



FOSATU WORKER NEWS

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**SPECIAL
EDITION**

FOSATU SETS CONDITIONS FOR REGISTRATION

FOSATU has decided that it will test the new law strongly and directly. We stand by certain principles that have been fought for by workers. To test if the new law accepts or rejects these principles we will seek:

1. REGISTRATION FOR UNIONS THAT ARE NON-RACIAL IN THEIR MEMBERSHIP AND EXECUTIVES.
2. REGISTRATION THAT IS FINAL REGISTRATION AS GRANTED TO PRESENT REGISTERED UNIONS. WE WILL REFUSE PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION.
3. REGISTRATION FOR OUR EXISTING BROAD BASED INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND NOT SMALLER DIVIDED UNIONS.

We stand for the right of workers irrespective of race or creed to join the union of their choice. We are against Government interference and control of trade unions. Therefore we cannot accept registration if the law will continue to be used to divide workers and control their organisations.

By submitting applications setting out conditions for registration based on our strong beliefs we have taken a clear stand. Now it is for the -

MINISTER OF MANPOWER UTILISATION to show everyone whether this new law will be used to divide and control workers or whether it is a real step forward in the struggle for freedom of association and against racism.

EMPLOYERS to decide whether they will negotiate with non-racial unions or whether they will continue to hide behind racism and apartheid. Also let us ask employers if they would be happy if their Registrar could interfere in their companies without giving reasons.

WORKERS to show that they will continue to struggle for their rights and not be confused by the "parallel" unions who now with the help of employers and government have found the courage to organise African workers.

UNITY IS STRENGTH

UNIONS TAKE A JOINT STAND

The FOSATU Central Committee decided in September to seek a joint stand with other trade unions on the new law. At a meeting on 3rd November in Johannesburg the 14 FOSATU unions met the African Food and Canning Workers' Union, the Food and Canning Workers Union and the Western Province General Workers Union.

Unfortunately members of the Consultative Council of Black Trade Unions did not attend the meeting.

The unions at this important meeting all agreed that we should not follow the example of the majority of registered unions and sacrifice our principles. They agreed that we could not accept registration that was not on the basis of the three important conditions which are the same as the FOSATU conditions for registration set out in the article above. FOSATU unions will test these principles when they submit applications based on them.

WORKERS BEWARE

After long years of struggle there has been a change in the law. We know that this change is not yet enough. But for those who have not struggled it seems to be good enough and they are racing to organise African workers. Can these unions help workers and grow strong? Workers ask yourself the following questions about these unions.

WHERE WERE THEY DURING ALL THESE YEARS THAT WE STRUGGLED AGAINST EMPLOYERS AND THE GOVERNMENT?

WHY WERE THEY SO SCARED OF THE MINISTER OF LABOUR THAT THEY FORCED AFRICAN UNIONS OUT OF TUCSA?

WHY DID THEY NOT ASSIST OUR UNIONS WHEN THEY STARTED?

WHY WERE THEY SILENT WHEN OUR OFFICIALS WERE BANNED?

WHAT KIND OF UNION NEEDS THE HELP AND SUPPORT OF EMPLOYERS TO ORGANISE WORKERS?

WHO STARTED THESE UNIONS - WAS IT WORKERS OR WAS IT THE OFFICIALS OF REGISTERED UNIONS AND THE EMPLOYERS?

Workers! Do not be confused. These unions cannot answer these questions, they are opportunists who will never be able to fight against the employers who have helped create them.

FOSATU CENTRAL COMMITTEE STATEMENT

So as to avoid any confusion the full statement adopted by the FOSATU Central Committee on the 3rd November 1979 is reprinted on the back page.