

# Comment

THE government-backed SABC-TV has begun a major campaign to discredit the progressive organisations calling for people not to vote on August 22 by portraying them as 'intimidators'. Recently, it featured so-called coloured and Indian party leaders who one after the other urged voters not to listen to 'intimidators' but instead participate in this new 'democracy'. But how can any right minded person call the new constitution democratic?

The new constitution sets up three separate parliaments — a 'white' parliament with 178 members, a 'coloured' parliament with 85 members and an 'Indian' parliament with 45 members. You only need elementary maths to see that this new system is heavily weighted in favour of the 'white' parliament. It is clear that the new constitution maintains the same old system of 'divide and rule'. It makes sure that the real power remains in the hands of a ruling National Party elite, headed by the President — which will undoubtedly be assisted by big business. So, giving people a vote does not necessarily make the system democratic!

But what about the African workers? They have been completely excluded from this 'new deal' in spite of the fact that they make up the majority in this country. Instead they have been offered the bantustans as a trade off. And it's not too hard to see who got the raw end of the deal.

Certainly not the bantustan leaders — who at times even make their South African masters blush. In the news recently was Ciskei's president, Lennox Sebe. Yes, he's the one that owns a Mercedes Benz, a BMW, a Cadillac and now a brand new R70 000 imported Daimler. Well, he has now decided to build a R25-million international airport at Bisho. Who would possibly want to land in the Ciskei? He has also sent 20 pilots to be trained in Israel which cost millions of Rands. But the Ciskei has not got any planes for them to fly! Is it surprising that the bantustan system is vehemently rejected by workers.

In FOSATU we have learnt that only when workers stand together can we fight exploitation and oppression. So once again we say 'Workers Unite, Don't Vote'. Reject the divisive and undemocratic constitution. Fight together for a more just society here in South Africa — a society where workers, of all races, can exercise their democratic right.

## What charity!

TO THE NYLON SPINNERS MANAGEMENT

What a shock!

When the notice appeared on the company notice board out of the blue.

We workers read and couldn't believe it to be true.

Management wants us to fill in a stop order form,

To give money to the community Chest who send food parcels to the South African soldiers on the Border!

What a shame!

Workers have long been pleading for a mid-year cost of living increase to be able to cope with the rise in the cost of living.

Management says, No.

But at the same time you give R3,500 yearly to the Community Chest!

The workers' plight.

The wages we ask are not even charity.

We work long, we work hard,

We have a right to share in the profits and to tell you our plight.

You don't want to listen.

Are you asking for a fight?

BY A NATIONAL UNION OF TEXTILE WORKERS  
SHOP STEWARD.

## AECI Vynide workers strike

WORKERS at New Germany factory, AECI Vynide, went on strike for three-days last month when management tried to bring in short time.

A CWIU spokesperson said for the first two days of the strike, the company refused to talk to the union.

However, on the third day,

management cracked and a settlement was negotiated in terms of which the factory would return to full time, he said.

He added that the 40-hour short time would have meant a 15 percent drop in wages for the workers.

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# Workers take the lead!

WORKERS must be encouraged to take the lead in the struggle for economic and social liberation, says Transport and General Workers Union shop steward, Jethro Dlalisa.

'We must move forward with collective strength and a firm mandate.'

'We must make sure that all our struggles are bent in the direction of the working class,' said Brother Dlalisa.

He was speaking at a general meeting of the Johannesburg Local held for FOSATU members in the area.

At this meeting, held in Dube in Soweto on July 22, hundreds of workers came from as far as Alexander and Tembisa.

In his talk on the 'Political and Economic Events of 1984', Brother Dlalisa explained how

the recession had made the government feel insecure.

'The State through the white parliament, the police, the army and the courts has looked for ways to suppress and control the working class,' he said.

He said in 1984 this attempt to control could be seen in the introduction of the President's Council and the new racial parliaments.

'And there will not only be three parliaments. We have to remember the nine or so other parliaments in the human dumping grounds called homelands,' Brother Dlalisa said.

'These racial parliaments are contrary to our envisaged, one nation in an undivided South Africa. They are dividing workers,' he added.

On top of this, he said, there

had been the increasing resettlement plans and the tightening up of influx control.

'And there are plans to step up control over the unions, if the Manpower Commission report is followed by the government,' he added.

'So, what can we do to resist these pressures?' Brother Dlalisa asked.

'We have to commend the workers for forcing out the liaison committees in the factories. We must continue to build our unions' he said.

Brother Dlalisa ended by appealing to 'our coloured and Indian brothers' to not vote in the coming elections.

Other speakers at the Johannesburg Local discussed strikes and the problems workers confront in a recession.

## Uniply workers pack industrial court case



Paper Wood and Allied Workers Union organiser, Moses Ndlovu, talks to Uniply workers during a break in the day-long industrial court case

HUNDREDS of Uniply workers packed into Bolton Hall in Durban on July 24 to hear union lawyers argue for the reinstatement of two of their shop stewards.

The entire Uniply workforce was fired shortly after they had staged a May Day march at the Cato Ridge factory.

The Paper Wood and Allied Workers Union has taken two cases to the industrial court — one for the reinstatement of two shop stewards and the other for the reinstatement of the rest of the workforce.

On July 24, the industrial court heard the case for the reinstatement of shop stewards, Thomas Makathini and Isaac Mkhize.

The other case still has to be heard by the court.

During the court case, a union lawyer argued that Brothers Makathini and Mkhize had been clearly victimised because they were shop stewards.

'The dismissals relate to their carrying out their functions as

shop stewards,' he said.

He added that management had acted 'inconsistently' by allowing the 'One Man One Vote' demonstration to be held in November and yet firing the shop stewards on May Day because of a similar demonstration.

The union lawyer detailed events which, he said, showed that Uniply had no 'confidence' in the PWAWU shop stewards and had not treated them as the 'true representatives' of their workers.

He said in April Uniply had turned down a shop steward request for protective clothing because management said they did not have sufficient funds.

However, shop stewards pointed out that the company had recently bought new machines and had built a new car park, the union lawyer said.

'It seems it is more important to the company that private cars parked outside shouldn't be damaged than employees walking inside the factory,' he said.

He added that the company on April 24 had communicated directly with the workers about alleged damaging of machines without even consulting with the shop stewards.

'How do the shop stewards feel when they are treated in this manner, surely it must create ill feeling between management and the shop stewards,' he said.

In reply, the Uniply lawyers argued that Brother Makathini had been fired because he had breached the company's rules by clocking out workers during the May Day march.

Brother Mkhize, they said, had been fired for calling a meeting of workers without permission and for causing the stoppage that took place on May 1.

Judgement was not given at the end of the case, so the Uniply workers are still waiting to hear if the industrial court will order the reinstatement of Brothers Makathini and Mkhize.

## Wage hike after bitter strike

IN a sequel to the bitter strike at BMW earlier this year, the company and the National Automobile and Allied Workers Union have reached a wage settlement.

About 1 500 workers at this Pretoria motor plant stopped work when the company refused to better its offer of a 10c an hour increase.

During the strike, BMW used a helicopter to drop anti-union pamphlets in the townships and organised a party — all in an attempt to break the workers' unity

The workers returned to work when the company agreed to return to the negotiating table.

Finally in June, the company agreed to give workers increases ranging from 33 cents to 50 cents an hour.

In terms of the settlement BMW workers will also get a service attendance allowance ranging from 5 cents to 15 cents depending on the length of service.

The company also guaranteed a bonus of at least 4 percent rising up to 8,33 percent depend-

ing on length of service.

Meanwhile, NAAWU has recently completed a wage agreement at Wayne Rubber near Durban.

This factory was also the subject of a wage strike earlier this year.

In terms of the agreement, the minimum wage was raised on July 1 from R60,95 per week to R66,44.

Wayne workers will get another increase in January which will take the minimum wage up to R70,76.