



# WORKERS POWER BUILDS UNITY

Working class men, women and youth fight for a better society for all people. In this struggle working people have built mass organisations in the places where they live and work. It is out of this struggle that co-ops have grown.

In co-ops working class people have forged an opportunity to plan and work in a more human and democratic way, than in the work places of the bosses. In co-ops workers are their own bosses. Workers unity and power built co-ops.

In rural areas women have united in co-ops to grow food for their households. Poverty wages from mine bosses cannot support them. In some places unemployed people have united to build houses or do woodwork. Women come together to knit or sew. Some people try to save money together. Striking workers who have lost their jobs have united in co-ops. The strikers from SARMCOL print T/shirts, grow food and make plays. G.M. strikers started a workers' club. They repair cars and houses.

Co-ops is one way through which working class people can struggle for their demands. Co-ops can also defend some of the gains workers have won. The struggle of men, women and youth to build co-ops, can grow really powerful. But this can only happen if their struggle continues to be part of the struggle of all working class people to build a better society.

**Working class people demand change. Men, women and youth want to see real changes in their lives. They say: "We want a living wage. We want proper houses and transport. We want real education for ourselves and our children. We want a decent life for all people. We can't keep living on bosses handouts and promises. We demand the right to organise and speak out."**

## WORKERS POWER BUILDS CO-OPS



To strengthen their struggle for a better future, co-ops need to follow democratic principles:

★ Co-ops must build the broadest unity.

Co-ops cannot remain small little islands, where a few people work together. Co-ops need to join and work together with other co-ops.

Co-ops must build strong links with mass organisations in the community and in the work place. A strong and united co-op movement, must be part of the mass struggle of all working class people. In this way only, can co-ops win real gains for working people.

★ Co-ops must build organisations through the democratic laws of working class people.

Co-ops must be controlled and owned by its members. The controlling body of a democratic co-op must be a general meeting of all its members.

All co-op members must have the same rights. All members must have an equal say and vote in the co-op. All members must have an equal say in the distribution of the surplus of the co-op. All members should be part of organising and planning the direction their co-op should take. At the end of the day, the majority decision must take the co-op forward.

All co-ops should educate their members so that they can participate in all the activities of the co-op.

Co-ops need clear structures of mandates and report backs. These structures must be built at local, regional and national levels.