Editorial note

Jabu Matiko has joined the staff of the <u>Labour Bulletin</u> as a researcher. Jabu previously worked for the Metal and Allied Workers Union as an organiser on the East Rand for the last three years.

Potentially the most important development in the trade union movement at the moment is COSATU's call for a national living wage campaign. Whilst this issue is mentioned in some of the articles in the present edition, the <u>Bulletin</u> will be monitoring the campaign on an ongoing basis in the future.

SARHWU: organising SATS workers

The following is an interview with members of the South African Railway and Harbour Workers Union (SARHWU) at the Delmore hostel situated near Germiston. Workers are engaged in organizing other workers for the union. At present the management (South African Transport Services) is refusing to recognize the union. Shop-stewards and union officials have met with harassment and detentions after the union launched a campaign last year to get workers to resign from the management-created Black Staff Association.

Despite this the organizing campaign is still on. At Delmore attempts are not only made at the worksphere, workers are also organized at the homesphere - in this case in the hostel provided by SATS. Workers interviewed are not only members of the recruiting committee, but also form part of the Delmore hostel executive committee established to struggle against bad living conditions.

At present the compound manager uses compound security guards who guard the hostel. Their primary task is to check who gets in and out of the hostel, around the clock. All hostel inmates are supposed to have their hostel permits to gain access. In the past (this has stopped since the inception of the hostel committee) hostel dwellers were forced to spend the night at the Delmore railway station waiting rooms if they failed to produce their hostel permits. Visitors are not allowed. A loudhailer is usually used to call out those who have visitors, and the meeting place is outside the hostel.