

# Don't judge a book by its cover

Badge of slavery. That's what workers called the *dompas*. Now the *dompas* is going and Botha says there is a new ID for everyone. But the controls over black workers have not gone with the new ID. COSATU rejects the new ID. This educational column explains why.

The *dompas* was a plan to control the life and movement of workers. It was also a plan to rob

South Africa's black people of citizenship. To cut us off from the riches of the country in which we were born. To deny us the fruit of the hard work we put in to make the country rich and strong.

So passes go hand in hand with exploitation of workers. Many

bosses today are trying hard to say that they are the black peoples friend. They are liars. It was the bosses themselves who came with the plan of the *dompas*.

Passes go hand in hand with the governments plan of making bantustans. They are the government's dumping ground. This is where they push those people they don't need on the mines and in the factories. They don't want millions of suffering and poor people in the cities.

They know that in the city these people will see the country's riches in the hands of a few. They will unite and organise. So the government sends them to bantustans to be controlled by the Sebes, Matanzimas and Mangopes. These are the gangsters of apartheid

who are only after making money and controlling people. They are against the workers. They have banned trade unions.

The oppressed people and workers have always hated passes. Many have died in the fight against passes.

\* In 1956 women said NO! to passes. Thousands of women from all over the country marched to the Government in Pretoria. They demanded that women must never carry the *dompas*. But the apartheid government forced women to have the Badge of Slavery. Those who would not were arrested and put in jail.

\* 1960 was the year of the big anti-pass fight led by ANC and PAC. All over the country people started burning their passes. But the Government answered with bullets.

At Sharpeville 69 people were killed: police shot them while they burnt their papers outside the police station.

\* Crossroads in Cape Town is known all over the world for fighting against the pass. The women of Crossroads came from "homelands" to be with their husbands who worked in Cape Town. The government would not give them papers: still they came. They built shacks to live in because the blackjacks chased them from the hostels. For over 15 years the government tried to smash Crossroads. Again and again the bulldozers came to break the houses. But the women always built their houses again. With the help of the churches, they told their story to the whole world. Last year the government did an evil thing. They

got thugs - the witdoek fathers - to do away with Crossroads. The thugs killed people. They burned houses. Today, the Crossroads shacks are gone and the brave fighters are scattered.

\* Last year COSATU gave a big warning to the government: "Get rid of pass laws now! If you don't we will start the biggest fight against passes. We might even burn them in the streets."

So in June the government changed the law. From July 1 black people no longer had to have passes. Everyone must now have identity documents.

The new ID book will not have the boss's stamp. This is because you can work and stay where you like - if you can find a house or a job.

Clearly the government changed the pass because this law



## Municipal workers unite



Municipal workers from nine different municipalities in the Western Cape met in Cape Town to discuss uniting to form one union. COSATU affiliate CTMWA hosted the joint meeting. Workers from Grabouw, Bellville, Goodwood, Kraaifontein, Stellenbosch, Somerset West, Vredenberg/Saldanha and the Cape Divisional Council met to report on the developments in the building worker - controlled committees in the different areas.

A workers comrade spoke about their struggle against the old committee where workers had no voice. "We are fighting against a one-man union where the old chairman controls".

Workers discussed the need for a national union of municipal workers under COSATU. The need for a new constitution was also discussed. There are plans to have more regular joint meetings of municipal workers in the W. Cape.

## The spy who went into the cold -

COSATU NEWS SPOKE TO CHRIS MENZI (CHAIRMAN - CADBURY, BEC & REC FAWU MEMBER)

Q : Comrade, how did you first hear of the police impimpi in your factory?

A : We were planning a general meeting when I was informed by a comrade that we must be careful as the SB's knew about our meeting and they would be outside the factory gates after the meeting. We were told the name of the impimpi, but we just ignored that and went ahead with the meeting.

Q : What was the purpose of the meeting?

A : We were discussing and deciding what to do about detainees that had been arrested since the declaration of the state of emergency, as well as the demands of COSATU and our MMP (Medical Aid Plan).

Q : What happened after the meeting was closed?

A : When we came out of the factory we saw the SB's outside. It was then when we remembered the warning of our comrade. Anyway the SB's followed us and stopped us near Firestone. They began to question us about our meeting, and

in particular about our decision concerning the stay-away that had been planned for Monday 14th. We told them that we were discussing MMP, not the stay-away. They threatened to visit me, and also asked after our branch secretary - Dendile - and members Kawa and Ndusulwane. We said we do not know where these comrades are. On the same day we had COSATU local meeting, so we went straight to inform the comrades about what had happened. but after 15 minutes the SB's were there and we had to disperse.

Q : Then what did you decide to do?



## COMRADES AT WORK

# Minimum wage set at R4,10

The struggle for living wage took a big step forward with CWIU's wage victory at Ciba-Geigy.

200 workers, all members of CWIU, will receive an increase of R153 per month (87 cents per hour) from January 1st 1987. This brings their minimum wage to R4.10 per hour. As far as COSATU NEWS knows, this is the highest minimum wage in the country.

The R153 per month represents a 27 percent increase on the minimum wage. The CWIU is in the process of several wage negotiations and the topping of R4.00 per hour minimum wage at Ciba-Geigy represents the beginning of a strong attempt by the union to achieve minimum wages of R4.00 per hour plus in 1987.

The struggle for a living wage is gaining strength day by day. All unions in COSATU in major industries are fighting for a living wage. The starvation wages that the bosses are paying workers can no longer be tolerated.

Next year COSATU unions will join their wage struggles together into a national campaign for a living wage. Only the mass united strength of the organised working class can succeed in achieving COSATU's goal - a living wage for all workers in South Africa.

## HOTEL WORKERS JOIN COSATU

The 7,000 strong Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union (HARWU) has affiliated to COSATU.

HARWU has organised hotel and restaurant workers on the Witwatersrand, Pretoria, East London, Port Elisabeth and the OFS. It is currently involved in talks with 2 hotel unions outside COSATU (in the Cape and Natal) about forming a national union.

## TUCSA BREAKS UP & CUSA/AZACTU MERGE

The conservative Trade Union Council of South Africa (TUCSA) has dissolved. In 1983 TUCSA affiliates had over 500,000 members. Now they are nothing.

The reason is clear. Workers want a fighting unity against the bosses and the government - not a federation of collaborators. Ex-TUCSA workers will find a truly workers home in COSATU where the unity and needs of workers come first.

Every worker in South Africa belongs in COSATU. That is what we are fighting for: One Federation - One Country.

Meanwhile the 2 remaining federations in South Africa - CUSA and AZACTU - have merged. COSATU welcomes any step that brings workers together. COSATU hopes the CUSA/AZACTU merger will lead to the unification of CUSA/AZACTU with COSATU. The unity of the South African working class is top of the agenda for COSATU.

## UDF AN AFFECTED ORGANISATION

The UDF has been declared an affected organisation. This means it

can no longer get financial assistance from overseas supporters.

The Botha government has been forced to take this drastic step because of the mass support UDF has amongst workers and youth in South Africa.

COSATU condemns this latest attack on the UDF. It will not stop the exploited and oppressed people of South Africa from building mass progressive political organisation to take forward the struggle for liberation.

## WORKERS DON'T BUY CLOVER

Thousands and thousands of workers are refusing to buy any Clover products. Workers are not buying in protest against the dismissal of FAWU comrades from Clover's Pietermaritzburg dairy. Workers are saying they will continue not buying Clover products until all workers have been unconditionally reinstated and detained workers have been released.

## UNEMPLOYED WORKERS CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

The Unemployed Workers Co-ordinating Committee (UWCC) are co-ordinating the organisation of unemployed workers for COSATU's National Union of Unemployed Workers.

UWCC are organising unemployed workers in the Transvaal and liaising with organised groupings of unemployed workers throughout the country. A series of national meetings are planned where the structure and functioning of the Unemployed Workers Union will be worked out.

Unemployed workers and youth - you are millions and millions. Unemployment has never been so bad as it is today in South Africa. And everyday it is getting worse.

COSATU believes that unemployment can be solved and that everyone should have work. But we can only get there through organisation and struggle. Organise yourselves wherever you are and make contact with the UWCC through COSATU. Employed and unemployed workers, together in COSATU, will march forward to a society which guarantees jobs for all at a living wage.

## CONSTRUCTION UNION TO BE LAUNCHED

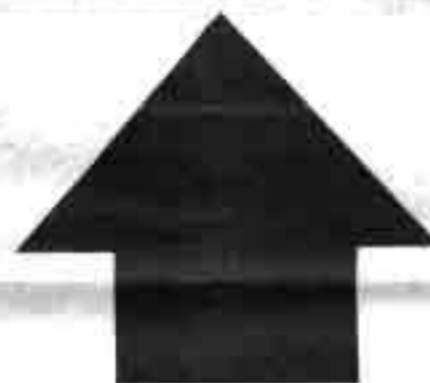
Plans for launching a COSATU Construction Workers Union are far advanced. The proposed time for the launch of the new union is the end of November.

A Co-ordinating Committee - with delegates from all COSATU unions with members in the construction sector - has been setting up the structures for the new union from members of the different COSATU unions:

discussing a draft constitution and identifying key companies that will form the core of the new union.



## If you do, you might end up in one of these



was bringing big trouble to them. A campaign against the pass would have the support of all democratic trade unions and community organisations.

But the control over workers from rural areas is not dead. They will still find it hard to escape the hunger in the rural areas by finding work in the city.

And the government is using other laws to do the work of the pass:

The Aliens Act: This law means that people from Venda, Ciskei, Transkei and Bophutatswana will not get the new I.D. books. These people will still need a special contract to work where they like in the country.

They have made a law which says you must have a house in the place where you want to work. You can still be arrested for staying in a

squatter camp or for not having a lodger's permit. So it will be very hard to work where you like.

The government says blacks must be happy with its new plan. But Cosatu and progressive organisations says the government is trying to bluff the workers and the people. COSATU rejects the new ID. We demand the right to free movement without control.

COSATU and progressive organisations are warning that maybe:

\*People who can't read and write won't get the new I.D.

\*People without houses or lodger's permits won't get the I.D. The many thousands on the waiting list for houses will also not get the I.D.

\*Even people with section 10 rights won't be safe if they lose all jobs or houses.

All these people may be thrown out to the homelands.

So COSATU says we must carry on fighting against the new plan. COSATU believes there should be a big national struggle against the new ID.

The COSATU CEC said: "The new plan divides workers. Bosses are helping the government to make the new plan work."

It said COSATU affiliates and locals must talk about how to fight the new I.D. controls. We must plan a national campaign against the new ID. We must discuss our proposals with other organisations of the oppressed and they must come into the campaign to make it strong. Has your union discussed the campaign against the new ID? Are your bosses helping the government make you take the new ID?

## How FAWU deals with impimpis

A: Well we knew that the information that we had got from the comrade about the impimpi was correct, since it all happened just as he said it would. So we called a special meeting of shop stewards and we discussed the problem of the impimpi. The meeting unanimously decided that his particular impimpi should be dismissed. So we called the factory director and told him that we don't want to work with this impimpi. The director said that they do not want to dismiss this guy. We told him that we want to avoid bloodshed, since the workers were very angry about this impimpi. The factory director then said he would

take this issue to the general manager. After that we were told that the impimpi was sent home and there would be a dismissal hearing on Monday.

Q: Were you happy with this decision of the bosses?

A: Not at all. We did not trust it. So we called a general meeting of Holland Park and Harrow Rd FAWU members to discuss this issue further, and the question of detainees. This mass meeting of workers fully supported the call for the dismissal of the impimpi. The next thing we heard that the police had been called, saying we were singing freedom

songs. But the factory director kept them away. Then he informed us that the Commissioner of SAP had phoned and told him to stop our meeting. But we continued until our agenda was finished.

Q: What do you think this struggle can teach other comrades?

A: Workers who are informers can see that it is not wise to be an informer, since we are fighting the same struggle against the same enemy. We need unity and strength amongst the workers. We must challenge everything as one force against the bosses and the government. In this way our unity bears fruit - it brings victory.