

More About Committees

Workers must elect factory committees to represent them. These committees are for the workers, not for the employers. They must report back to the workers every month - and the workers must make sure that the committee obeys their instructions.

The liaison committee is the employer's committee that the employers have foisted on the workers in many factories. The chairman and half the members are appointed by the employer. The other half only, are elected by the workers. This committee is registered with the Department of Labour. Workers are strongly advised not to agree to the liaison committee because it cannot speak with the voice of the workers - it is only half a voice!

The works committee is also registered with the Department of Labour, but the workers elect all the members of this committee. The boss cannot interfere in the elections of this committee. The employer cannot prevent the workers from electing a works committee - unless a liaison committee has already been formed. Workers have a free choice between liaison committees and works committees - this is laid down by Act of Parliament.

Workers are advised to elect factory committees, and register them with the Department of Labour as works committees. In this way, your factory committee will get recognition.

If you have problems with all this information, or have more questions to ask, or need help in forming a factory committee, write to "Abasebenzi", 317 Turban Road, Korsten.

Issued by: Wages Commission,
Students' Representative Council,
University of Cape Town, Rondebosch.