



Campaigns Bulletin

WAGE CAMPAIGN
MAY 2001

The government is starving us to death!

The wage talks are resuming on May 8th 2001. At the time of going to print, all provinces were holding marches all over the country to highlight our demands for a living wage. Currently on the table is a proposal by the conciliator that all parties should agree to accept an 8% across the board increase, and an increase in the *minimum wage to R1900*. Firstly, this proposal has not yet been accepted by the employer. At the conciliation, the employer stuck to 5% only.

Secondly this falls short of our demand. It means we will not get the R300 across the board. Any worker earning below R3800 per month is going to get an increase of less than R300. The hardest hit will be workers earning from R1700 - R3000 who will only get R136 - R240. There is nothing more we can get from conciliation or negotiations. It is now up to YOU the workers to decide if you will accept the 8% offer put on the table by the conciliator! ●

IBIXHOSA

Ezisematheni iindaba!

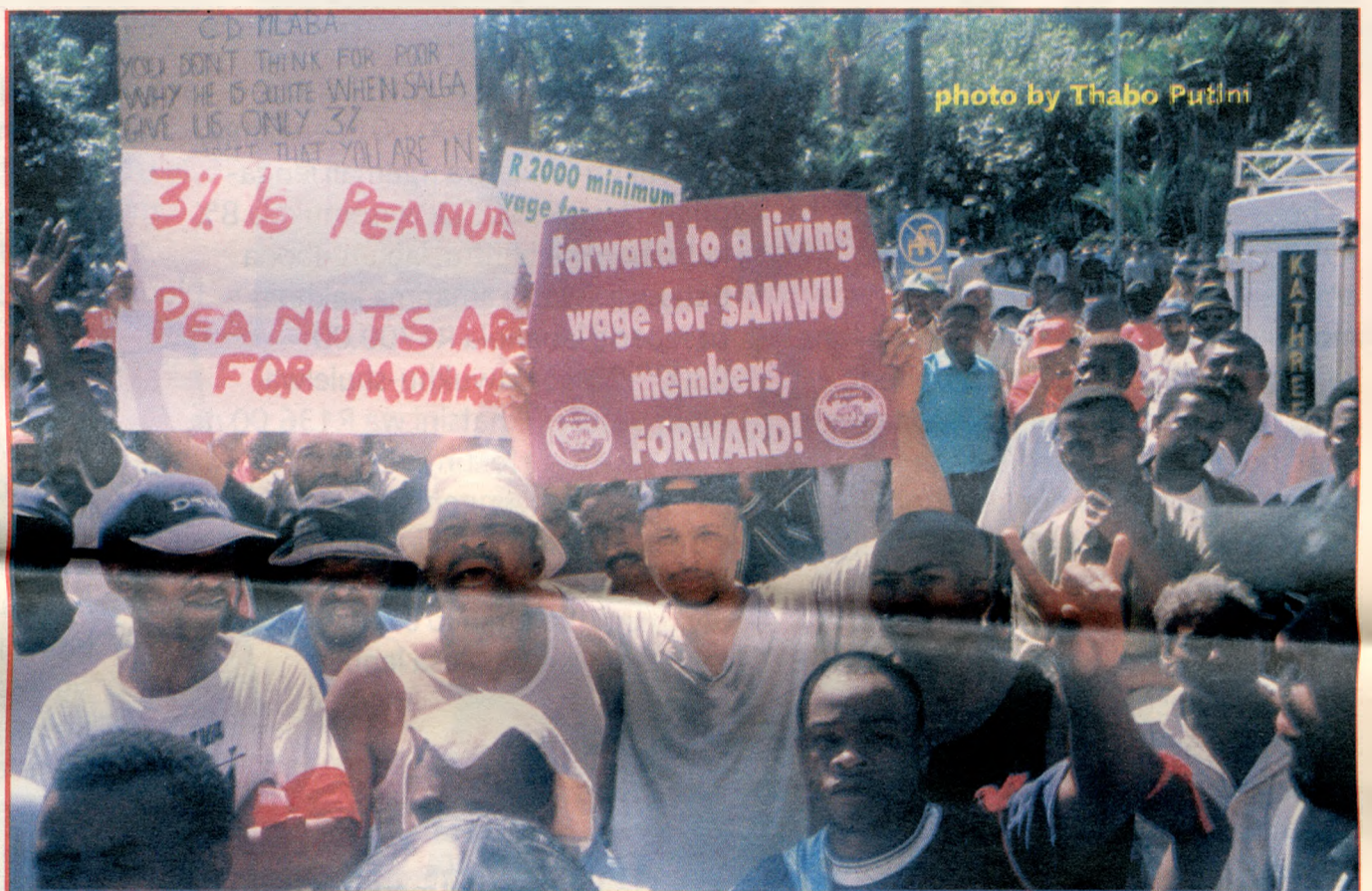
Uthetha-thethwano ngemivuzo luza kuphinde luqalise ngomhla wesi-8 kuMeyi 2001. Xa besisiya kushicilela eli phepha-ndaba, onke amaphondo ebebambe imingcelele elizweni jikelele ukubonisa ukuzimisela kwethu ngeem-funo zethu zomvuzo ofanelekile ukuze siphile ngokufanelekileyo. Kungoku nje kukho isindululo etafileni esize nomlamli, yena othi onke amaqela akule ngxoxo makavume ukwamkela

uchatha oyi-8% kwimivuzo kumntu wonke, ze owona mvuzo uphantsi unyuswe ube li-R1 900. Okokuqala, esi sindululo asikamkelwa ngabaqashi. Kulamlo, abaqashi beme ngxi kwi-sithembiso sabo sochatha we-5%. Okwesibini, esi sindululo siza nomlamli sisengaphantsi kwebango ebesilenzile, yaye luthetha ukuba asizi kulufumana unyuselo lwemali olungama-R300. Oku kuthetha ukuba iqabane elamkela ngaphantsi kwama-R3 800 ngenyanga liza kufumana unyuselo olungaphantsi kwama-R300. Ukuba samkela olu nyuselo lwe-8% kumntu wonke, abaya kuchatshazelwa kabuhlungu yile meko ngabo basebenzi bamkela i-R1 700 - R3 000 bona abaya kufumana unyuselo nge-R136 - R240. Akukho nto ingaphezulu siya kuyifumana kulamlo okanye kuthetha-thethwano, Kuxhomeke KUNI ngoku, njengabasebenzi, ukuba nigqibe ukuba sisithathe na esi sithembiso siza nomlamli! ●

AFRIKAANS

Dringende Noodflits!

Die loononderhandelings hervat op 8 Mei 2001. Met die ter perse gaan van hierdie berig het al die provinsies regoor die land optogte gehou om die soeklig te laat val op ons eise vir 'n bestaansloon. Daar is tans 'n voorstel van die bemiddelaar op die tafel dat alle partye moet ooreenkom om 'n verhoging van 8% vir alle werkers te aanvaar, en 'n verhoging in die minimum loon tot by R1900. Hierdie voorstel is eerstens nie deur die werkgever aanvaar nie. Die werkgever het vasgesteek by 'n aanbod van slegs 5%. Tweedens skiet dit kort op ons eis en dit beteken ook dat ons nie die geldelike verhoging van R300 sal kry nie. Werkers wat minder as R3800 per maand verdien, 'n verhoging van minder as R300 sal kry. Werkers wat tussen R1700 en R3000 verdien sal die swaarste tref word – hulle sal net 'n verhoging van tussen R136 en R240 kry. Daar is niks meer wat ons uit bemiddeling kan kry nie. Dit is nou aan JULLE oorgelaat om te besluit of julle die 8% aanbod wat deur die bemiddelaar gesit is, gaan aanvaar! ●



Ditaba tse Potlakileng!

Ditherisano tsa meputso di tla qala hape ka la 8 Mei 2001. Ka nako eo ho neng ho hatiswa ditaba tsena, diprofensi tsohle di ne di tshwere mehwanto naheng ka bophara ho bontsha bohlokwa ba ditseko tsa rona tsa ho fumana meputso e lekaneng bakeng sa ho iphedisa. Ha jwale hoo leng tafoleng ke tshisinyo ya monamodi ya hore bohle ba amehang ditherisanong tsena ba dumele ho amohela nyollelo ya 8% bakeng sa basebetsi bohle, le nyollelo ya bonyane ba moputso ho ya ho R1900. La pele, tshisinyo ena ha ya amohelwa ke mohiri. Bonamoding, mohiri o ile a dula ho seo a reng o fana ka sona e leng 5% feela. La bobedi hona ho ka tlase ho tseko ya rona mme hape ho bolela hore re ke ke ra fumana nyollelo ya tjehele e fihlang ho R300. Hona ho bolela hore *comrade* ofe kapa ofe ya fumanang ka tlase ho R3800 ka kgwedi o tliho fumana nyollelo e ka tlase ho R300. Ha re amohela 8% bakeng sa basebetsi bohle, ba tla bang ka bobeng ke basebetsi bao ba fumanang moputso o tlohang ho R1700 ho ya ho R3000, mme bona ba tla fumana feela pakeng tsa R136 - R240. Ha ho sa na ho hong hape hoo re ka ho fumanang ho tswa bonamoding kapa ditherisanong. Jwale ho mahetleng a LONA jwalo ka basebetsi hore le etse qeto hore na le tla amohela 8% e behuweng tafoleng ke monamodi! ●

SISWATI

Nati Letiphuma Etiko!

Tiyacalisa tinkhulumiswano temaholo ngemSombuluko mhla ka 8 May 2001. Ngesikhatsi kuyawushicilelwa tonkhe tifundza betibambe imishuco kulo lonkhe leli kukhombisa timfuno teliholo lelilingene sinkhwa sekuphila. Kwanyalo siphakamiso lesisetafuleni sekutsi onkhe emacembu atitfobe avume kwemukela kukhushulelwa nga 8% kubo bonkhe bantfu, imali seyikhushuliwe ingabi ngaphansi kwa R1900.00. Kwekucala nje lesiphakamiso sisengakemukelwa bacashi. Ngesikhatsi sekubonisana bacashi bona basima baphelela ku 5%. Kwesibili loko kushaya ngaphansi kweticelo tetfu futsi singeke simtfole nalowo R300.00.

Photo by Cde Thabo Putini. KZN marches to Durban City Hall on April 12th.



Loko kusho kutsi umuntfu lohola ngaphansi kwa R3800.00 ngenyanga, utawukhu-shulelwa ngemali lengaphansi kwa R300.00. Nasemukela 8% kubo bonkhe bantfu, labangubona batakwetfwala kamatima kakhulu basebenti labahola R1700.00 - R3000.00 labatawukhu-shulelwa ngemali lesemkhatsini wa R136.00 na R240.00. Kute lokunye lesingabuye sikutfole ekuncengeni nasekukhulumisaneni kwetfu. Sekukini-ke nyalo, NINE basebenti kutsi nikhetse kutsi niyamemukela yini lo 8% lophakanyiswe lincusa lenu. ●

SEPEDE

Thibelang Kuranta! Kgang ye Bohlokwa ya Potlako!

Dipoledišano tša meputso di thoma ka May 8, 2001. Ka nako ye e bego išwa go gatišwa, diprofense ka moka di be di swere megwanto mo nageng ka bophara go bontšha dinyakwa tša rena bakeng sa moputso wo o phedišago. Ganebjale mo pele ga lena ke tšhišinyo ka mmoelanyi gore ditho ka moka di swanetše go dumela kokeletšo ya kakaretšo ya 8%, gomme le kokeletšo mo go moputso wa minimamo go fihla go R1900. Samathomo, tšhišinyo ye ga sahlo e dumelwa ke mothwadi.

Kua poelanyong, mothwadi o ile a ema ka kabelo ya 5% fela. Sabobedi, se se fokotša nyako ya rena gomme gape se ra gore re ka se sahlo re hwetša kokeletšo ya tšhelele ya R300. Se se ra gore lekhomo le lengwe le le lengwe le le golago ka fase ga R3800 kgwedi ka kgwedi le tlo hwetša kokeletšo yeo e fokoditšwego ka R300. Ge re dumela 8% ka kakaretšo, kotlo e kgolo e tlo ba go bašomi ba ba golago R1700 – R3000 bao ba tlogo hwetša R136 – R240 fela. Ga go sa na seo re tlogo se hwetša go feta se go tšwa go poelanyo goba

ditherišano. Go tšwa go LENA bjale bašomi go fa sephetho ge eba le tla dumela kabelo ya 8% ye e beilwego pele ga lena ke mmoelanyi! ●

ISIZULU

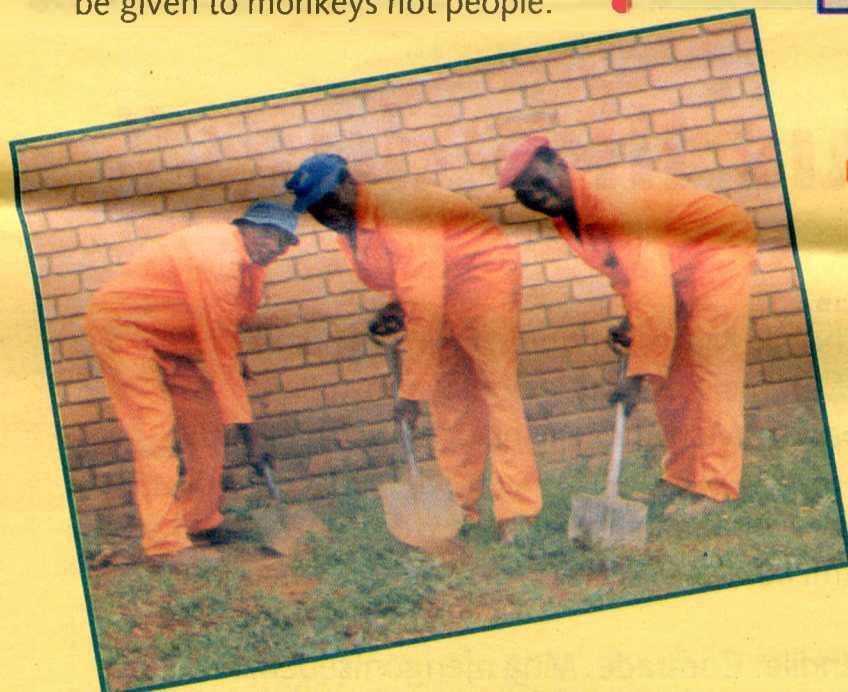
Ezintsha Sha! Umyalezo Ophuthumayo!

Izingxoxo zokubonisana ngamaholo zizoqala futhi ngomhla ka-8 Meyi 2001. Ngenkathi yokushicilelwa kwalomyalezo, zonke izifundazwe bezibambe izinhlalaluhide, ezweni lonke jikelele, zibhikishela ukuthi sinikezwe amaholo esingaziphilisa ngawo. Njengamanje, kukhona etafuleni isiphakamiso somlamuli esithi wonke amaqembu mawavumelane ngokuthi amaholo enyuswe ngo-8% kuwonkewonke, nokuthi iholo okuyilona liphansi (minimum wage) libe ngu-R1 900. Okokuqala nje, abaqashi abakasemukeli lesiphakamiso. Phambi kwabalamuli, abaqashi bala ukugudluka esiphakamisweni sabo sika-5%. Okwesibili, lokhu akukasondeli ezibizweni zethu kanti futhi kusho ukuthi ngeke senyuselwe amaholo ngesamba esingu-R300. Kusho ukuthi wonke amaqabane aholo ngaphansi kuka-R3 800 ngenyanga azokwenyuselwa amaholo ngesamba esingaphansi kuka-R300. Uma sivuma ukuthi amaholo enyuswe ngo-8% kuwonkewonke, abasebenzi abazokhinyabezeka kakhulu yilabo abahola phakathi kuka-R1 700 no-R3 000 ngoba awabo amaholo azokwenyuswa ngesamba esiphakathi kuka-R136 no-R240.

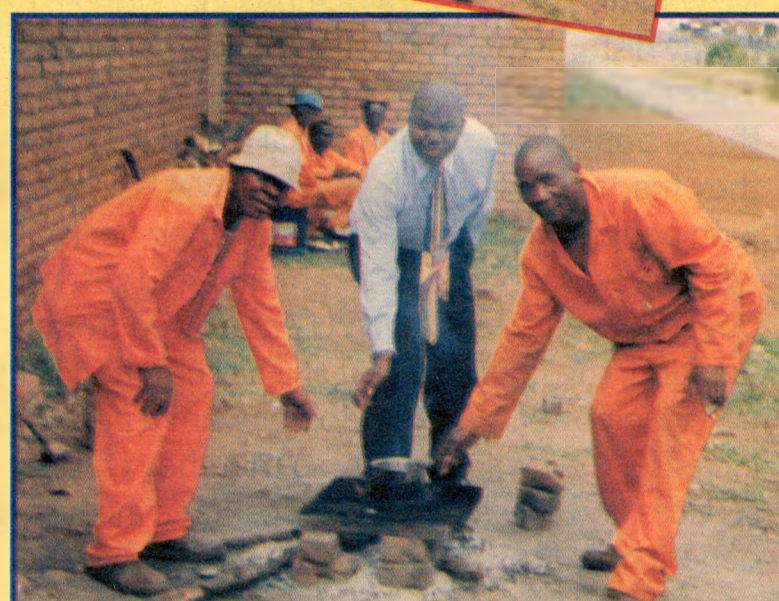
Akukho okwedlula lokhu esingaphinde sikuthole ngokuya kubalamuli nangokuqhubeka ngezingxoxo zokubonisana. Ingcaba SEYIKINI ke basebenzi ukuthi ninqume ukuthi niyawemukela yini u-8% ophakanyiswe ngumlamuli noma cha! ●

Comrades in Northern Province are poverty stricken!

Comrade Sonny Mabitsela, Media Co-ordinator in the Northern Province, interviewed workers in 8 municipalities. These are Capricorn District, Polokwane, Molemole, Tzaneen, Roedtan, Warmbaths, Thabazimbi and Messina. In each and every town, workers said the same thing: that SAMWU should not compromise on the wage increase! "Strike action should be considered as an option to force the arrogant employer to listen to the demands of the working class," said some SAMWU members. "We are not prepared to settle for anything that is detrimental to our resolution of a living wage. If the employer does not move, we are prepared to go for industrial action," said other members. In other towns, members said "We are prepared to go on a strike rather than settle for peanuts that should be given to monkeys not people." ●



Photos and
interviews
by
Cde
Sonny
Mabitsela.



Khomoreite Sonny Mabitsela, Mokgohlaganyi wa Phatlalatšo ya ditaba go la Northern Province, o ile a boledišana le bašomi go bommasepala ba 8. Bona ke ba Selete sa Capricorn, Polokwane, Molemole, Tzaneen, Roedtan, Warmbaths, Thabazimbi le Messina. Toropong ye nngwe le ye nngwe, bašomi ba boletše dilo tša go swana: tša gore SAMWU ga e a swanela go amogela tumelelano yeo re ka lahlegelwago ke koketšo ya meputso! "Bokaone ke go nagana ka taba ya go teraeka gore re gapeletša gore mongmodiro yoo a nago le makoko go theeletša dinyakwa tša bašomi," go rialo maloko a SAMWU. "Ga re a ikemišetša go amogela selo se kago re bakela kotsi tharollong ya rena ya go hwetša meputso yeo e lekanetšego go iphediša. Ge e le gore mongmodiro ga a nyake go tloga moo a lego gona, re ikemišeditše go teraeka", go rialo maloko a mangwe. Gomme ditropong tše dingwe, maloko a itše "Re ikemišeditše go teraeka go e na le gore re amogele tšhelete yeo e lekanago le ditloo yeo e swanetšego go fiwa ditšhwene e sego batho." ●

Comrade Sonny Mabitsela, Mohokahanyi wa Diphatlalatsi tsa ditaba mane Northern Province, o ile a buisana le basebetsi ho bomasepala ba 8. Bona ke ba Setereke sa Capricorn, Polokwane, Molemole, Tzaneen, Roedtan, Warmbaths, Thabazimbi le Messina. Toropong ka nngwe, basebetsi ba boletse ntho e tshwanang: ya hore SAMWU ha ya tshwanela ho amohela tumellano eo ho yona re tla lahlehelwa ke ho hong ho itseng mabapi le nyollelo ya meputso! "Ho ka mpa ha nahanwa ka seteraeke bakeng sa ho qobella mohiri ya manganga ya sa batleng ho mamela ditseko tsa basebetsi," ho rialo ditho tse ding tsa SAMWU. "Ha re a ikemisetsa ho amohela eng kapa eng e tla re bakela kotsi tharollong ya rona ya ho fumana meputso e lekaneng bakeng sa ho iphediša. Ha mohiri a sa batle ho tloha moo a emeng teng, re ikemiseditse ho kena seteraekeng," ho rialo ditho tse ding. ●

Photo by Thabo Putini. Thousands of workers from KZN marched to Durban City Hall on April 12th and handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Mayor. Buses had to go back time and again to the depots to fetch comrades who insisted on marching. KZN members really showed their power! Amandla!



"The bosses treat us like dogs"

ENGLISH

Thobile Maso, Eastern Cape Media Co-ordinator, interviewed comrade Mzwandile Nini - a worker in Pedu

Thobile: Comrade, how do you view the present wage negotiations between SAMWU and SALGA?

Mzwandile: Comrade, as a municipal worker, I am highly disturbed by the action of the management. They treat us like dogs - they eat all the meat and then throw bones at us. Their refusal to move from the offer they made shows clearly that SAMWU is negotiating with people who have everything their heart desires whilst we, as workers, are continuing to struggle with poverty. Even after SAMWU has moved from its initial demand, the management still has not made any move from their offer. Workers do not want a percentage increase, they want money so that they can pay for services and buy food. The percentage increase will benefit only those in the top (in terms of salaries).

Thobile: So, Comrade Mzwandile, what do you think SAMWU should do now?

Mzwandile: The position taken by the management demands that we fight, we may need to fight that things have turned out this way.

Thobile: Thanks Comrade Mzwandile ●

ISIXHOSA

UThobile Maso, umququzeleli weendaba eMpuma-Koloni ube nodliwano-ndlebe neqabane, uMzwandile Nini, umsebenzi ePedu.

Thobile: Qabane, ingaba umba wemi vuzo exoxwayo phakathi kuka SAMWU no SALGA uyibona njani?

Mzwandile: Comrade, Mna njengomsebenzi kumasipala, ibuhlungu lento yenziwa ngabaqeshi abasenza izinja ezikhukhuza amathambo. Ukutshitshiliza kwabo ibonakalisa nje mhlophe ukuba u-SAMWU uxoxa nabantu abahleli ebhotolweni benabela ejemini sabe thina singabasebenzi sihlupheka. Nangona u-SAMWU uzame ukuhla kwi-Demand yakhe, kodwa abaqeshi bame bhungxe okukwembongolo endleleni. Ababasebenzi abafuni pesente (%) bafuna imali ukuze sikwazi ukuhalwula iinkonzo, ukuthenga ukutya. Nalo pesented izakuxhanyulwa ngaba baphaya phezulu bodwa.

Thobile: Kengoku Qabane Mzwandile, ucinga ukuba u-SAMWU makathini?

Mzwandile: Indlela ethathwa ngabaqeshi iya emlweni, ngahle silwe mpela xa kunje

Thobile: Enkosi Qabane Mzwandile

Mzwandile: Sure Thobo ●

Northern Cape workers say: “We will embark on action!”

Workers in De Aar, Northern Cape say “What can you do with a R48 increase? SALGA’s 3% means peanuts to feed poverty and we will remain poor. 3% is poverty and we are already poor! As SAMWU we say: away with R48 starvation wage, away!”

Abasebenzi eDe Aar, eMantla Koloni bathi, “Ungenza ntoni ngochatha ongama-R48 kumvuzo? I-30% ka-SALGA ayiqali nokuqalisa ukuhlangabezana neemfuno zabantu abahluphekileyo, ngoko ke siya kuhlala singamahlwempu. I-3% bubuhlwempu, futhi sele singamahlwempu kakade! Ku-SAMWU sithi: Phantsi ngama-R48 angumvuzo osifisa ngendlala, phantsi!”

Werkers in De Aar, Noord-Kaap, sê: “Wat kan jy met ‘n verhoging van R48 doen? SALGA se 3% beteken kleingeld om armoede te voed, en ons sal arm bly. 3% is armoede en ons is al klaar arm! As SAMWU sê ons: weg met R48 hongerloon, weg!” ●

Comrades from Noupoot reported that they have already sacrificed in 1999, when they were not paid at all for 4 months! The comrades said “We have offered most of our precious time last year to mobilise communities to vote for local government, therefore we resolve to stick to our demands. If mediation does not solve anything we will embark on action.”

Amaqabane aseNoupoot anike ingxelo yokuba aye azenza amadini ngo-1999, emva kokuba aye akahlawula nesenti iinyanga ezine! La maqabane athe, “Ixesha lethu elininzi nelibalulekileyo siye kulo nyaka uphelileyo salinikezela ekuhlanganiseni iindawo zoluntu ukuba zivotele oorhulumente bengingqi. Ngenxa yoku, sigqibe ekubeni sime kumabango ethu esiwenzileyo, yaye ukuba ulamlo alunanto luyisombululayo, siya kuba nentshukumo esiyezayo.”

Kamerade in Noupoot het laat weet dat hulle alreeds in 1999 gely het toe hulle vir 4 maande glad nie betaal is nie! Die kamerade het gesê: “Ons het verlede jaar die meeste van ons kosbare tyd afgestaan om gemeenskappe te mobiliseer om vir plaaslike regering te stem, en daarom het ons besluit om by ons eise te bly; as die bemiddeling niks oplos nie, dan sal ons tot aksie moet oorgaan.” ●

Comrades in Tsantsabane, Northern Cape said that the increase must be above inflation in order to narrow the poverty gap. “The notion of SALGA to give a 3% increase is simply going to make the poverty gap much wider. We say: don’t retreat and stick to the mandate we are giving you. If SALGA is still reluctant to adhere to the largest working force in the municipalities, then action speaks louder than words.”

Amaqabane eTsantsabane, eMantla Koloni athe uchatha wemivuzo makabe ngaphezu kwe-*inflation* (ukunyuka kwamaxabiso ezinto ngokuhambelana nemivuzo) ukwenzela ukunciphisa umsantsa wobuhlwempu. “Uluvo luka-SALGA lokunika uchatha oluyi-3% kwimivuzo luza kuwenza mkhulu nangakumbi umsantsa wobuhlwempu.” Isebe lika-SANWU ePostmasburg lona lithi: “musani ukubuya umva, yimani kwibango esininike lona. Ukuba u-SALGA usathandabuza ukubambisana nowona mbutho mkhulu wabasebenzi boomasipala, iza kuba zizenzo ezisithethelayo.” Amandla! Viva maqabane aseTsantsabane, Viva!

Kamerade in Tsantsabane, Noord-Kaap het gesê dat die verhoging meer as inflasie moet wees om die armoedegaping kleiner te maak. “SALGA se idee om ‘n 3% verhoging te gee gaan die armoedegaping eenvoudig baie groter maak. SAMWU se Tak op Postmasburg sê: moenie skiet gee nie, en hou by die mandaat wat ons julle gee. As SALGA steeds huiwerig is om na die grootste werksmag in die munisipaliteite te luister, dan spreek dade sterker as woorde.” Amandla! Viva die kamerade in Tsantsabane, viva! ●

“Keep the spirit of fighting”, says a Free State comrade

Comrade Suzan Tau, the Shopsteward from Mangaung Municipality in Free State says “Yes comrades, with this spirit of fighting we have, we can accomplish our goals. I still believe that SALGA can move up a bit if we can pour fuel on the fire again by embarking on actions that we have been taking. Forward SAMWU, forward!”

Comrade Suzan Tau, Shopsteward ya hlahang ho Masepala wa Mangaung mane Freistata o re “Ee comrades, ka moya wa ntwala oo re nang le ona, re ka fihlela seo re se batlang. Ke sa ntsane ke na le tshepo ya hore SALGA e ka ya hodimonyana ha re ka etsa hore “mollo ona o tuke le ho feta” ka ho tswela pele ka boipelaetso boo re ntseng re bo bontsha. Forward SAMWU, forward!” ●

"Father, are you a killer?"

ISIZULU

Iqabane uM D Ntuli waseMpumalanga eGatsheni laseNingizimu-Mpumalanga unesikhalazo esinzima kakhulu mayelana nendlela uSalga aziqhuba ngayo izingxoxo zokubonisana ngamaholo.

"Ngifuna ukuqwashisa uNgqongqoshe wezawoHulumeni baseKhaya kanye noFather Smangalisio Mkhatshwa, njengoSihlalo kaSalga, nanjengomholi wezenkolo, ukuthi bazi ukuthi lento abayenzayo kithi ayamukeleki neze. Lo-3% enifuna ukusinika wona uzokwandisa ububha. Thina njengamalungu kaSamwu sasihamba sikhuthaza abantu ukuthi bavotele i-ANC ukuze i-ANC izophelisa ububha kubantu bakithi.

Kodwa uma ngabe sizonikezwa lo-3%, ngumbuso we-ANC, kusobala ukuthi, emuva kokuzabalaza nokunqoba sindawonye, labo asebenyukele ngenhla sebasilibele thina esisele ngenzansi. Mangimkhumbuze uFather Smangalisio Mkhatshwa ukuthi iseyinde indlela. Uma abasebenzi bengaqoka ukuthi bateleke, iRandi lizokwehla ngokushesha. Lo-13% esiwufunayo awulutho uma uqhathaniswa nesiteleka esihlongozwayo sezinsuku ezintathu, uma wena noSalga wakho ningenzi mizamo yokuhlangabezana nezibizo zabasebenzi.

Abasebenzi yibona abenza ukuthi umbuso uqhubekele phambili. Niyalibala ukuthi abasebenzi bakwamasipala nabo bangamalungu omphakathi, bahlala emalokishini njengeningi labakhi bakuleli. Aninandaba nabasebenzi, niyasihlu-kumeza, niyasilimaza, niyasixhaphaza. Yinina enibangela ukuthi kube khona ukungezwani emindenini okuvame ukugcina ngamadivosi nodlame. Abasebenzi bakwamasipala sebeyisisulu sawomashonisa, abanye sebephenduke izaphulamthetho nabakhwabanisi, abanye sebezibulele babulala nemindenini yabo.

Engikucelayo nje ukuthi uHulumeni makenze okuthile ngalokhu. I-Ningizimu Afrika izozuza lukhulu uma inganikeza abasebenzi bakwamasipala amaholo abangakwazi ukuthi baziphilise ngawo. Ngabe ungumbululi na, Father?" ●

SISWATI

Lomunye Komredi M D Ntuli waseSouth Eastern Branch eMpumalanga ubeke tikhalo letibalulekile ngendlela Salga laphatsa ngayo lomcimbi wekukhushulwa kwemaholo. Ngifuna kunicacisela Ndvuna yaHulumende waseKhaya nina Father Smangalisio Mkhatshwa, longusihlalo weSalga nemholi welibandla, kutsi loku lenikwentako lapha kitsi akukuhle nakancane nje. Lo 3% lenimbekako utawubanga buphuya.

Tsine njenga Samwu besibhizi sehla senyuka sikhankhasela kutsi bantfu bavotele i-ANC setsemba kutsi i-ANC ngiyo letawucedza bumphofu kubantfu bakitsi. Kodwa nangabe lohulumende we-ANC utawuchubeka afake lo 3% kuyabonakala kutsi nasesilwe sonkhe ngekubambisana saphumelela lona losenhloko yetfu ujika akhohlwe ngalaba labashiye elubishini.

Angikukhumbute-ke Father Mkhatshwa kutsi luseludze luhambo. Basebenti bangaze batsatse sincumo sekutelega, liRandi litawushona phansi. Le 13% lesiyifunako ilite nayicatsaniswa nalesitelega semalanga lamatsatfu labekwa nguSamwu nangabe nine naSalga ningavumi kuhlangebetana netimfuno tebasebenti. Basebenti ngibo labenta lohulumende achubekele embili. Niyakhohlwa kutsi basebenti bakaMasiphala ngibona bahlali. Tsine phela sihlala emalokishini, emkhatsini welinyenti lebantfu. Nine anisatihluphi nyalo ngebasebenti, niyabaphoca, nibalimate, futsi niyabasenga. Ngini laba labasusa lutfut-fuva, nekuqaqanjelwa, nemadivosi, nekucabana kwemindenini. Basebenti bakaMasiphala batifaka ngenhloko kuboshayiloki, bayagebenga, bakhwabanise, bayatibulala, babulale nemindenini yabo ngenca yenu. Manje ngihlaba inyandzaleyo ngincusa hulumende kutsi ayilamule lemphe. INingizimu Afrika itawubuyelwa kakhulu ngekunika basebenti bakaMasiphala umholo lotabenta bakwati kuphila, kumbe-ke Father sewajika waba ngumbulali?" ●

ENGLISH

Comrade MD Ntuli from the South Eastern Branch in Mpumalanga has a serious complaint about the way SALGA handles the issue of the wage increment.

"I would like to highlight to the Minister of Local Government as well as Father Smangalisio Mkhatshwa, as the SALGA Chairperson and a Church leader, that what they are doing to us is totally unacceptable. The 3% you have laid down is promoting poverty. We as SAMWU were busy convincing the people to cast their vote for the ANC so that ANC can end poverty amongst our people.

But if this 3% is going to be implemented by the government of the ANC, it seems that after we fought together and achieved victory, the person who is on top forgets about the other people. Let me remind Father Mkhatshwa that there is still a long way to go. Once the workers take the decision to go on strike the rand will drop immediately.

The 13% we demand is nothing compared to the three days strike proposed by Samwu if you and your SALGA don't meet the workers' demands halfway. Workers are the ones who make this government move forward. You forget that municipal workers are the community too, we stay in townships with the majority. You don't care about workers, you abuse, harm and exploit us.

You are causing friction, stress, divorce and domestic violence in families. Municipal workers are getting involved with loan sharks, committing crime and fraud, and even committing suicide or killing the whole family. Here I am hailing or begging the government to intervene in this. South Africa will benefit a lot from giving municipal workers a living wage or are you a killer, Father?" ●

North West workers picket for better wages!

The comrades in the North West Province have been actively picketing during lunchtimes for higher wages. Cde Sam Menoe of Mafikeng reports that all workplaces in Mafikeng held at least one lunchtime picket. And more than 250 SAMWU members of Naledi municipality (formerly Vryburg) in the North West Province demonstrated on April 20th for a living wage. ●

KwaZulu-Natal workers are all very unhappy...



Comrades working in the Parks Department of Durban Metro's South Central Local Council say that they are spending a lot of money on transport and food prices are too high. "Education for our children is too expensive. Rates, electricity and water are very expensive. We have just received our pay but today we don't have even a cent because we are earning peanuts."

Amaqabane asebenza kuMnyango wezamaPaki kuMkhandlu weDolobha iSouth Central okuyingxenye yeDurban Metro athi imali yawo iphelela ezintweni zokuhamba kanti nokudla sekubiza kakhulu. "Imali yokufundisa abantwana bethu yemba eqolo. Irente, amanzi nogesi nako kuyabiza. Siholile namhlanje kodwa asisasele nalutho ngoba vele siholile ubala".

Night shift waste workers in Durban are suffering a lot!

interviews and photos by Thabo Putini



Comrade S. Naidu works night duty for the Durban City Police. Cde Naidu says "I have worked for the council for 10 years but I am still earning peanuts! Council does not care about price increases and inflation. Eight out of ten workers are paying bonds on our houses. We go home without a cent! The money I am earning lasts only for two weeks and then I have to borrow money from the loan sharks!"



This night duty comrade from Durban Solid Waste has a message for the bosses: "There is no better life for 3%! The employer must stop playing! They must give us money or they must come and clean this rubbish. 3% is nonsense, 15% is better and in future the union should demand 25% or more!"



Leliqabane elisebenza ebusuku kwaSolid Wastes, eThekwini, linomyalezo eliwuqondise kubaqashi: "Akukho mpilo engcono ngo-3%! Abaqashi abeyeke ukusinisa amahleza! Mabasinike imali noma beze bazowukhuculula ngokwabo lodoti. U-15% ungcono kakhulu, kanti ngomuso inyunyana kufanele ifune u-25%!"



Elinye ilungu likasamwu elisebenza ebusuku kwaSolid Wastes, eThekwini, lona lithi abaqashi mabawuthathe lo-3% wabo baye nawo ethoyilethi.

Another SAMWU member working night duty at Durban Solid Waste said the employer should go to the toilet with a 3% increment.



Roads workers tell union: "Stick to 15%!"

The members at the Isipingo Roads Department in Durban were very angry. They said that the union should never have dropped below 15%. "Even 12% is nothing compared to the work we are doing. We are prepared to take to the streets if we get anything less than 15%," they said.

Amalungu ethu asebenza eMnyangweni wezemiGwaqo eSiphingo, ngaseThekwini athukuthele agane unwabu. Athi inyunyana kwakungafenele neze igudluke ize iyoma ngaphansi kuka-15%. "Ngisho no-12% akalutho uma kuqhathaniswa nomsebenzi esiwenzayo. Sizimisele ukugcwala emigaqweni siyobhikisha uma sinikezwa isamba esingaphansi kuka-15%", kusho lamalungu ethu. ●

2000 Bloemfontein cdes disrupt the bosses conference!

On Friday April 6th, 2001 Free State Province held a march and a picket outside the SALGA annual conference at Technikon Free State, Bloemfontein. The bosses said they could not afford to pay us more, yet they kicked off their conference with a banquet fit for kings and queens. SAMWU is disgusted that we the workers cannot even put food on our tables, yet the bosses want to live in luxury. Provincial Secretary, Comrade Mnthandeki Nhlapo, told the bosses at the march that the increase offer is "insulting". Three percent on our minimum wage is less than R50 a month, said protestors. Members added that Salga must abandon the government's macro-economic policy, Gear, because "it reduces the role of the public sector". ●

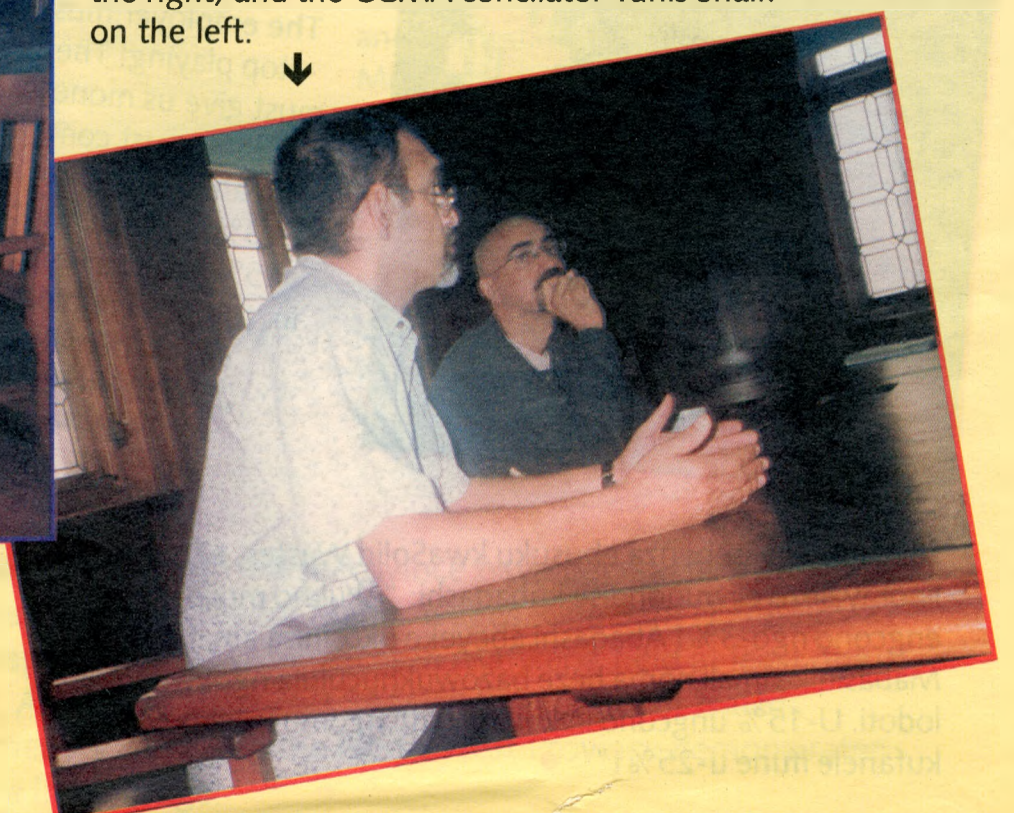
Profensing ya Freistata ho bile le mohwanto le phikete ka ntle ho khonferense ya selemo le selemo ya SALGA e neng e tshwaretswe Theknikoneng ya Freistata, Bloemfontein. Bahiri ba re ba ke ke ba kgona ho re lefa tjhelete e ka hodimonyana, empa ba kgonne ho bula khonferense eo ya bona ka mokete o moholohadi o loketseng marena le mafumahadi. SAMWU e swabile hampe haholo ha ele mona basebetsi bona ba sa kgone ho beha dijo ditafoleng tsa malapa a bona, empa bahiri bona ba batla ho phela ka boiketlo ba sebedisa ditjhelete dinthong tse sa hlokeheng. Mongodi wa Profensi, Comrade Mnthandeki Nhlapo, o boleletse bahiri mohwantong hore seo ba fanang ka sona ho rona ke "thohako" feela. Ditho di ile tsa eketsa ka ho re Salga e tshwanela ho tlohela leano la mmuso la moruo, la Gear, hobane "maikemsetso a lona ke ho nyeneyefatsa seabo sa mokga wa mmuso". ●



Here they are! The SAMWU negotiators!



Negotiations get tough...below we see Cde Roger Ronnie, SAMWU General Secretary (on the right) and the CCMA conciator Yunis Shaik on the left.



From left to right above are Cde Mildred Mlumbi (in cap), Collective Bargaining Officer Dale Forbes, SAMWU President Petrus Mashishi, and Eastern Cape Legal Officer Fezile Gqaushe.