

CONGRESS RESISTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRANSVAAL INDIAN CONGRESS



MAY DAY - DAY OF WORKERS UNITY

May 1st this year, marks the 101st anniversary of May Day or International Labour Day. In SA and the world over May Day symbolises the struggle, solidarity and unity of the working people.

Workers remember their bitter struggle at work against slave wages and long hours, against unemployment and starvation, racist employers, retrenchments and little social security.

Workers remember their struggle at home against high rents, poor facilities, inadequate transport and housing shortages.

And on this day, through expressing their unity, their power - workers rededicate themselves to the struggle for a decent life.

Today under the banner of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), workers throughout S.A. are demanding a living wage.

Congress calls the WORKERS in the Indian community to:

- join in the struggle for a living wage.
- join Cosatu and its affiliates (particularly those previously belonging to TUCSA).
- unite with and support the struggles of African workers.
- not to divide and weaken workers by indulging in scab labour.

We call on the UNEMPLOYED

- join or form progressive trade unions linked to Cosatu.
- demand the right to work
- demand better unemployment benefits

We call on the EMPLOYERS

- recognize May 1st as a paid public holiday for workers
- give workers off on May Day every year
- be sympathetic to the struggle of workers for higher wages and better working conditions.



May Day Rally 1939 Durban

We call on the HOUSEWIVES

- give domestic workers off on May 1st every year as a paid holiday
- improve the working and living conditions of domestic workers
- encourage domestic workers to join the South African Domestic Workers Union (SADWU)

We call on the COMMUNITY

- attend public rallies, cultural and the May Day activities wherever they are held
- Support the struggle of the workers; the workers struggle is our struggle; Our struggle is the workers struggle!

STOP PRESS

Congress condemns the brutal killings of 6 striking railway workers by police on 22/04/87. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the families and fellow workers of those killed, as well as to the Cosatu-affiliated South African Railways and Harbours Workers Union.



Congress Rallies

LENASIA
MAY DAY RALLY
FRI 1 MAY 1987
2:30 pm
GANDHI HALL
SPEAKER
HELEN JOSEPH

LAUDIUM
FRI 1 MAY 1987
MAY DAY
CULTURAL AFTERNOON
2 pm
● COSATU SPEAKER
● POETRY, DRAMA
● MUSIC
SEVA SAMAJ HALL

CONGRESS SUPPORTS COSATU!

MAY 6...

WHITES ONLY ELECTION

- WHAT IS IT ABOUT?
- WHO WILL WIN?
- WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR US?
- PFP AND THE INDEPENDENTS?

THE CONGRESS VIEW...

THE ELECTION IS NOT LEGITIMATE

The elections are about a small minority taking decisions for a huge majority. It is not legitimate for the white minority to try to determine the lives and future of the 30-million black majority.

THE ELECTION SOLVES NOTHING

The elections will not solve the political and economic crisis facing this country. It will not end the growing conflict between fellow South Africans. It will not end widespread unemployment and inflation. It does not address the fundamentally democratic demand of the majority for one person, one vote in one parliament.

THE POLICE AND MILITARY WILL WIN

Botha is a dictator. He has destroyed basic freedoms - freedom of the press, the freedom to organise, freedom of speech and even the freedom to pray for detainees. Botha has allowed the military and police to run this country.

The State Security Council composed of the security, military and intelligence, is the effective **Inner Cabinet** today. It rules at a local level through secret structures called joint management committees

The white electorate will vote in the Nats and entrench Botha's dictatorship. But it is really the security, military and intelligence establishment which is returned to power.

CHANGE WILL NOT COME FROM THE WHITE PARLIAMENT

We will have freedom and democracy in South Africa only when the African majority is free. This will not come about from the Nats and their white parliament. True change in the interest of the majority can come about only through the participation of the majority.

Already the African people are talking of controlling their own lives and determining their own future. It is the struggles of the African majority - **outside** parliament - which can influence the course and outcome of events in South Africa. And **no one** can prevent this reality.

PFP AND INDEPENDENTS OFFER NO SOLUTIONS

Both fail to address the key issue of majority rule on a one person, one vote one parliament basis. Their solutions will not change the daily misery of the majority of South Africans. Only certain white business interests will really benefit.

There is no fundamental difference between the Independents and the Nats. Their disagreement is over how best the status quo can be maintained.

The PFP still foolishly believes that it can bring changes through the white parliament. It refuses to accept that parliament is loaded in favour of the Nats. The PFP is also doing everything to avoid genuine democracy - non-racial majority rule.

NATS ARE AGAINST PEACEFUL CHANGE

The Nats deliberately wrecked the Commonwealth's Eminent Person's Group, (EPG) initiative to find a peaceful solution to South Africa's problems.

The EPG said the government has no genuine intention to dismantle Apartheid. It said Nat intransigence could result in the worst bloodbath since the Second World War. With every day we see greater strife and conflict in our country because of Nat policies.

CONGRESS VISION

For the Transvaal Indian Congress (TIC), the Freedom Charter forms the basis of a future majority government. A government under which all - both black and white - shall enjoy full and equal political rights and access to the country's wealth, where basic human rights are guaranteed, where basic freedoms, like that of speech, belief, travel and the press are guaranteed, where the security of family life, housing and employment, as well as free medical care and welfare is guaranteed.

Under the Freedom Charter traders have equal rights to trade where they choose, and workers are protected against exploitation. Under the Freedom Charter a true South Africanism will be promoted and created with all having the right to develop their, customs and language.

THE ROLE OF THE INDIAN PEOPLE

The Indian people have an interest in ending apartheid and can only gain from this. No section of South Africa's people can be free for as long as the African people are not free. To achieve freedom and democracy in South Africa, we have to fight for the liberation of the African people.

The Indian community has a proud history of siding with its fellow oppressed. But we cannot rely only on past contributions to the struggle. We need to meet the challenges of today.

We call on our people - in the schools and universities, at home and at work, in the mosques, temples and churches - to play an **active role** in the ever growing fight against apartheid. Take a stand today for a better tomorrow! The Botha government has long missed the boat.

There will be a majority government in this country. take a stand, make the sacrifices, and benefit. There is no middle of the road.

END BOTHA DICTATORSHIP SUPPORT DEMOCRACY! SUPPORT MAJORITY RULE!

HISTORY OF MAY DAY

May 1st has been celebrated throughout the world as International Worker's Day (May Day) for over a century. Its history dates back to 1856 when workers in Australia went on a work stoppage for an 8-hour working day.

- ★ In 1886 workers in America supported the struggle for an 8-hour working day with massive strikes and demonstrations. Labour leaders were then charged with conspiracy - and hanged. These were the workers' first martyrs.
- ★ In 1890, May 1st was accepted as the Workers' International Day of Solidarity. By this time "Workers of the

World Unite!" had become a popular slogan.

- ★ 1918 is regarded as the beginning of May day for Black South African Workers because of their meetings, processions etc, that year.
- ★ In 1931, the African May Day Committee organised a March through the streets of Johannesburg. The procession led to clash with the police. Many workers were injured and some were sent to prison.
- ★ In 1950, the ANC (Tvl), TIC and the Johannesburg District Committee of the CPSA jointly organised a

stayaway on May 1st. The highly successful stay-away led to clashes between workers and police in Orlando, Alex, Brakpan and Sophiatown. Nineteen workers were killed and 20 injured.

- ★ In 1959/1960-1 the Government abolished May Day as a paid holiday for workers in SA. By this time progressive trade unions like SACTU, which was affiliated to the World Federation of Trade Unions, had come under severe attack from the Government.

SADWU'S GUIDELINES FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS

The South African Domestic Workers' Union (SADWU) has outlined the following guidelines for domestic workers:

Suggested minimum wages for domestic workers:

Semi-skilled person: R150 per month.

Someone with special skills or special responsibilities such as cooking, baking or looking after small children: R200 per month.

Both suggested salaries are for an eight-hour working day.

Workers should be provided with three meals a day and working clothes.

A transport cost should be provided for workers living out.

If you cannot afford the full recommended wage, then pay for the number of hours you can afford.

A part-time living-out worker, for example, could then be employed on a pro rata percentage of the recommended wage for a full-time living-out domestic worker.

A daily casual worker: Minimum wage: R18.10 per day plus transport. Meals must be provided. A morning is four hours, but should be paid rather more than half of an eight-hour day as one works harder during the first four hours.

A gardener should earn the same as domestic workers, except the daily casual who earns R20 per day. Meals and transport should be provided.

Hourly rate: R2 per hour.

Overtime: R2.50 per hour.

Baby sitting: R2.50 per hour.



Continue struggle for May Day

- ★ May 1st 1986 was the 100th Anniversary of May Day. Last year's call by COSATU to celebrate May Day as a paid public holiday was an outstanding success.
- ★ This coupled with the growing struggles and solidarity of the

workers forced the Government to recognize the importance of May Day. But instead of recognizing May Day as Workers Day, the Government has declared the First Friday of May as South African Workers' Day.

- ★ COSATU has rejected this so-called concession and has pledged itself to continue the struggle to recognize 1st May as a paid public holiday for all workers in SA.
- ★ The TIC fully stands behind COSATU.