

collateral for loans made by Allied.

Secondly it links the 'informal sector' very firmly with big capital, providing agents for major manufacturers - including the United Tobacco Company, which markets a wide range of cigarettes.

Apolitical as Business Challenge affects to be, it is certainly a second circuit to big capital and hardly the shortest route of access to any of the liberation organisations in the country. Fida, without doubt, is inimical to simple non-racial democracy and the organisations which promote it.

No doubt, as he extended his stay in South Africa Tekere reached beyond these initial sponsors. But his strange entree does more than tease. It calls to mind his electoral alliance early this year with Ian Smith's all-white Electoral Alliance. - WIP Correspondent

## MERGER

# One post office, one union

A MERGER with two other post office staff associations and privatisation of the post office are two key items on the agenda for the Post and Telecommunication Workers' Association (Potwa) congress in Johannesburg in January next year.

Other matters that will come up for discussion are negotiations between the African National Congress and the government and greater participation by Potwa members in civic associations.

Potwa president Kgabisi Mosunkutu says a merger with the 5 300-strong Postal

Employees Association of SA (Peasa), whose membership is predominantly coloured, and the SA Post and Telecommunication Employees' Association (Saptea), which has 1 260 Indian members, has been on the cards for some time.

Says Mosunkutu: 'The congress will open the way for the merger with Peasa and Saptea - probably in the middle of next year. At the same time Potwa will be transformed into a fully-fledged trade union, in line with a resolution adopted at our 1988 congress. After that the major challenge will be to organise white workers into the union'. - Henson Sompetha

## LABOUR

# Bantustan union trade-offs

TRADE unions have not wasted time in exerting their influence in Ciskei and Transkei where they have recently been given the green light to operate: they've pushed the two bantustans into making changes to the new labour laws.

As reported in WIP 69, the new labour dispensation in Transkei came into effect in June and in Ciskei in July. In late September and early October Cosatu requested further concessions in talks with Ciskei's Brigadier Oupa Gqozo and Transkei's General Bantu Holomisa. Briefly, the changes Cosatu has won in Ciskei are:

- farm and domestic workers, and those employed in small businesses (concerns employing less than 20 workers), who were previously excluded from

the ambit of the new law, will now be covered by it. Farm and domestic workers are already covered in Transkei;

- workers are no longer required to give employers 24 hours notice if they intend going on strike. By the same token, bosses do not have to give notice if they intend imposing a lock-out;
- the 180-day time limit for parties to refer disputes to conciliation boards is to be extended;
- requirements for trade union registration will be simplified. Two unions are already registered: the SA Clothing & Textile Workers' Union (Sactwu) and the SA Municipal Workers' Union. Both are Cosatu affiliates. Sactwu and two other Cosatu unions - the National Union of Metalworkers and the Chemical Workers'

Industrial Union - are registered in Transkei. In its talks with Holomisa, Cosatu asked for the law to be extended to cover government and parastatal workers and for union registration procedures to be simplified.

No details of the concessions the Transkei military leader is prepared to make were available when WIP went to press, although Cosatu regional chair Theminkosi Mkalipi said the discussion was 'very good and positive'. Nevertheless, both leaders are still firmly excluding civil servants from being covered by the new laws.

Gqozo, clearly threatened by the prospect of strikes in the public service and journalists not toeing the line, has announced that journalists at Radio Ciskei are regarded as civil servants. - Louise Flanagan

## Co-operative Planning and Education (Cope)

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This is a challenging position for someone experienced in the field of business administration, planning and management. Previous work in development an asset. Experience in the field of business essential.

### • Senior Projects officer

This post involves development and resource planning for large-scale development projects which will involve co-operatives and community businesses. Experience in development work or co-operatives essential.

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