

- SOWETAN, Friday, December 21. 1984

come together to co-ordinate resources as a

Workers linked with =5

HE involvement

of black con-

sciousness trade

union movement in la-

bour issues has grown

rapidly in the past two years.

The formation of an alliance by nine unregistered black trade unions, founded on the notion of the black consciousness, bears testimony to this idea.

The alliance was the result of months of behind-the-scenes discussions which started in February this year, according to Mr Pandelani Nefolovhodwe, coordinator of the alliance.

Mr Nefolovhodwe, who is secretary of the

Black Allied Mining and

Construction Workers Union (Bamcwu) â\200\224 a member of the alliance â\200\224 says the ideological orientation of the unions is to provide black workers leadership.

The involvement of blacks in trade union movements is a long and traditional one which

started as early as 1917

when they were not allowed recognition.

Various commissions of inquiries instituted by the South African Governments recommended that blacks should not

be allowed trade union
. Recognition â\200\224 but the
spirit of unionism was
- kept alive among blacks
. throughout the years.

Strong

Some blacks were ac-

unions which accepted
their membership â\200\224 but
there was a strong and
growing need for blacks
to have their own
unions.

In 1971 the Black
Worker Project was
formed under personali-
ties such as the exiled

commodated in white :

Â\$ h 'Afn'can Students
. isation and Black
Peopleâ\200\231s Convention

member, Mr Bokwe " formed in 1982.

Mafuna.

_ Mr Mafuna, 5 former
Journalist with a Johap-
nesburg newspaper, to-
gether with several
other black conscious-
ness exponents, ran [a-
bour clinics throughout
the country, especially
in Johannesburg and
Durban.

Saso and BPC were
for many years the driy-
ing fog'ce of the black
consciousness move-
ment. In 1972, they
were instrumental in the
launching of the Black
Allied Workers Union,
to organise black work-
ers exclusively.

Leaders such as
Drake Koka, Lindiwe
Mabandla, Saths
Cooper and Strini
Moodley were very in-
fluential in the running
of the union, ially
during the 1973 Durban

strikes. During 1977 -

clampdown, which in-
cluded the banning of

Sasq and BPC, BAWU
somehow survived.

With the formation of
the Azanian People's
Organisation (Azapo) in
1978 and the increasing
re-examination by black
- consciousness activists
of the nature of SA so-
ciety, the unionisation
of black workers was
once again placed on the
agenda.

Azapo, a black con-
sciousness organisation,
arranged labour clinics
with the aim to assist
workers. It was here

to workers and where
many of the unions
which presently form
part of the alliance were
first discussed.

After Azapo's labour
secretary, Mr - Letsatsi
Mosala, had helped
workers on strike at

that assistance was given

Consciousness

. Scooter Drivers Union.

{ ment of black workers's
objectives.

(- The need to encour-
Ready Mix Concrete, in age the spirit of solidar-
resolving their wage dis- ity and unity within the
Pie, Bmacwu was blaqq working com- -
munity.

Since that time until
now, Mr Nefolovhodwe
says, "We never looked

"back in organising work-

ers and we formed the
alliance to help one
another."

The unions which
form the alliance are:
Bamcwu, Insurance and
Assurance Workers

Union, African Allied
Workers Union
(AAWU), Amalga-
mated Black Workers
Union (ABWU), Black
General Workers Union
(BGWU), National
Union of Workersâ\200\231 of
SA (NUWSA), Black
Electronics and Electri-
cal Workers Union
(BEEWU), and the SA

The Black Health and
Allied Workers Union,
Oranje-Vaal General

. Workers Union and the

South African Domestic
Workers Union, have
given their support to
the alliance, although
have not formally
joined.

During May a decla-
ration of intent was
adopted by the unions :
stating inter alia:
â® That the unity of
black workers s par-
amount in all efforts dj-

rected at the eradication
of all forms of oppres-
.sion, exploitation and
discrimination.

â® That it is the inalien-
able right of all worker
organisations to orga-
nise themselves into a
solid structure that will
be capable of defending
the right of workers.

â® There is a need to

OUR. PRETORIA

Bureau reporter,

MONK NKOMO, looks at Pretoria in 1984 and remembers some of the events that made big news in the community â\200\224 including the closing down of schools.

THE year 1984 will be remembered by many in Pretoriaâ\200\231s townships as the year of studentsâ\200\231 deaths, school boycotts, petrol bomb attacks on town councillors and the

_closing down of their

oldest and most famous maternity hospital for blacks.

About 6 000 students boycotted classes for almost the whole year in Atteridgeville, with the students adamant that the authorities exceed to their demands, the major demand being the introduction of Student Representative Councils (SRC).

The sporadic unrests led to the fateful day on February 13 when Emma Sathekge, a form

one student at the D H -

Peta High School was run over by a police landrover inside the school premises. She died later at the Kala-fong Hospital after sustaining internal injuries. An inquest magistrate in Pretoria, Mr J A Diener, on July 31 ruled

that Emmaâ\200\231s death was caused by Lt David Hugo McLachlan, who drove negligently inside the school premises. The same policeman later appeared in the local magistrate court charged with culpable homicide. The case was postponed and is scheduled to be held in Jan-

uary nextyear. .

Meanwhile the continuous boycotts of classes eventually resulted with the Department of Education and Training closing down the Hofmeyer, Saulridge, Flavius Mareka, Saulsville and the Dr W F Nkomo high schools for about four months. The schools were later reopened .but the boycotts continued despite the introduction of SRCs. All the students, except the final matriculants at the six high schools will have to repeat their classes next year:.

Black organisations throughout the country, then launched a massive

campaign protesting against the government's apartheid laws. A two-day stay away from work was enforced in November. At the end of the two days two students, aged 13 and 16 years were killed after being allegedly hit by police rubber bullets. Wallace Rumskin (13) of 93 Ramokgopa Street and a standard four pupil at Mangena Mokone High or Primary School and John Phefo (16), a form one student at the Tidimanong High School in Rustenburg, who stayed at 44 Mase-mola Street, were the victims.

Mamelodi township's residents, who enjoyed a relatively quiet season, although with the highest murder rate in Pre-

oria, were shocked when one of their councillors Elison Chiloane (48) appeared in court on three charges of attempted murder, unlawful pointing of a firearm

and unlawful firing of a shot at Mr Piet Pitso. He was acquitted on two of the charges but convicted on the second count. He was warned and discharged.

Other incidents to re-

member included the following:

• the alleged kidnapping of an 11-year-old standard three pupil in Atteridgeville, Moses Ramonyai, who was bundled into a kombi and forcibly taken to an initiation school. Another victim was a Mamelodi taxi driver who was also kidnapped

and forced to go to the initiation school near Mamelodi. He was later released after his family intervened;

• the on-off R8 rent increases in Atteridgeville illegally imposed in July, were finally called off by the local town council;

• two black male employees who allegedly offered women job-seekers contraceptives before demanding sex for jobs at the Atteridgeville labour offices, were transferred after pressure from the local town council which investigated the matter;

• the maternity section of the Holy Cross Nursing Home, where about 25 000 babies were born since 1939, was closed down in April to make

way for an old age home; Q

• the South African

Government withdrew

PFP LEADER, Dr F van Zyl Slabbert made history by addressing a meeting of the Mamelodi People's Party.

e

1984 IS THE YEAR in which Atteridgeville students demanded a greater say in school affairs.

of"ld

g@wQLsh LD hee. [T

(g 71,\9,4 v [5e Â£ fhe \jÃ©om FLal ot

SIX Lekoa Town
Council members
have threatened to re-
sign from the council
if the mayor, Mr Es-
sau Mabhlatsi, does not
heed their ultimatum
to hold a public meet-
ing before the end of
the month.

A spokesman for the
six, Mr Joseph Mosala
told The SOWETAN in
an interview yesterday
that he and the other
five opposition coun-
cillors have demanded
that Mr Mabhlatsi call
â\200\234this vital meetingâ\200\235 in
connection with the out-
break of the unrest in
â\200\230the Vaal township on
September 3.

He said they believed
that the time was long

overdue for them to face Â°

the public since â\200\234we
were democratically

so .

Vaal councillors
challenge mayor

By NKOPANE
MAKOBANE

elected by the people.â\200\235
It was unfair, he said,
that Mr Mabhlatsi and
other councillors should
wield power from their
hiding places. It was
high time that they came

out in the open as lead- â\200\224â\200\224

ers to attend to burning
issues that had led to the
unhappiness in the area.

â\200\234We are very much
against the idea that Mr

~Mabhlatsi should only

communicate with the residents through the Press, radio and television.

At the same time, we the opposition, take strong exception to his threatening us with disciplinary action if we voice our dissatisfaction through the media. The

mayor acts as a dictator to us in the council chambers, disallowing anyone who opposes him. As a result, the only alternative left is the Press, he said.

Mr Mosala said that until the grievances of the residents are properly attended to, he

didn't see peace returning to the troubled townships.

The Black Local Authorities Act was a failure, because councillors had no power as all their decisions are taken in consultation with the Development Board officials.