

15.

COMMUNICATION WITH  
SECTIONAL ORGANISATIONS  
— 1973.

IDA.MASA

NIC

ASSECA

INTERDENOMINATIONAL AFRICAN MINISTERS' ASSOCIATION OF  
SOUTHERN AFRICA (IDAMASA)

CORRESPONDANCE TO THE PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

President

REV. F. De Waal Mahlasela,  
P.O. Box 4,  
New Brighton,  
Port Elizabeth.  
Phone 47939.

P.O. Box 39,  
Orlando,  
Johannesburg.  
Phone 981 ext 270.

24th January, 1973

Mr. H.S. Buthelesi,  
The Secretary General,  
Black People's Convention,  
P.O. Box 11427,  
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Mr. Buthelesi,

I was in receipt of your letter of the 9th January, 1973  
and was read at the National Executive Meeting that was  
held on the 16th January 1973 at the IDAMASA Office.

I have been instructed to express our regret in being  
unable to assist as per your request, we do not have  
money. I hope you'll succeed elsewhere.

Yours Sincerely,

*B. Radebe*

B. R. Radebe  
GENERAL SECRETARY.

Programme Director,  
REV. B. Radebe,  
P.O. Box 39,  
Orlando,  
Johannesburg.

Associate Programme Director,  
REV. E. Z. Sikahere,  
Edendale Lay Ecumenical Centre,  
P.O. Box 63,  
Flexileers, Natal.

TREASURER REV. A.M. MUYVANE, VICE PRESIDENT REV J.S. MZAMANE, REV. Z.A.M. MORAI, VICE SECRETARY, REV. J.J. MBATHA.

BOX 11427,  
JOHANNESBURG.  
29TH JANUARY, 1973.

THE GENERAL SECRETARY,  
IDAMASA,  
P.O. BOX 89,  
ORLANDO,  
JOHANNESBURG.

Sir,

Thank you very much for your letter dated 24th January, 1973.

I wish to inform you that your efforts to try and assist us has been very much appreciated by the National Executive Committee.

We fully understand your position, of not being able to assist us financially.

Thank you very much for your co-operation.

I have also been requested by the National Executive Committee to request you to send us your constitution. We wish to have more co-operation with Black Organizations in the future and we therefore wish to be informed about your aims and objectives.

Find herein enclosed our constitution.

"BREAKING THE CHAINS"

SIPHO BUTHELEZI  
(SECRETARY GENERAL)

24(4)

P.O. BOX 11427,  
JOHANNESBURG.  
27TH FEBRUARY, 1973.

THE SECRETARY, CHAIRMAN,  
NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS,  
13 MOSS ST.  
VERULAM.

Sir,

I have been authorized by the National Executive Committee of the Black People's Convention to establish contact with you in view of the following:

1. It is the feeling of the National Executive that the attitude of your organization towards Black Consciousness should be known by us. It is in the interests of BPC to know the stand of the Natal Indian Congress towards Black Consciousness which is a philosophy held by us and which we regard as the banner under which we must fight for the liberation of Black people in this country.

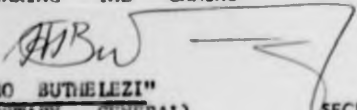
I trust that you are aware that we cannot have any dealings with organizations operating within government - graded systems. The Natal Indian Congress, however, falls outside this category. It is for this reason that we wish to be informed about your stand towards Black Consciousness on which we operate.

2. Further, I have been mandated to request you to send us your charter of your Constitution and any other material that may enlighten BPC as regards your policies and philosophy on which the Congress operates.

3. I have herein enclosed the BPC Constitution as well as Communiqué 1/73 which illustrates our foreign policy.

We would appreciate it if our request is met at your earliest convenience.

"BREAKING THE CHAINS"

  
"SIPHO BUTHELEZI"  
(SECRETARY - GENERAL)

SECRETARY GENERAL  
BLACK PEOPLE'S CONVENTION  
BOX 11427  
JOHANNESBURG

not to be replied to.  
28/4

NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS

P.O. Box 161,

VERULAM.

28th March 1973.

The Secretary,  
Black Peoples' Convention,  
P.O. Box 1127,  
JOHANNESBURG.  
Transvaal.

Dear Sir,

We thank you for your letter dated the 27th February 1973, and the copy of your constitution which was enclosed therewith. Communique 1/73 was not enclosed with your letter and we shall appreciate it if you will forward us a copy at your earliest convenience.

The Natal Indian Congress is striving for a non-racial democratic society in South Africa and our view is that we should co-operate with all democrats irrespective of their race in our endeavours to achieve our aim. Our view is that the belief a man holds is more important than the race he belongs to. Our organisation has therefore not operated on the basis of the philosophy of Black Consciousness.

We are nevertheless glad that you have written to us as it is our policy to co-operate as far as possible, with all organisations endeavouring to free the Blacks from oppression. We appreciate that it may not be possible for different organisations to reach complete agreement in regard to the policies to be adopted in the liberating struggle; nevertheless, we believe that there will be areas where co-operation will be possible and desirable. Our view is that we should co-operate whenever it is possible for us to do so.

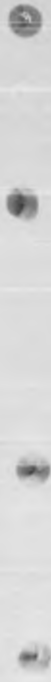
We have made certain amendments to our constitution and the constitution, as amended, has not been typed. We expect to have our amended constitution ready within the next 2 weeks, and shall forward same to you as soon as it is ready.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Yours faithfully,

*B. Scaphe*

PRESIDENT - NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS.



P.O. BOX 11427,  
JOHANNESBURG.

3 MAY 1973

The General Secretary,  
ASSECA,  
P.O. BOX 78,  
ORLANDO.  
JOHANNESBURG.  
BROTHERS/SISTERS,

I wish to place on record the receipt of your letter dated the 16th March, 1973.

On behalf of the National Executive of the BLACK PEOPLE'S CONVENTION, I wish to express our gratitude for the warm invitation which has been extended to BPC on the event of your National Education Conference to be held from the 1st May to the 3rd June, 1973 at the Communal Hall, Orlando, Johannesburg.

We wish to express our gratitude and solidarity with your Organisation which has pledged itself to probe into the distressful and problematic situation which surrounds Black Education in this country.

May I kindly inform you that the National Executive Committee of the BLACK PEOPLE'S CONVENTION will be sending two delegates to your National Education Conference on the said date and venue.

Thanking you in anticipation.

" BREAKING THE CHAINS"

.....

SIPHO BUTHELEZI.

( SECRETARY-GENERAL)

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL ADVANCEMENT  
OF THE AFRICAN PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA.  
(ABBREVIATED AS ASSECA.)

16th March, 1973.

The Secretary,  
.....

Black People's Convention,  
.....

1512, Dube Village,

P.O. DPAE.....

Dear Secretary,

We are writing to invite your Organisation to participate in our National Education Conference to be held from the 31st May to the 3rd June, 1973 at the Communal Hall, Orlando, Johannesburg.

The Conference has been convened for the purpose of assessing African Education with a view to deciding on the type of Education best suited to the African people. Towards this end, papers will be read on various aspects of African Education.

Arrangements are being made for Senator Edward. W. Brooke, of the United States, to open the Conference.

Participating Organisations are entitled to send two official delegates each. In addition, they may send as many observers as possible.

A charge of R10.00 per person is payable in respect of meals, and Organisations desiring accommodation for their members are advised to contact the under- signed at the earliest opportunity. We look forward to the pleasure of hearing from you soon.

With best wishes,  
Yours sincerely,

.....  
L.B. MEHLOMAKULU (GENERAL SECRETARY.)  
*Mosibudi/Sipho (Delegates) not mention names*



# BLACK PEOPLES' CONVENTION



## RATIONALE ON B.P.C.

### A. ADMINISTRATION

#### I. SECRETARY-GENERAL

For the general administration and co-ordination, Congress decided this must be a full-time post. Besides the fact that Congress decided this must be a full-time post, and his being under a three year term the Secretary-General must offer full-time attention to B.P.C. affairs to ensure continuity in the Organisation. This can be supported by the fact that the rest of the National Executive save for National Organiser is elected annually to office by Congress. These new offices will only find their feet if someone full-time and acknowledgeable is present.

#### 2. NATIONAL-ORGANISER:-

It is imperrative for the Organisation if it is to be effective to have a person who is in regular contact with our Branches throughout the entire country. His is also a co-ordinatory task and grass root organisation and formation of Branches. He will most of the time follow a scheduled tour travelling around the country conducting seminars, leadership training sessions, workshops, workers Trade Unions and literacy campaigns. As these two officials are full-time, they have to get a salary.

#### 3. TYPISTS:-

For the day to day office work, experience has shown us that for the year 1974 the Organisation needs two efficient typists who will also do the duplicating and filing aspects of the Convention's work. These two typists have to be full-time and earn a salary. Because of lack of funds our staff members have been given an honorarium.

#### 4. TRANSPORT

For the National Organiser to be able to do his travels around the country nothing short of our own transport is required if his services are to be utilised to the maximum. We also need a bigger vehicle, say a combi, to be able to transport a bigger numberb of people than a car can carry especially when conducting , leadership training sessions, workshops; seminars , and the like.

### B. PROJECTS

#### I. LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMMES:-

This is one of our priorities in view of the dearth of ready replacement of leaders in various spheres of the Black experience. Our experience has shown us how vulnerable Black people are in this field/area. Our ill-equipped educational systems as Black people do not render an opportunity for the development of this important faculty in human activity, viz leadership ability. It is for this reason that a new crop of leadership should come up every year to enable us to be versatile and to positively influence the entire community and to replace and introduce new ideas into B.P.C. and other Black Organisations. Furthermore as a result of the non-availability of educational facilities for Blacks

# BLACK PEOPLE'S CONVENTION



...non-availability of educational facilities for Blacks, many get little opportunity of acquiring education and as a result they are a loss to the Black community. We regard it our bounden duty to rehabilitate and retrieve those for the benefit of a disciplined and an orderly society. Social dropouts should be made to realise that they are part of the community and that they are wanted in it. Management skills and financial accountability pose as some of the abilities which need to be developed in those who hold positions in Black Organisations.

## 2. LITERACY

The bulk of the Black community is illiterate. A relevant literacy project undertaken in conjunction with Organisations such as S.A. S. O. will help remedy this and will assist in the conscientising process at grass-root level.

## 3. PUBLICATIONS:-

Mass production of literature, pamphlets, and newsletters geared at and for the liberation of all Blacks as regarded as vital. Most of this material will be sold, therefore making this project self-sufficient eventually.

## 4. ADMINISTRATIVE AIDES:-

From 1974 we believe it will be imperative to engage the services of these assistants, to assist both the Secretary-General and the National Organiser. At this stage we should be approximating our 1 million membership target and further projects as decided upon by the National Congress last December will need extra full-time staff. The said assistants will definitely be of use in the carrying out of duties. Another aspect of the usefulness of assistants is that with the perpetual incapacitation on our leaders by the system, they become the knowledgeable people in the Organisational work by virtue of their being "under-studies" to office-bearers.

## 5. REGIONS:-

For the effective implementation of policy and principles of the Convention, Congress decided to create regions in order to intensify work at Branch level thereby insuring contact at grass-root level. These regional <sup>offices</sup> shall also need full-time staff to man them, and these will need a salary.

"BREAKING THE CHAINS"

SECRETARY-GENERAL

MEETING OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WITH THE GENERAL SECRETARY  
OF THE BLACK ALLIED WORKER'S UNION, HELD IN BRAAMFONTEIN ON THE 14th  
FEBRUARY, 1973.

The meeting commenced at 9.20 a.m.

PRESENT: Mrs W. Kgware, S. Buthelesi, C. Mokoditso, M. Mangena, and the  
General Secretary of B.A.W.U.

STRUCTURE: The General Secretary of B.A.W.U. gave the structure of B.A.W.U.  
as consisting of Black workers coming together bound by a common  
work situation and subjected to a common oppressive exploitative  
economic system.

The aim of B.A.W.U. is to have "Secretariats" which would cater  
for workers in various job categories and these "Secretariats"  
would then form an umbrella Trade Union Council.

Membership would be by individual affiliation. From the total  
5½ million Black workers (25 000 under organized unions), the workers  
will be grouped and classified into bodies (unions) according to  
the different job categories.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN B. A.W.U. AND B.W.P.

1. According to The General Secretary of B.A. W. U. there is no difference but  
basically.
2. However the Black Workers Project being an institution and not an orga-  
nisation can never be a trade union and cannot therefore have member-  
ship enrolment.
3. The Black Worker's Project, as seen by The Secretary General of B.A.W.U.  
plays only caueative role i.e. it incites action; thinks of plans  
for organizing; and assist in the formation of organisations(Unions)
4. A. Then too the Black Worker's Project can serve as a maintenance  
centres, i.e. it can supply with material information needed in the trade  
unionism movement.  
B.W.P. can also serve to supply manpower and financial assistance.  
B. In the second instance B.W.P. can serve to Black Workers as a  
bureau of information, assisting them with providing information  
relevant to the problems they encounter everyday in work situations.
5. According to the General Secretary of BAWU, the Black Worker's Project  
cannot be seen as a permanent feature, but only as a temporary  
measure activating the formation of permanent trade unions.

2.

6. B.A.W.U. can be regarded as an overall guardian of Trade Unions.
7. The Black Workers Project which would phase out as soon as the trade union movement has been deeply entrenched in Black workers and to avoid a clash between B.A.W.U. and B.W.P., B.W.P. should concentrate on the formation of autonomous Craft Unions.

OTHER TRADE UNION MOVEMENTS:-

(F O P A T U S A and S A C T U )

- (1) The Engineering Union pulled out
- (ii) The Garment Workers Union has become apathetic .
- (iii) The Tobacco and Metal Box Unions faded.

The question of the "federation" of existing Unions cropped up and it was realized that these already existing unions were reluctant and showed a negative attitude towards the idea of a federation.

RELATIONSHIP WITH ALREADY EXISTING UNIONS.

1. The existence of these unions is respected and recognized and there has to be cooperation with them.
2. Emphasis, however, was to be laid on the formation of a central body.

PROPOSED SOLUTION.

The General Secretary of B.A.W.U. conceded that a proposition was to be made as an amendment to the S.A.S.O. G.S.C. held in July, 1972.

CLOSURE.

The meeting was officially declared closed at 10.45. a.m.

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BLACK PEOPLE'S CONVENTION,  
Box 2346,  
Durban.  
23rd June, 1972.  
Telephone 316913.

Dr. N. H. Motlana,  
Box 45,  
Pharisa.

Dear Sir,

I have sent you an invitation for the BPC Convention which I hope you have by now received.

As you might realise from the agenda, the Convention is to be led by several commissions which are to go thoroughly into topics assigned to them within the context of our BPC policy.

I therefore request to lead the commission on Economic Development in conjunction with Mr. Drake Kaka. Some of the terms of reference for this commission have already been laid down, but there may be others which you can think of. Leadership of this commission will entail your collecting as much information as possible about its various aspects, amalgamating such information, and working out a direction along which our movement should move in this sphere of Economics. You will then be expected to lead a discussion on this at the Convention.

Please indicate your willingness to participate in this role as soon as possible.

I shall be expecting a favourable reply.

Yours in the Black Cause,

*Aubrey Mokoape*  
.....

Aubrey Mokoape.

SASO

South African Students' Organisation  
86 Beatrice Street - Durban - Natal - South Africa  
P. O. Box 2346 - Telephone 317275 - tel. add. "x209g"

BUDGET PROPOSAL

- (1) Black Workers' Project
- (2) Black Workers' Council

Addenda

- (a) The Rationale, Scope and Aims of the Black Workers' Council
- (b) SASO's Black Workers' Project - Why we prefer to go it alone



1974 BUDGET STATEMENT

BLACK WORKERS' PROJECT AND BLACK WORKERS' COUNCIL

Introduction

This project has been co-sponsored by SASO and the Black Community Programmes (BCP). However, owing to practical difficulties the project had to be run by one organisation and BCP felt SASO should continue with the project. This means then that SASO must provide the personnel and funds required for this very important field of operation.

At the time of the decision there were two field workers working jointly on this project and it means then that we have to appoint a new field worker to work in conjunction with the present worker.

The long term purpose of this project is the establishment of a Black Workers' Council. The BWC will be independent and will work in the interest of the Black Workers.

The launching of the Council will be undertaken in the coming year. Many problems cropped up last year and this year and this made operations somewhat difficult and threw the plans out of schedule. Therefore, there has had to be a delay in the actual launching of the Council.

Programmes of this nature are fraught with difficulties of a large variety. So many forces are at work militating against our progress. But in a limited way we are making steady progress. Our aim, though, is to have a community agency running this project "independently" of us, as by being a student organisation many factors make our participation suspect and not so effective. The field of Black Workers is an adult field, and people seem to attach much importance to age and social standing. We are battling against such stereotypes, but in the meantime, they must be taken into account.

As of now bannings have shattered our other plans, but they have failed to hold us back in our resolve. However, resolve alone is not adequate, we need resources like manpower, skills and materials. Our field worker has to be careful in his operations because of the ban on him, and in most cases he is busy "helping" other members to be conversant with industrial laws and promulgations, so that eventually they can set up small agencies to "help" black workers understand their rights and privileges vis-à-vis their employers. To some large extent this is blossoming because a number of home seminars are in progress.

.../...

### Home Seminars

Seminars of a number of about eight persons at a time were organised during the December holidays at several homes and they were taking the form of "Industrial Education". Stress was laid mainly on the practical implications of labour legislation and methods of avoiding being "caught up" by red-tape when affected by any of these laws. Discussions were also held on the advantages or otherwise of the workings of a trade union. Here more stress was placed on collective bargaining.

These seminars on evaluation are very helpful in that they promote self-reliance in the workers. It is a strange practice that people should always look upon others for guidance even in situations where they should exercise their own initiative. Therefore, more of these seminars would equip the workers with basic skills to be able to conduct their business adequately and with confidence. Situations become easier to deal with if the persons involved have a basic know-how of legislation that affects them.

### Unions

#### (a) Newspaper workers

A follow-up was made with employees of the South African Association of Newspapers on the launching of a trade union after a vote of no confidence was passed on the Works Committee system. Our main stumbling block towards the formation of a union is that members of the printing department are members of the Typographical Union. They need to withdraw membership from this union and forge links with the other departments and form one union.

#### (b) Motor Industry workers

Representatives from Chrysler and Datsun-Nissan met our team with a view towards formation of a union embracing the two plants. There is some delay in this aspect because the representatives wanted to consult their respective personnel officers.

#### (c) General Workers' Union

Plans are about to launch a general workers' union in the KEW industrial complex. Negotiations began at one of the home seminars, but shortage in organisational manpower hinder progress. This area is quite big at that.

#### Black Workers' Benefit Fund

The new provisions of the Companies Act have set back some of our plans. They had to be altered. Organisational and administrative strategies previously planned had to be shelved. Our team together with an economics expert are looking into new avenues and as soon as they are ready the fund will be launched formally.

.../...



Training sessions

Training sessions were launched for the executives of the unions already launched. Much emphasis was placed on collective bargaining, recruitment of members, industrial legislation affecting the various unions and general administration of trade unions and benefit schemes. These will increase as trade unions emerge and will be extended to interested groups and individuals.

Programme of Action

Black Workers' Council

The main target for the project this year is the realisation of its main objective, the Black Workers' Council. In order to achieve positive results by the end of the year more energy should be spent on field work. Contact will be made with those with which there has been contact. New trade unions will be launched, and emphasis will be given to essential services.

Seminars must be conducted on a large scale, regionally and nationally. Black organisations, community leaders and church organisations will be contacted for assistance and participation in the launching of the council. We hope to receive relevant reading and other material from international labour organisations.

Black Workers' Advice Bureau

Churches will be very essential in this aspect. Professionals in the various fields will be contacted to make available their skills, manpower and services to the Advice Bureau.

Budget

1) Black Workers' Project

Salaries of 2 field workers each at R 160.00 per month	R	3,840.00
Travelling expenses/maintenance of car		600.00
3 regional workers' seminars each at R 200		1,000.00
Annual National Congress		2,000.00
	TOTAL	R 7,440.00

*Hoffman*  
*1/1/71*

2) Black Workers' Council

	<u>1 year</u>	<u>5 years</u>
<u>Administration</u>		
Director R200 per month	2,400.00	12,000.00
Research Assistant R 150 per month	1,800.00	9,000.00
6 Regional Secretaries R 120 each per month	8,640.00	43,200.00
Rent 6 offices at R 100 per office per month	7,200.00	36,000.00
Transport: Car (acquired from BWP)	600.00	3,000.00
Depreciation of R 600 per year		
Maintenance R 600 per year	600.00	3,000.00
<u>Seminars and Publications</u>		
Seminars, clinics etc. (6 regions) at R 200 each	1,200.00	6,000.00
Recreational and cultural facilities	500.00	-
Maintenance and replacement	100.00	500.00
Stationery R 600 per year	600.00	3,000.00
Publications R 900 per year	800.00	4,000.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	24,440.00	TOTAL 119,700.00

Thus a total of R 31,880 is needed for the first year to conclude the Black Workers' Project and to commence the Black Workers' Council.

We hope there shall be income from subscriptions levied on members. As it is difficult to determine the exact amount, no attempt will be made here to make a computation. However, we hope about 10% of the overall budget will be met by funds from subscriptions and this will be progressive. Publications produced will be sold to members to meet the costs of printing and publishing.

There are many problems that we envisage, mostly because management is not cooperative. This means that here we shall rely heavily on voluntary subscriptions of those members who could afford them.

The Rationale, Scope and Aims of the Black Workers' Council

Some explanatory notes seem necessary regarding the whole ideological and administrative complexion of the Black Workers' Council so as to place it in its proper perspective.

a) Rationale

From the outset, it seems necessary to say that the Black Workers' Council is not intended to be a continuation of SASO's Black Workers' Project. The aim or purpose of the Black Workers' Project is to serve as an agency through which black workers can be encouraged to organise themselves into trade unions and at the same time revive those moribund unions which still exist in South Africa. The Black Worker's Project should therefore be seen as a nursery school for the training of black trade union leadership, provision for literacy education, advising and counselling. In short, the Black Workers' Project should be seen as a catalyst in the fermentation of black trade unions and the resurrection of the moribund ones.

The rationale or motivation therefore behind the intended launching and fermentation of the Black Workers' Council is to bring together all black trade unions under one umbrella organisation to which all black trade unions could affiliate, i.e. a form of a federal structure which would look after the interests of black workers.

b) Nature and scope

As has been illustrated before, the Black Workers' Council is intended to be a kind of federal trade union council that will cater for the national and international interests of member unions in particular and black workers in general. This means that it will coordinate the activities of member unions. It should also be appreciated that the Black Workers' Council will have nothing to do with SASO, i.e. it will have the power and authority to lay down its policies and policy objectives. It should also be appreciated that the Black Workers' Project will also cease to exist as soon as the Black Workers' Council is formed. Its activities and programmes will then be taken over by the Black Workers' Council and the workers themselves.

The only link between the Black Workers' Council and SASO will therefore be in the form of the exchange of information and the combining of our resources where and when the situation demands. Financially, SASO will continue to contribute to the Black Workers' Council in order to enable it to set up its own permanent and full-time administrative secretariat with its own viability.

c) The Aims of the Black Workers' Council

- To represent the interests of member unions nationally and internationally
- To coordinate the activities of member unions

.../...

- To pool the resources, human and otherwise, of member unions in their struggle for their dignity.
- To serve as a training ground for future black trade union leadership.
- To work towards the liberation of black people as a whole.
- To provide literacy schemes and programmes for black workers.
- To provide counselling and advice on matters affecting black workers.

Written by Ranwedzi Nengwekhulu  
as an addendum to the "Budget proposal - SASO's Black Workers' Project"  
1974.

SASO's Black Workers' Project - Why we prefer to go it alone

Rationale

Perhaps it is necessary and essential to reiterate why SASO wants and prefers to go it alone in the planning, directing and implementation of all its projects. Indeed, it is the policy of SASO, based on its philosophy of black consciousness, to refuse and reject all overtures for cooperation from any white organisation or so-called "multi-racial" organisations existing in South Africa.

Our policy objective is to work towards the solidification of black organisations in South Africa that are involved and engaged in the struggle for black liberation.

It is our belief, based on our experience of the South African political, economic and socio-cultural situation, that any cooperation between us and any white or multi-racial organisation will only help to perpetuate the erstwhile political promiscuous marriages which were characteristic features of the South African political climate - the myth that blacks and whites can work together towards the liberation of blacks in South Africa. It was indeed the acumen of naivety for anybody to pretend that blacks and whites can work together in planning and directing programmes for change in a country where suspicion and hatred between the two groups have reached an irreversible level.

It is also our belief that since the struggle is essentially and basically black, the initiative should and must be in the hands of black people themselves who must be solely responsible for the planning, directing and implementation of the objectives, aims, etc. which they would like to pursue.

It is also our experience that multi-racial organisations only serve as institutions which stultify the initiative and originality of blacks because in most cases, if not all, the leadership of all these organisations is always in the hands of whites who always adopt a paternalistic attitude towards blacks. It also should be appreciated that because of many years of oppression and being told that they are genetically and psychologically inferior, blacks manifest feelings of inadequacy in these organisations. Hence our policy of propagating the philosophy of black consciousness. It is our belief therefore that the rustication of multiracialism can and will serve to militate against the struggle.

Thus any white group or organisation which feels compelled to do "something" about black workers can only do so by working amongst its own people, by trying to change their attitudes towards black workers. We are convinced that white groups or organisations can make very little contribution, if any, to the struggle for black liberation. We therefore see no scope or area for cooperating with the so-called "progressive" or "radical" white groups or organisations in South Africa.

.../...

With regard to programmes such as the Urban Training project, the proposed Institute for Industrial Education, NUSAS Wage Commissions, etc. our advice to them is always that they will contribute greatly to the black struggle by keeping their hands off black workers - they should and must leave blacks to plan and run their own institutions. Their involvement in black politics can only delay the complete polarisation of black and white groups in the country by presenting a false image of "committed", "good" whites at a time when complete polarisation of the two groups is necessary and essential so as to facilitate the confrontation of the two groups.

It should therefore be appreciated that the whole area of black workers in South Africa should and must be seen in the larger context of the present political climate in the country, i.e. the realisation and determination by blacks in South Africa that they have to reject all overtures of cooperation for liberation in their struggle. There can therefore be no compromise on the issue of black workers - it is an exclusive domain of and for blacks.

We will therefore appreciate it if international labour organisations and other organisations could consider this issue in this context.

Finally, it is not the policy of SASO to tell overseas organisations or organisations outside the borders of South Africa not to sponsor white organisations which claim to be working for black liberation but it is the belief of SASO that such organisations are completely useless in terms of meaningful and positive political change in the country. Our conviction is that assistance should only be given to black organisations that are engaged in meaningful change.

With regard to the Black Allied Workers' Union, SASO made a number of attempts to try to convince Mr. Drake Koka the General Secretary of the said Union, that we should try to marry the two organisations so as to minimise the amount of duplication that already exists in the black community but, unfortunately, we could not reach an agreement largely because of:

- Mr. Koka's involvement with some white unions or individuals involved with white unions such as a certain Mr. Douwes Dekker who runs the Urban Training project sponsored by the Institute of Race Relations.
- the Black Allied Workers' Union involvement with the American labour union AFL-CIO through the US Consulate in Johannesburg.
- the Black Allied Workers' Union is also involved with the Wilgespruit's Urban Mission programme, an organisation sponsored and controlled by the South African Council of Churches.

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We also could not agree on the rationale behind the formation of BAWU and its projected objectives and aims, i.e. whether black unions should be geared towards confrontation with the white power structure in South Africa or whether they should serve only as vehicles for negotiating and bargaining. The BAWU's view has been that black workers should only serve as bargaining structures.

It is against this background that there has not been any cooperation between BAWU and SASO's Black Workers' Project.

Written by Ranwedzi Nengwekhulu  
as an addendum to the "Budget proposal - SASO's Black Workers' Project"  
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