

BANTUSTAN ATTACK ON TRADE UNIONS

Below we reproduce the text of a letter received by the Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers Union from the "government" of Bophuthatswana. Similar letters have been received by other unions operating in the Bantustan.

Mrs E Mashinini
The General Secretary
CCAWUSA

11th October, 1983

Dear Madam

UNION ACTIVITY : BOPHUTHATSWANA

It has been alleged that an agent, or agents, of your Union have been active in Bophuthatswana. This is to inform you that neither the CCAWUSA, or any other trade union or employers' organisation, being unions or organisations of another country, are permitted to operate in Bophuthatswana.

The government of Bophuthatswana appreciates the need for workers to enjoy the benefits of collective bargaining with their employers and the part trade unions can play in ensuring industrial harmony. To this end, a new Industrial Conciliation Act has been drafted and will be put before Parliament for acceptance at its next session. It is anticipated this will be before the end of November, 1983.

The Minister of Manpower and Co-ordination will be responsible for the administration of this Act which will legalise, for the first time, trade unions and employers' organisations in Bophuthatswana. Closed shop agreements will not be permitted and workers will be free to join the Union of their choice - or not join a union at all.

Unions and organisations, whether registered or not, must have their governing body in Bophuthatswana. No person may be appointed as an official or as an office bearer unless he is ordinarily employed in this country. No union or employers association from outside the borders of this country will be permitted to operate in Bophuthatswana. You will be aware, I am sure, that no independent country permits the unions of another country to operate within its borders.

I trust you will take note that your Union has no standing in terms of legislation shortly to be published, to carry on activities in this country and that these, if the allegation is correct, must cease forthwith or the consequences faced (sic).

Yours faithfully

E. V. McCORMACK.

E/SECRETARY FOR MANPOWER AND CO-ORDINATION.