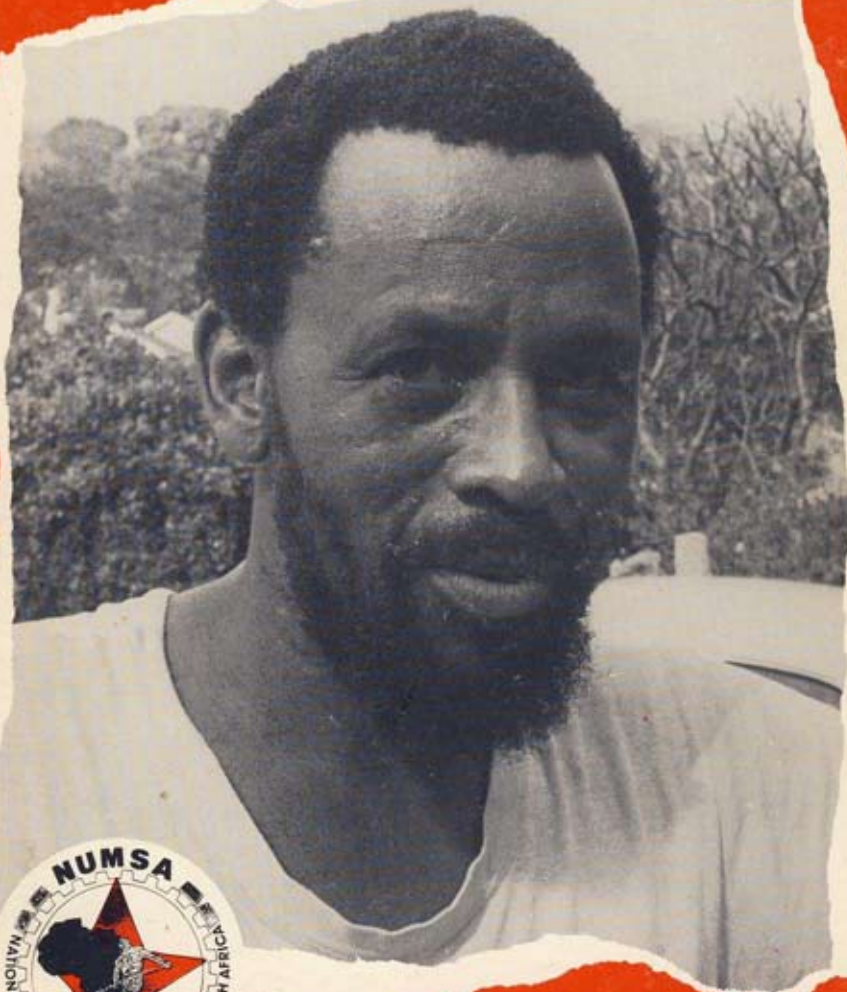


A Working Life,  
**Cruel Beyond Belief**



**Alfred Temba Qabula**

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Cruel Beyond Belief**

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1989  
National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa

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## PREFACE

Ari Sitas suggested that I write this book for everybody. My original plan was to write something only for my children, so if I died in one of my many migrant journeys, I would not remain a stranger to them. They would turn to my notebook and learn that I was so and so who believed in this and that.

I would like to thank him and Debby Bonnin for making it possible for me to write this, get this translated and typed-up. Here Chris, Makhi, Blade, Thomas and Norman must also be thanked for their translations; Steve Kromberg for editing and transcribing; Mathabo Moloï and Deanne for proofreading. Also thanks to the History Workshop which encouraged me further by commending a section of this book for a prize in their working lives programme. This made me feel that even as a lowly worker I had something to contribute to the broader community.

Finally to all the others who rallied to help me in these hard times, I wish to say that had I had a thousand mouths I'd make them sing their praises.

This book is dedicated to the working people of South Africa, especially the migrant workers.

**PUBLISHER'S NOTE:**

Numsa is committed to assisting workers in the telling of their stories.  
The views expressed here are those of the author.

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