

Even if you have not given your name to the Advice Bureau, you can still attend. The course is free.

3. Western Province Workers Advice Bureau - Inaugural Meeting

Members of the Western Province Workers Advice Bureau are reminded of the first general meeting of the Bureau. It will be held on Wednesday, 20th June, at 7.00 p.m., at the Christian Institute (1 Long Street, Mowbray - opposite the railway station). All members are welcome, but if you cannot come, give your apologies to the Secretary at the office.

Workers who are not members, can come to the meeting and join there.

The meeting is to approve the constitution, and to elect an executive committee and a Board of Trustees to manage the Advice Bureau.

4. National Union of Clothing Workers (S.A.)

Although African workers are not allowed to form registered trade unions, there is nothing to stop them forming unofficial trade unions which can assist them in improving their working conditions. One such union is the National Union of Clothing Workers which is the largest African trade union in the country, with 18,000 members.

The National Union of Clothing Workers has for many years been a leader in the field of African Trade Unionism. In the past it was affiliated to TUCSA (the Trade Union Council of S.A.) but in February 1969, all African Trade Union movements were excluded from their affiliation mainly as a result of strong government pressure.

The National Union of Clothing Workers has, however, continued to be effective - the main reason for this is probably the strong support given to the African union by its registered White and Coloured counterpart, the Garment Workers Union. The African Union is recognised by employers, who deduct membership dues from wages, and the Union is allowed to organise inside the factories.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Lucy Mvubelo, the membership of the Union has grown to more than 18,000 - the National Union of Clothing Workers is living proof that Africans are capable of running the trade unions efficiently. The Union has made a special effort to educate its members about industrial legislation. It has also provided a system of group insurance for its members.

At its Annual Conference in April 1973, Mrs. Mvubelo, the General Secretary of the Union, had this to say of African trade unions:-

"Only if trade union organisations can co-operate without discriminating between members on the basis of colour of skin, can better understanding between workers and management come about. In fact there is no substitute for trade union recognition."