

* Shawco Legal Aid Clinic

Elsies River

Phone 982519

Deals with: All legal advice such as divorces, housing etc.

* Care:

Corner of Klipfontein & Comet Rd.

Bus stop 24 or 25

Phone 63870

Open Monday - Thursday 6 - 9 p.m.

Deals with: Legal problems

Domestic problems

Pensions

General advice on official procedures

* Citizens' Advice Bureau

516 CTC Building, Plein Street, Cape Town

Phone 411305

For general information.

6. African Metal Workers Union Formed

At a meeting in Pietermaritzburg in Natal on 28th April, 1973, 300 metal workers voted unanimously for the formation of an African Metal Workers Union. This Union is the first African trade union in Natal. The workers elected a five-man interim committee to draw up a constitution for the trade union.

Speakers at the meeting included Mr. Barney Dladla (Kwa Zulu Minister of Community Development), Mr. Tom Mashinini (Branch Secretary of the National Union of Clothing Workers) and Mrs. Harriet Bolton (Secretary of the Garment Workers Industrial Union, Natal).

Mr. Dladla urged the workers to unite and not to be afraid. He emphasised to the workers that it was not illegal to form African trade unions.

Mr. Mashinini informed the workers of the activities of the National Union of Clothing Workers. He said that the Union had always received strong support from the registered Garment Workers Union of South Africa and because of this, employers had learnt to respect the Union in its bargaining.

Mrs. Bolton warned the workers not to expect the support of the Government and of their employers in forming trade unions.

"They may not like it because it will make you very strong and give you a powerful voice", she said. But it was foolish to wait for the State to give legal recognition to African trade unions before going ahead and forming them. In no country in the world had the State given legal recognition to trade unions before the workers had organised themselves and become a force to be reckoned with.

7. Night-Watchmen

The Wage Board has announced that it is investigating the wages and working conditions of night-watchmen. This means that the Wage Board will be in Cape Town soon to get evidence from nightwatchmen on their wages and other matters. The Advice Bureau will help the nightwatchmen to prepare their evidence, and has urged all nightwatchmen employed in Cape Town to go to the Advice Bureau and give them information on their wages and working conditions so that a full report can be prepared.

Many nightwatchmen have been complaining that their wages are too low - this is a good opportunity to get higher wages. The Wage Board will decide what wages are to be paid for the next three or four years, so it is important that the workers are well-prepared.

8. "R14.50" - Wage Board

Eight weeks ago, the Wage Board came to Cape Town to investigate the wages paid to unskilled workers. Fifty workers went to the Wage Board and asked that their wages be increased to a minimum of R20 a week, rising to R30 a week over 3 years. The employers asked the Wage Board to increase the minimum wages to R14.50 a week, rising to R16.00 over three years.

The Wage Board has considered the proposals made to it and has decided that the minimum wages should be increased to R14.50 immediately the determination becomes law, rising to R15.50 next year and R16.50 the year after that.

Note: The new wages proposed by the Wage Board affect only these workers:-

Building and office cleaners; bunkering (coal); delivery services (not motor bikes); demolition of buildings; excavating; grinding and packing of salt; batteries; dog and animal food; corn, glucose and starch products; gas; hessian and jute bags; tanning; preparing sites; quarrying; oil refinery; scrap metal; second-hand bottles; grease; fertiliser; shipping agencies; waste paper; watchmen.

The Wage Board has recommended the following wages for unskilled workers in the Cape (except in Durbanville and Kuils River). These recommended wages will apply after the Minister of Labour has agreed to them. They do not apply yet.

	First Year	Second Year	Thereafter
a) Daily employee (per day)	R3.00	R3.20	R3.40
b) Watchmen (per week)	R16.70	R17.80	R19.00
c) Part-time cleaner (per wk)	R7.00	R7.50	R8.00
d) Employee other than a, b, or c (per week)			
i) female	R11.60	R12.40	R13.20
ii) male (18 years or over)	R14.50	R15.50	R16.50
iii) male (under 18 years)	R10.90	R11.60	R12.40