

CONSUMER BOYCOTT

By disciplined and united mass action, both in the short and long term we can bring about: Removal of GST from all basic goods! Lower prices for all commodities! Better working conditions and benefits for all! A living wage for all! Unsegregated housing, healthcare services and education for all!! Substantial sponsorships for non-racial sport codes!! Abolition of the instruments and agents of our Oppression and Exploitation!!

★ **THE FOURTH AIM** is to ensure that we know who the **REAL ENEMY** is. The fight is not just against "white" business. It is against the **SYSTEM**. If one of our ideals is to establish a **NON-RACIAL** society then we must struggle to build precisely that!

Exploiters come in all colours. Let us not cloud the issue with "race" and "colour". Let us not mobilise people to exert pressure on "white" businessmen or their chambers of commerce to put pressure on their government. Let us mobilise the people so that we may fight the real enemy relentlessly. Let us not confuse the masses about the real nature of the struggle in South Africa where **APARTHEID** only hides the ugly face of **CAPITALISM**. Our struggle must be **PRINCIPLED** and **PROGRAMMATIC**. We must be fearlessly clear in **THEORY** and firm in **PRACTICE**.

Let us focus the flame of the struggle like a surgical torch to eradicate the cancer of exploitation from our society - not like a flame-thrower which burns up everything in its path.

★ **THE FIFTH AIM** must be to learn important **POLITICAL LESSONS**, so that the next time a boycott is called the involvement of people will be on the basis of their **UNDERSTANDING** rather than their **FEAR!** Then all the oppressed and exploited will be willing to make the sacrifices demanded of them and go forward united. Let us tell the people the truth about where we are going and what we hope to achieve. Let them know that the consumer boycott alone cannot bring the government to its knees.

THERE ARE NO SHORT-CUTS TO LIBERATION.

If well planned, the boycott will leave us stronger in spirit and stronger organisationally, united and ready for the next battle. We can then achieve our short-term goals like lower prices, sponsorships and exposure and isolation of traitors and collaborators.

A vague ill-defined boycott can only spread confusion, demoralisation and division among the oppressed and exploited. It may in the short-term assist to make this or that area **UNGOVERNABLE** or to get this or that capitalist to get the government to **NEGOTIATE**. **BUT IT WON'T BRING TOTAL LIBERATION!**

MESSAGE
FROM
MAWU

Metal workers are determined to fight for what they believe is a living wage. The metal workers want enough money to be able to support their starving families and their brothers, sisters and neighbours - those that were retrenched and those that are unemployed. We are in a very bad position. The government does not support these people. So we are forced to. We need a living wage. The metal bosses have made a lot of profits, they must share those profits with us instead of misusing them by buying more Mercedes Benz's and on Apartheid.

On working shorter hours and no overtime - We want to get enough money by working reasonable and normal hours without killing ourselves. We want to create job opportunities for those who are unemployed and to lessen retrenchments. We want jobs for all. We must have enough time with our families and friends, not only with the bosses' machines. More than 3 million people are unemployed, they must get jobs.

On extra weeks leave - The migrant workers work very hard throughout the year without seeing their families. They are entitled to spend time with their families. We want May Day to be a paid public holiday. The workers have decided to take the 1st of May as a holiday and the bosses should pay.

On retrenchments - We want the employers not to retrench any more workers and to negotiate the retrenchments and severance pay with the representatives of the workers. The bosses must stop being interested in the workers whilst they are able to produce and then discard them like dirt into the dustbin of poverty when workers are no longer useful to the bosses.

MAWU and the metal workers as a whole are sick and tired of the employers who do not want to negotiate at plant level but prefer hiding behind SEIFSA (Metal bosses organisation).

The demands of the workers include (besides those mentioned on Page 2)
1. rest period for workers who are working in hot places;
2. long service increases or benefits.

The metal workers are determined to fight the bosses up to the bitter end. FOSATU as a whole has decided to support the metal workers and the proposed strike. SEIFSA has given 14c across the board at the bottom and pushed the minimum to R1.90 per hour. This is not acceptable and SEIFSA has ignored the other MAWU proposals. SEIFSA has also refused its member companies to negotiate at plant level.

The bosses must stop thinking that they can fool us and play around with our lives. The employers must accept plant level bargaining, must negotiate fairly with workers and not ask for police involvement as they often do.

MAWU is presently holding a referendum to see if its members want to go on a legal strike after the bosses refusal to bargain at the factory level. The decision to go on a national strike was already taken by the MAWU shop stewards councils. The shop stewards represent more than 200 metal factories.

MOSES
MAYEKISO