

FOSATU WORKER NEWS

WORKER PROGRESS — UNION UNITY IN THE MOTOR INDUSTRY

In an historic unity conference held in Port Elizabeth on the 25th and 26th October the Executive Councils of FOSATU's three motor unions cemented their unification into one national non-racial union.

With a paid-up membership of 10 000 spread throughout the country the new union will almost certainly dominate the union scene in the motor assembly, motor components and rubber industries.

The unity conference was attended by the full Execu-

tive Councils of NUMARWOSA, UAW, and WPMWU and committee members from the various branches.

The conference followed a great deal of previous work toward the unification. Earlier in October the final hurdle was overcome when NUMARWOSA'S application for full non-racial status was granted following similar success for six other FOSATU affiliates.

The task of merging three unions of this size isn't something that happens every day and the conference was concerned with passing the resolutions to carry out the practical unification. They resolved that the

UNITED AUTOMOBILE WORKERS
started 1973
unregistered
4000 members

NON RACIAL NATIONAL UNITY



NATIONAL UNION OF MOTOR
ASSEMBLY AND RUBBER WORKERS
started 1967
registered
6700 members

WESTERN PROVINCE MOTOR
ASSEMBLY WORKERS UNION
started 1961
registered
1300 members

12 000 and more

three present Executives will form the Executive Advisory Council to give effect to the complete consolidation of the three unions and to ensure full integration of all facilities. Their tasks will be to supervise the integration of the membership, prepare for elections in the new Union, discuss possible constitutional changes, decide on a name for the new Union and act as an advisory body to the NUMARWOSA Executive.

To make the unification as smooth and as simple as possible the constitution and registration of NUMARWOSA will be used by the Union.

Steps to full unification are proceeding rapidly. On the 9th November the UAW membership will become members of NUMARWOSA fol-

owed on the 1st January by WPMWU membership. All that will be left will be the adoption of a new name and elections and the process will be complete.

The unification has received wide support and enthusiasm from workers both in South Africa and internationally through the International Metal Workers Federation (IMF) which played an important role in giving the unions support. FOSATU welcomes the move as a great example of our policy of non-racial, national, industrial unions. FOSATU does not believe in small industrial unions. We believe in building national unions covering large industries and united in a powerful federation. This great move points the way for our future growth.



Motor Union Unity Conference delegates.

RICHARDS BAY BRANCH OPENS — FOSATU GROWS

On the 25th October, 350 workers gathered to open a Metal and Allied Workers Union branch at Richards Bay. The meeting was attended by observers from other FOSATU unions in Natal and Transvaal.

MAWU have been given stop order facilities at the large ALUSAF factory and the opening of the Branch was an important breakthrough.

Besides MAWU other FOSATU unions are organising in the Richards Bay/Empangeni area and the meeting was seen as the expansion of FOSATU to the area. A permanent office has also been opened.

But as John Makhathini, Natal Branch Secretary said in his speech "opening a MAWU Branch is only a first step".



Part of the large worker gathering at Richards Bay.