

**Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland Countries Symposium
On Migrant Labour Symposium held in Gaborone,
Botswana 6-10 November, 1978.**

In an endeavour to assist the social life of the migrant workers try and reduce the number of migrant labour, the workers movements of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland countries gathered in Gaborone on 6-10 November, 1978 to study and identify problems of Migrant Labour with a view of trying to seek possible solutions.

During this gathering, constructive suggestions were brought forward by participants. It goes without saying that supplier countries economies are pegged to the South African economy.

Having realised the inhuman conditions under which the migrant workers are subjected and that the poor labour supplier countries are subsidising the economy of South Africa, the participants hereby resolve that:

the labour movements of the Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland countries encourage their respective governments to further spearhead possible ways of creating small scale industries in the rural areas thus to gradually reduce the outflow of labour.

trade unions in the Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland countries be involved in job creation by forming cooperative movements.

noting that complete withdrawal is a long process project, the trade unions in conjunction with the Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland countries should negotiate with the Chamber of Mines to better the conditions of Migrant Workers, that is to say, better shelter and working conditions.

each supplier country should undertake to plan its economic development in such a way as to restructure its economy through industrialisation, agricultural and rural transformation and the development of other productive activities.

as an interim measure, the Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland countries should undertake immediately to monitor the socio-economic conditions of the migrant workers with a view to eventual complete withdrawal.

in order to enable the phasing out of migratory labour system to occur with the minimum dislocation to the economies of the Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland countries, by the migratory system should operate and coordinate their activities to this end.

motivate people in the rural areas to grow vegetables for sale.

cash crops like cotton be produced.

money should be directed to rural areas to as to create employment.

whether be it in town or bush, machines deprive people of employment. In economic terms this is termed technological unemployment.

the aforesaid is meant to highlight the question of capital intensive methods used in the Mining Industry which is unfavourable to the Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland countries.

governments of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland countries with particular reference to Botswana and Swaziland should promote tourism as this is a source of national income.

minerals should be processed into finished goods, i.e. in the case of Swaziland (a) pulp should be processed into paper (b) sugar should be refined.

in Botswana the government should establish the mining of secondary minerals, e.g. (a) sulphur plants at copper mines (b) copper ware manufacturing industries (c) plants for processing asbestos products (d) the diamond industry should establish cutting and polish factories.

there should be decentralisation in industries.

Botswana and Swaziland countries should insure that migrant labour to South Africa are provided with better houses and other social security and strongly urge the governments to set up a standing committee which will work out and review from time to time the working conditions of migrant labourers.

To sum up, the participants extend their sincere gratitude to the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and Botswana Federation of Trade Unions for having

organised this very important symposium.

Long Live the Working Class

Solidarity for Ever

Adopted this 10th day of November 1978 at Gaborone, Botswana.