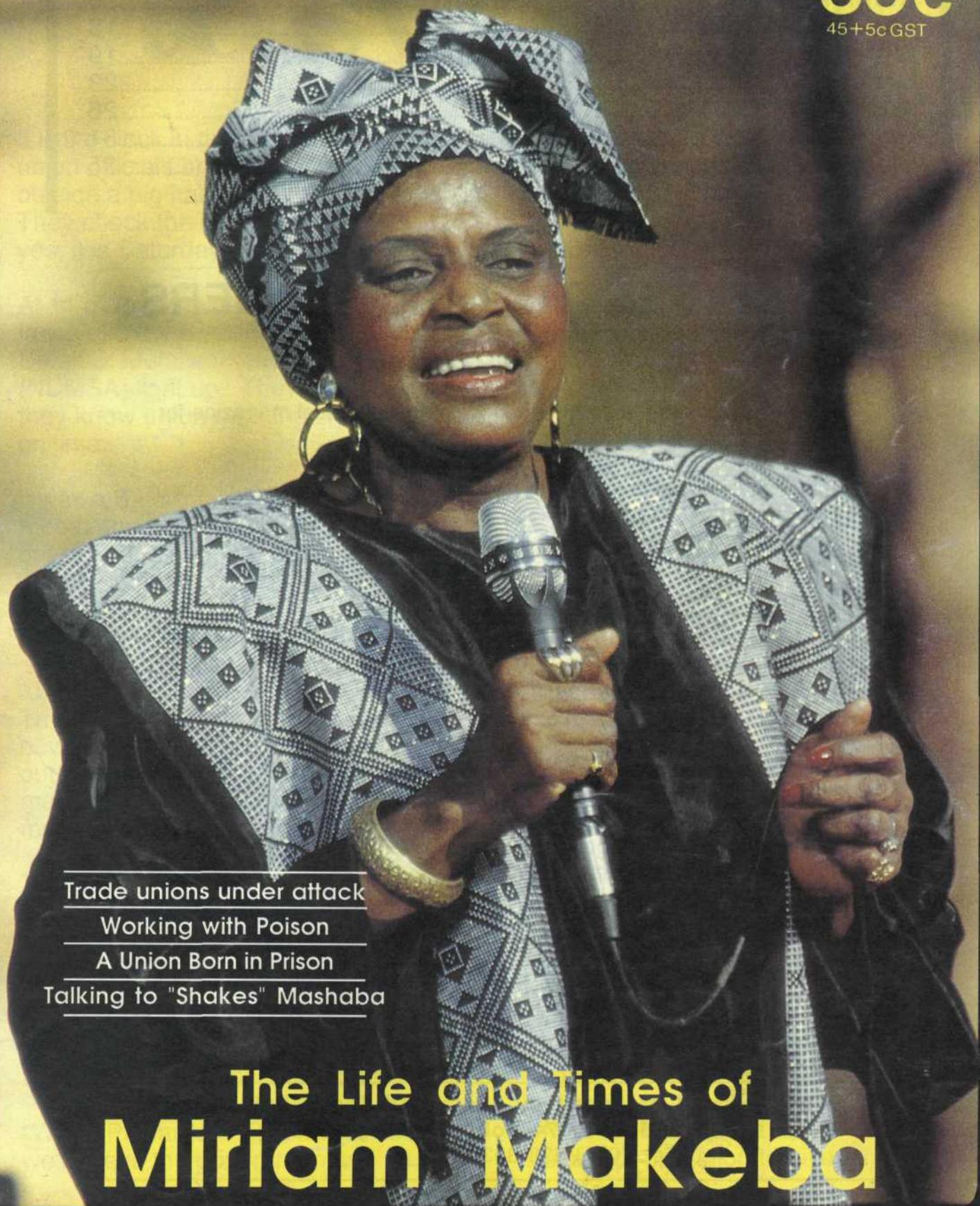


Learn and Teach

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Trade unions under attack

Working with Poison

A Union Born in Prison

Talking to "Shakes" Mashaba

The Life and Times of
Miriam Makeba

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A LETTER TO OUR READERS

Dear Readers,

Christmas is around the corner and we give you our last magazine for 1987. We hope you like it!

In this magazine, we are proud to give you a taste of a new book about the life and times of Miriam Makeba. The book, written in Makeba's own words, reminds us of the hardships of all our people who are living in exile far away from home. Spare a thought for them this Christmas!

We also give you another important story – about the new law the government wants to bring out next year to crush the unions. As one trade union official said: "If the government makes this law, it will push the unions back 10 years." So 1988 is going to be a tough year for the workers of this country. There has never been a greater need for unity!

Lastly, we want to thank everybody who has helped the magazine in the past year. It's been a difficult year and there are many people to thank. We thank you, the readers, for buying the magazine. We thank our sellers and all the people and organisations who have stood behind us. We wish you all well for the new year!

Heyta daar!



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A bitter bill to swallow

It is 9 o'clock in the morning. The trade union officials are walking up and down outside a big hall at Wits University. They check the time, day and date — yes, it is Saturday, November 28 1987.

At 11 o'clock the hall fills up — and the faces of the officials from the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) light up. They smile because they know union meetings never start on time.

It was a Saturday, it was the end of the month and it was close to Christmas — but over 800 shopstewards came. It was an important meeting.

WHY THE MEETING WAS CALLED

The meeting was called to talk about a new law the government wants to bring out early next year. If the government makes this law, trade unions will lose much of the power they have today.

The government wants to change a law called the Labour Relations Act. The changes it wants to make are in a bill — if the government wants to change a law or make a new law, it must show parliament a bill. The bill explains the changes or the new law the government wants to make.

"When Parliament sits early in 1988, we believe the government will push

through the bill to make it law," said a NUMSA official before the meeting at Wits began.

BACK TO THE DARK DAYS

At the meeting Adrienne Bird from the NUMSA Education Department said that 1987 was a great year in the workers' struggle for a living wage. Workers went on strike everywhere — in the shops, mines, metal factories, railways and the post offices.

"Comrades, this year the workers really took control," she said. "The bosses lost millions of rands because of strike action for a living wage. She told the meeting that the bosses ran to the government for help. They went to the Minister of Manpower, Pietie du Plessis and said the unions are getting too strong.

"If the bill becomes law it will push the unions back 10 years. It is an attack on all our rights as workers that we have won through hard struggle.

Many older workers nodded their heads. They remembered those dark days and they did not like what they were hearing.

IF THE BILL BECOMES LAW

"If this bill becomes a law, it will be illegal for our union to give support to



other workers by joining them in strikes or boycotts," said Adrienne.

She explained that bosses will also be able to sue workers for loss of production because of strikes. They could sue a union for millions of rands, and by doing so close down the union.

She said that the bill is also an attack against Cosatu's policy of 'one union one industry' and 'one company one union'. If the bill becomes law, the bosses will be able to make agreements with more than one union in the same factory.

Adrienne spoke for a long time explaining the bill. She ended by saying: "So comrades, it is clear we have to defend our rights as workers. We must organise to kill the bill before the bill kills us."

MAMA MAGUBANE'S ADVICE

A young worker at the meeting said that everybody was now under attack

— the students with the new university law, the newspapers with the new newspaper laws and now the workers with the new labour bill.

Another speaker got up to speak. Everyone knows her. Her name is Mama Maggie Magubane. She told the meeting that the bill was an attack against all the workers of South Africa.

"We must ask Cosatu to go out and tell other unions to join us in this struggle against the bill. We need unity to defeat these bills — that is the only way we can win."

THE HARD FACTS ABOUT THE BILL

The bill attacks the right to strike.

- Strikes that are now legal will become illegal — such as workers striking to support other workers on strike. "Grasshopper strikes" — strikes which start, stop and start again — will also be illegal.

- Strikes or boycotts for the "same or

similar" thing will not be allowed for 12 months. For example, if workers go on strike over wages, they will not be able to have another wage strike for another 12 months.

- Even if workers follow all the steps of a legal strike, they can still be dismissed.

- Wildcat strikes — when workers go on strike without first talking to the union or the bosses — will be illegal. If the bosses can prove that the union was behind the strike, they can sue the union.

- Stayaways will be against the law and trade unions will be charged if they call for one.

- Unions can be sued for "loss of production" for strike action, "go—slows", boycotts and stayaways.

Dismissals of workers will be easier.

- The bosses will easily be able to fire new workers. A worker who has worked for the same boss for less than 12 months will have little protection. The bosses will not need a good reason to fire these workers.

The retrenchment law will change.

- The bosses can retrench anyone they like. In other words, they will no longer have to follow the "last in, first out" rule.

- After a strike the bosses can take

Leaders of the ICU — a trade union that was started in the 1920's. These men fought for the right to strike. How will they feel about the new labour bill?



back only the people they like. In other words, they can selectively re-employ workers, which is now against the law.

- When workers are retrenched, bosses will not be forced to pay workers for each year they have worked. They will not have to pay severance pay.

"One union, one industry" — attacked.

- Bosses will be able to make agreements with "small or minority unions". Unions with a 50% plus one majority in a factory will no longer be able to talk for all workers in the factory. They will have to share the table with lots of small unions. This will break the union rule of "one union, one industry."

- The bill will allow "apartheid unions" to register. For example, unions which have only white members will be allowed to register. Trade unions have fought against this in the past because it divides the workers.

The Industrial Court will be weaker

- The Minister will be able to choose anyone he likes to be President and the deputy President of the Industrial Court. Now, only people who know labour law well can be President or deputy President.

- There will also be a special new labour court. This court will have the same power as the Supreme Court. It will be very expensive to take cases to this court. If a union loses a case, it will have to pay the costs of the bosses. Most of the time their costs are higher than the unions'.

Some lawyers say this special labour court is not a good thing because it

changes the whole idea of having the Industrial Court. The idea was for workers to use the Industrial Court easily and cheaply — and to solve disputes quickly.

Changes to the working of the Industrial Councils and Conciliation Boards

If your company falls under an Industrial Council (IC) or Conciliation Board (CB) there will be many changes.

- There will now be a deadline for unions to take disputes to the IC or CB. Unions will only have 21 days to take disputes to an IC or CB. If unions miss the deadline, they will not be able to go on strike or take other actions.

- An IC or CB will no longer have only 30 days to solve a dispute. It will have as much time as it wants. An IC or CB will be able to "drag its feet" — and in the meantime stop workers from striking or taking other action.

- A good point: When there is a dispute, unions will be able to ask inspectors at the Department of Manpower for a CB or IC hearing. Now only the Minister of Manpower can decide to give a hearing. So hearings will become a right — and not something only the Minister has the power to give.

The bosses will get more power

- The bosses will get new powers. There are many things in the bill to prove this. For example, the bosses can take the union to court if they believe that a union has used "unfair methods to recruit workers."

The new bill will change the balance between workers and the bosses. The bosses will now be in the "driving seat"

— and many of the rights that workers have won through hard struggle in the past years will be no more.

WHAT THE UNIONS SAY

Frank Meintjies of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) said: "This new bill is a big stick to hit the unions. It offers us no carrots or good things — only pain.

"This bill is one of the biggest attacks on the unions, especially Cosatu. We see this bill as a heavy attack on our living wage campaign."

"If this stick hits the unions, unions will be forced to work outside the law because we will lose all the protection we have won from the bosses."

Asked how Cosatu will fight the bill, Meintjies said: "For a start we will tell our friends overseas to help us in our fight against the bill. But we will also have to organise to defeat the bills. All Cosatu unions will meet in February 1988 to work out what action Cosatu will be taking against the bills.

"We must build a united front with the youth, women, and unemployed workers — and the struggle against the bills must be the number one issue."

Mahlomola Skosana from the National Council of Trade Union (NACTU) said: "This bill will be discussed and passed by a white parliament. It is a parliament that does not speak for the workers.

"The aim of this bill is to protect the bosses — not the workers. The bosses have been asking the government for protection for a

long time. They have told the government that the Labour Relations Act is in favour of workers and unions. This is why they are changing it.

"The bill wants to clip the wings of the unions which have grown into a big force in the struggle for change. This bill wants to take away the right to strike. The right to strike and picket is the main right of workers all over the world."

When asked how Nactu will fight this bill, Skosana said: "Our members on the factory floor have spoken about the bill and are making plans to fight it. Our power is in the factories and it is from there that we will fight. To fight this bill we are prepared to work with other unions and organisations." ●



If the labour bill becomes law, will these young chaps ever have a union they can be proud of?

Spare a thought for Jonas



Jonas Lechaba doing his deliveries in Zola, Soweto

Come rain or snow, Jonas Lechaba will always show! Is that not the golden rule of every postman?

"Well, it's mostly true," says Jonas. "I deliver in all kinds of weather — but you will never catch me working in the rain. When it rains in the township the roads turn to mud. You can ride a bicycle nearly everywhere — but bicycles get stuck in mud."

Jonas Lechaba has been a postman for a long time. He started working at the Jeppe Post Office way back in

1969. His first job was delivering telegrams. In 1971 he was sent to work at the Jabulani Post Office in Soweto.

HOUSE TO HOUSE

"In Soweto I became a real postman, delivering post from house to house on a bicycle," says Jonas. "I started delivering in Jabulani township first. Then I delivered in Naledi, then Moletsane, then Emdeni, then Zondi — now I am delivering in Zola. I can say that I know Soweto like the back of my hand."

Jonas starts work at seven in the morning. He starts by sorting out letters which belong in the same street. This makes it easy when delivering.

After sorting the letters, Jonas packs them in a bag. Then he loads them in the front carry—box of his bicycle. Then he is ready to hit the streets of Zola township. He works quickly — he has to deliver post to about 500 houses everyday.

"Most houses have got letter boxes," says Jonas. "If there is no letter box, we put the letter safely on the gate. I never go into a yard to deliver a letter. We are not allowed to. If we go into a yard and a dog bites us, the post office will not pay medical expenses."

Talking of dogs, Jonas will tell you that for postmen, dogs are not man's best friend. They are the postman's worst enemy.

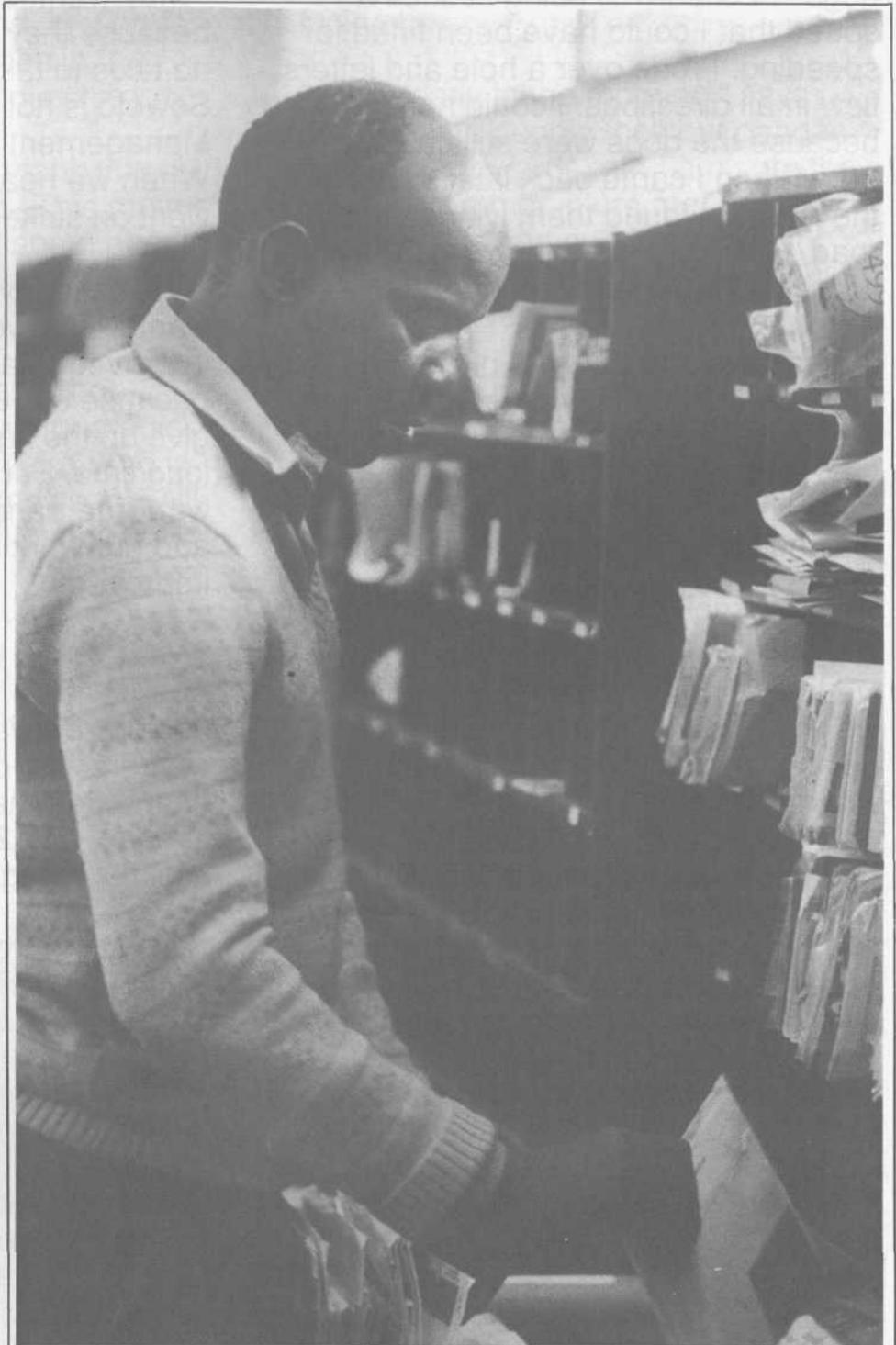
"Most of us have been bitten by dogs at one time or another," says Jonas. "Once, when I was putting letters into a postbox, a dog jumped up and bit my hand. I did not see the dog tied to the postbox pole. Luckily there was a clinic nearby."

Jonas has been bitten by so many dogs that he can now tell if a dog

is dangerous. Jonas, like most other postmen, can tell if a bark will be followed by a bite — or if it will be followed by a wet kiss.

A HARD TIME

If dogs are Jonas' biggest problem, their owners are the second biggest problem. People in the township give



"Before I deliver, I must first sort out the letters that go to the same street"

Jonas and his friends a hard time.

"One day I went inside a shop and when I came out my bicycle was gone. I sat there and waited for about twenty minutes. Then a young boy came with it. I asked him why he took the bicycle. He told me he was just testing it.

"Another time I was chased by fierce dogs in Zola. I was riding at such a speed that I could have been fined for speeding. I rode over a hole and letters flew in all directions. I could not stop because the dogs were still chasing me. When I came back later to fetch the letters, I found them lying in the road. Nobody picked them up. They just stood there and laughed."

Jonas says that many of his friends have been injured by cars and taxis in the township. "With taxis and cars you have to be very careful. These people hoot when they are just a short distance away from you — and this confuses us and cause accidents.

"They do not care about us because we are riding bicycles. They forget that we are working. Many people think of us as a joke. They do not think of us as workers doing a serious jobs.

"In the old days some people even used to call us 'mpimpis'. They thought that we were spies for the government because we were working for the post office. But now they have stopped that. They now call us 'frankies'. I do not know what that means but it sounds better than 'mpimpi'."

A UNION FOR POSTMEN

Jonas does not only have problems with the people. There are of course also problems at work. For this reason he is a member of the trade union. The

union is called Post and Telecommunication Workers Union. (POTWA)

"Potwa started organising post office workers in January last year. In just four months most workers at the Post Office had joined our union. In April this year workers in the depot at Power Park made their first demands.

"They wanted free transport home because they knock off late. There are no taxis to take them home and Soweto is not safe at night. Management answered by firing them. When we heard this, other depots went on strike as well.

"We came up with more demands. We wanted our working conditions to be improved. Management thought that because our union was new, we would give up the fight if the strike lasted a long time. But we did not. In the end we won free transport for our comrades and our working conditions were improved.

"We went on strike at the beginning of August again. This time we wanted equality between black and white workers who do the same job. We also demanded that messengers and Grade 1 and 2 workers be paid a minimum wage of R450.00.

"This strike went on for a long time. During the strike we held meetings at places like Regina Mundi and the Funda Centre in Soweto as well as Khotso House in town. We explained to people why we were on strike.

"People supported us. They knew that we were not only fighting for ourselves, but also for those who will one day work in the post office.

"This strike lasted until September

when we won our demands. Now messengers and Grade 1 and 2 workers have got their increases. We agreed with management that we postmen and other post office workers will get our increases next year."

THE GOOD TIMES

But for Jonas, life as a postman is not only getting bitten by dogs, being laughed at by people, and fighting for his rights with his comrades in the union. At times he does enjoy his job.

"Sometimes people say thank you or they just give me a smile. This means a lot to me. It shows that some people are thankful for the job we do. This makes me like my job.

"Sometimes when it is really hot somebody will invite me in for a quick cooldrink and a piece of cake. And in winter, somebody who knows me will invite me to come and sit by the `mbawula` to get warm. I will stay for about five minutes because I am working. But just looking at those people warming themselves outside makes you want to spend the whole day in front of the mbawula.

"Another guy I know has just invited me to his Christmas party. He knows me

because I always bring him a letter or two. Maybe I bring him good news and that is why he has invited me.

There are also other good things about being a postman — like keeping fit and having legs that can kill an elephant with one kick. Jonas's strong legs have helped him out of trouble more than once — like the time he met some people on the way home from a stokvel.

"It was early in the morning," says Jonas. "The people took out pangas and came towards me. I am sure they wanted to rob or injure me. Anyway, I didn't wait to find out. I ran so fast I even surprised myself. It sure pays to have strong legs."

There was just one more question to ask Jonas. What about all the stories of postman meeting lots of bored and beautiful women while their husbands are at work?

"That's nonsense," says Jonas with a laugh. "Most women do not want to be seen with a guy who rides a bicycle. They prefer the guys who drive cars. And anyway, I'm a married man who does not have time for such things. I've got letters to deliver." ●

Inside the Jabulani post office



A UNION BORN IN PRISON

You could say that organising people is in Jerry Nxgjola's blood. Even when trade union organiser Nxgjola was sentenced to six years in prison, he carried on organising from his prison cell.

But this time it was not workers that he organised. It was the prisoners.

Nxgjola was an organiser for the South African Allied Workers' Union (SAAWU) in Natal. He says he was sent to prison for holding illegal meetings and trying to run away from the police. He did his "stretch" at the Utrecht prison in Natal.

In prison Nxgjola, who is a friendly fellow, made a lot of new friends. He spent a lot of time talking — and listening.

He listened to the other prisoners talking about what they will do when they leave prison. He listened to their dreams — and their worries. Will they find jobs? Will their friends and family still care for them? Will anybody help them?

Nxgjola decided that the prisoners needed an organisation to help them after they leave prison. He spoke to his fellow prisoners about the need for unity.

And so in the dark prison cells of Utrecht Prison the seeds of a new and different kind of union were planted in 1984.

When Nxgjola was released in 1986, he didn't waste any time. Together with other ex-prisoners, he worked hard to get the union off the ground. And in September this year, ex-prisoners, both criminal and political, came together to start their very own organisation. They called it the National Union of Ex-Prisoners for Crime Prevention and Readjustment (Nuepfocar).

LEAPS AND BOUNDS

The union has already got more than 2000 members in Natal. Nxgjola says that the union is growing by leaps and bounds. They have branches in Kwa Mashu, Umlazi, Cleremont, Dundee, Kwa Ndengezi, Lindelani, Inanda, Newcastle, Imbali, Edendale, Ashdown and Sobantu.

We were joined by two other men as we sat talking in Nxgjola's office. One of them turned out to be Michael Nzimande the treasurer of the union. He had come to sign up a new member who had been with him at the Bethal prison.



Organiser and founder of the union for ex-prisoners, Jerry Nxgjola

The soft speaking Nzimande told us how he wishes to see his organisation having members all over the country. "We have already started organising other ex-prisoners in the Transvaal and the Orange Free State.

"We need many more members. This will help us to fight for recognition by the Prisons Department. They must allow us into the prisons to tell prisoners about our union. Prisoners must know that they can come to us with their problems when they leave prison.

PROBLEMS OF EX-PRISONERS

The problems of ex-prisoners is something both Ngxjola and Nzimande have a lot to say about.

"Ex-prisoners face many problems when they come out of prison," says Jerry Ngxjola. "People do not accept them just because they have been to prison. One of the biggest problems is finding jobs because most bosses will not take them.

Ngxjola says that ex-prisoners do not get enough help from government organisations. "The State Welfare organisations say they are helping but they are not doing enough. That is why ex-prisoners need an organisation that will help them to help themselves."

He says the prison system does not prepare prisoners for life outside — and that is why many prisoners end up back in jail.

"The South African prison system does not help people to forget their old ways. I saw this when I was in prison. For example, the Prison officials made it difficult for me to study through correspondence. Prisoners must be

allowed to study freely so that they can prepare themselves for life outside prison."

Ngxjola says that the bosses, the government and the prison system are not the only problems. Ex-prisoners also need help and understanding from the people in the community.

"The community must try to understand why an ordinary person decides to steal or fight the laws of the government. Prisoners can only win back their dignity if people in the community give them a chance."

Ngxjola and Nzimande spoke about other problems of ex-prisoners — like those who come out after a long time and have nowhere to go. Sometimes they cannot find their families, or family members have died. The union hopes to build a home for such prisoners.

Some prisoners come out of prison with mental illnesses and other health problems. It is the union's duty to find help for them, says Nzimande.

WORKING SIDE BY SIDE

The union has started trade lessons and self help groups for its members who cannot find jobs. These projects will help the the ex-prisoners become useful members of the community. The union has started lessons in bricklaying, plumbing, woodwork, leatherwork, watch repairing, plastering and tailoring.

"Our members work side by side and learn skills that can help them to make a living," says Ngxjola. "We had our first market in October where we sold shoes, belts, cupboards, wardrobes, baskets and desks to the public. All



Miriam Makeba singing in Paris, France

The life and times of

Miriam Makeba

Just before Miriam Makeba left South Africa 27 years ago, she wrote a song called "Iphi 'Ndlela". She sang:

*Stay well, my people
I am leaving
I am going to the land of the white man
I ask you to be with me
To show me the way
We will meet and see one another
Upon my return.*

Miriam Makeba never did return.

She remembers the day in 1960 when she found out that she could not come

home again. She was in New York, a few days after she heard about the death of her mother in South Africa. She went to the South African government office and told them that she wanted to come home to visit her mother's grave.

"The man at the desk takes my passport. He does not speak to me. He takes a rubber stamp and slams it down in my passport. Then he walks away. I pick up my passport. It is stamped INVALID.

"My breath catches in my throat...They have done it. They have exiled me. I am not allowed to go home, not now, and

these things were made by the ex-prisoners themselves. Bricklayers are already fixing peoples' houses in the townships around Durban."

The union also runs literacy classes for members who have got little education. Ex-prisoners learn how to read and write in their mother tongue and in English. The union also plans to have workshops where its members can learn about what is happening in the country.

"Our members must learn and grow so they can take their rightful place in the struggle of the people in South Africa," says Ngxjola.

"Things that are happening in the country show us how important it is to educate our members. Some people are using ex-prisoners as vigilantes to fight or kill the people who are in the struggle against apartheid. Vigilante groups like the A-Team in Chesterville and the Witdoeke in the Cape have used ex-prisoners.

"EACH ONE, ORGANISE ONE"

The prisoners union is still a young organisation and there is much work to be done. The biggest job is getting more members.

Finding new members is not only the job of union officials like Ngxjola and Nzimande. Every member in the union is an organiser. The slogan is "Each one, Organise one."

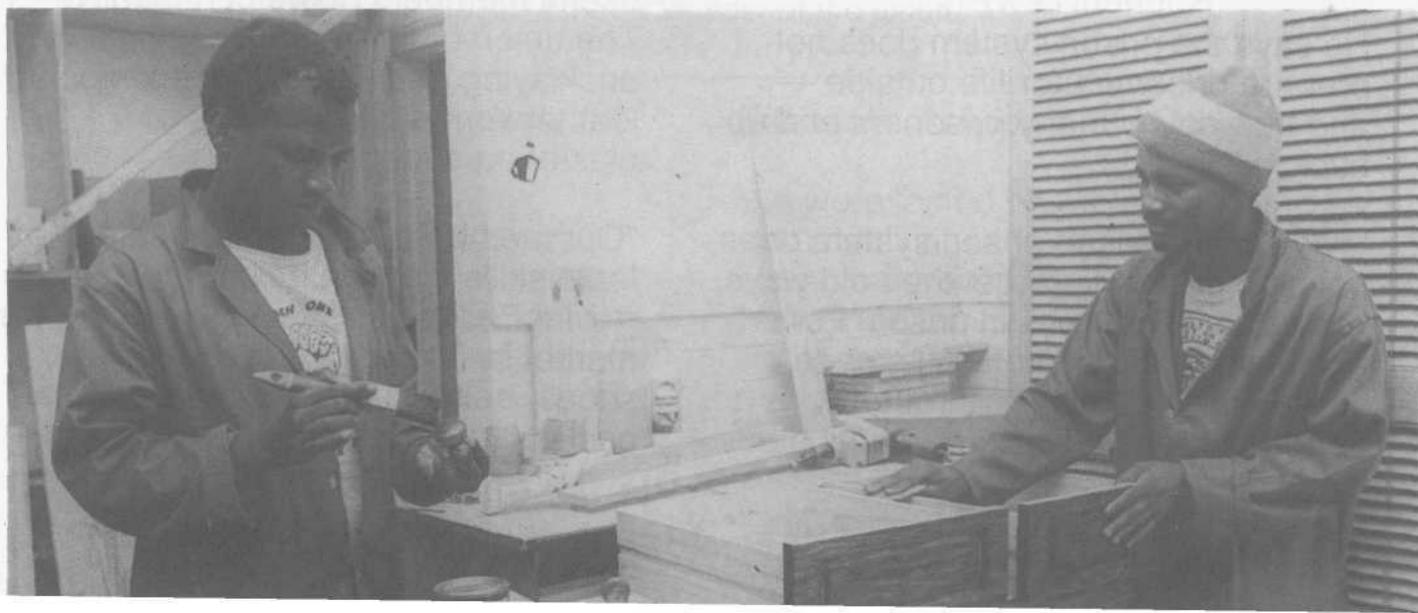
"We try to talk to all prisoners, male and female, who have just come out of prison. We tell them what our union stands for and invite them to join us," says Nzimande.

"We go around city parks and township streets telling ex-prisoners about our organisation. Political prisoners are easy to organise because most of them were, at one time or another, members of a democratic organisation. They understand how an organisation works.

"Ex-criminal prisoners are much more difficult to organise because most of them have never been to school. Many do not understand why it is important for us to stand together. We have to explain everything and tell them how our organisation will help them."

The people in the union have a long and hard road ahead of them. But they will get there. After all, they have people like Jerry Ngxjola working with them. If he can organise from a prison cell, think what he can do outside of one! ●

The woodwork project – just one of the projects the union has started for its workers



maybe not ever. My family. My home. Everything that has gone into the making of myself, gone!"

Makeba writes about this bitter memory in a new book about her life. The book, written in her own words, is called "Makeba: My Story."

In the book Makeba writes about her early life in South Africa, and how she became a singer. She writes about leaving South Africa and the pain of living in exile, far away from home. It is a moving story – a story that begins on the day of Makeba's birth, 55 years ago.

THE EARLY YEARS

Miriam Makeba was born on March 4, 1932 in Johannesburg. She was the daughter of Christina and Caswell Makeba. She was Christina's fifth child. For Caswell, her mother's second husband, she was his first and only child.

Christina helped her husband feed the family by brewing and selling umqombothi. When Miriam was just 18 days old, the police raided the family home and found the umqombothi. The family could not pay the 18 pound fine – and so mother and baby spent six months in jail.

After his wife and daughter came out of jail, Caswell Makeba took his family to live in Nelspruit in the Eastern Transvaal. Miriam has happy memories of this time. She remembers living in a house with her pets and a garden full of beautiful flowers.

Makeba's father died when she was five years old. Her mother took her to live with

her grandmother in Pretoria. In Pretoria there were many children for Miriam to play with. She was the youngest of 21 grandchildren who lived with the grandmother.

It was at this time that Miriam Makeba found that she loved to sing. She sang in the Sunday school choir, and the choir at school. After school she liked to sit with her brother Joseph and his friends, and listen to the records of singers like Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holliday. Afterwards she would sing for Joseph and his friends. They were her first fans.

MIRIAM GOES TO JO'BURG

At the age of 16 Makeba left school and got a job as a domestic worker in Johannesburg. She remembers how the "madam" was jealous because the "master" was kind to her. One day, the "madam" put the "master's" watch under Miriam's pillow – and then called the police. Miriam quickly left her first job, lucky not go to jail.

A year later, Makeba fell pregnant by her childhood

sweetheart, a chap by the name of Gooli. She married Gooli and went to live with his family in Marabastad. Miriam gave birth to a daughter who she named Bongie. Makeba was never able to have children again.

It was not a happy time for the young Makeba. Her mother-in-law made her work hard and treated her badly. Her husband was not much better. He beat her. In the end she left him when she found him in bed with another woman. It



A young Miriam Makeba

wasn't just any woman – it was her sister Mitzpah.

Makeba forgave her sister – but she couldn't forgive her husband. She took her child and went to live with her aunt in Johannesburg. Her aunt had a son by the name of Zweli, who liked to dress in fancy American clothes. When Zweli wasn't polishing his Florsheim shoes, he played in a band.

The band, called the Cuban Brothers, needed a singer. Zweli, knowing that his cousin Miriam had a beautiful voice, asked her if she wanted to join the group. "Zweli didn't have to ask me twice," writes Makeba. "When I was married I never wanted to sing. I was too sad. But now I wanted to sing my lungs out and forget all my troubles."

And so Makeba, who was now 20 years old and only five foot three inches tall, joined the Cuban Brothers. She sang with them at the Donaldson Community Centre in Orlando East.

One day, a singer by the name of Nathan Mdledhle went to the Donaldson Centre to listen to the Cuban Brothers. Mdledhle, who was the leader of a big group called the Manhattan Brothers, went up to Makeba after the show.

"I really enjoyed your show, Miss Makeba," he said. "You have a lovely voice. It's the voice of a nightingale."

But that is not all Nathan Mdledhle said to Makeba. He asked her to join the Manhattan Brothers. How could she refuse?

FIVE NIGHTS A WEEK

Makeba sang five nights a week with the Manhattan Brothers – and was paid a pound for each concert. The band played in townships around the country. At each concert, Makeba sang for four hours, from eight in the evening until midnight. It was hard work.

And it was dangerous work. Makeba remembers the gangsters who came to the concerts. They did not only put their feet on the tables – they put their guns there as well. One time, when she sang at a club in Alexandra Township, she sang a song called "Savuka." When she finished, the gangsters made her sing it again – and again. She sang "Savuka" twenty times that night.

But the gangsters were not the only problem for the Manhattan Brothers. The cops gave them a hard time too. One night, while the band was travelling from Pretoria to Johannesburg, two young

Miriam Makeba and Hugh Masekela on their wedding day



cops stopped them.

"You say you are a singing group," said the one cop. "Okay, then, lets hear you sing." And so the Manhattan Brothers, one of the top groups in the country, had to stand on the side of the road and sing for the two young policemen.

Another night, after the group played at a concert, a "bearded young man with a kind, round face" told Makeba that he enjoyed her singing. She later found out that his name was Nelson Mandela.

In 1956 Makeba, now 24 years old, got a job singing in a show called African Jazz and Variety. The great Dorothy Masuku was in the show, as well as the singer, Sonny Pillay. One day a man from overseas came to the show and asked Miriam to sing in a film he was making. The film was called "Come Back, Africa".

Soon after Makeba finished her work for the film, she got a part in a show called "King Kong" – the true story of the boxer, Ezekiel Dhlamini. After killing his girlfriend, Dhlamini was sent to jail where he somehow drowned in a pool of water. In the show, Nathan Mdledlhe, the leader of the Manhattan Brothers, played Dhlamini – and Makeba was his girlfriend, Joyce.

Makeba was then invited to go to France for the opening of "Come Back, Africa." After waiting a long time, Makeba got a pasport. On a cold winters' day in August 1959, Makeba flew out of South Africa. She was 27 years old.

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

After going to France, Makeba went to London where she sang in a television show. She also met her old friend, Sonny Pillay, who was now living in London. Sonny and Miriam quickly decided to get

married. But the marriage did not last. After three months it was over.

In London, Makeba met somebody else – the American singer and actor, Harry Belafonte. She had sung some of his songs when she was still with the Cuban Brothers. When Makeba told Belafonte that she was on her way to America, he told her he would be waiting for her.

In November, Makeba arrived in New York. A few days later she sang on television in front of 60 million people. Then she got a job singing in a nightclub. On her opening night Duke Ellington, Miles Davis and Nina Simone came to listen to Makeba sing songs like "Jikele Maweni", "Back on the Moon", and "Nqonqothwane."

Everybody loved her singing. Miriam Makeba became a star overnight. There was now only one thing for her to do – she sent for her daughter, Bongi.

When Makeba found out that she could not come back to South Africa, she began to speak out against

apartheid. She now had nothing to lose. Before every concert Harry Belafonte would talk about the black peoples' struggle in America – and Makeba would talk about the struggle of her people back home.

One day Makeba came back to her New York flat and found an old friend waiting for her. His name was Hugh Masekela. Makeba writes: "I first got to know Hughie when he was 14 years old – but to me he will always look like a little boy, with his cute fat cheeks and big round eyes...Ever since South Africa, I have dated Masekela off and on. Sometimes we are like lovers, and sometimes we are like brother and sister."



Singing in Lesotho in 1980



Makeba in Kenya in 1962. It was her first trip back to Africa after being exiled.

One night, at a concert in New York, Makeba said to the audience: "Ladies and gentlemen, I am very pleased to present to you my new husband, Hugh Masekela."

But, as some people will tell you, it's not a good idea for old friends to marry. Makeba and Masekela were divorced two years later.

FAR AND WIDE

Makeba not only sang in concerts all over America. She travelled far and wide, giving concerts and talking about apartheid in many different countries. But of all the places in the world, Makeba loved coming to Africa most of all.

She writes: "Each time I go back to Africa, it is like being reborn. But it is bittersweet, because I cannot really go home – to the place of my birth and my family."

Jomo Kenyatta from Kenya was the first leader to invite Makeba to sing in Africa. After Kenya she went to Tanzania where she met President Julius Nyerere. An hour after he met her, Nyerere gave her a Tanzanian passport.

In later years, Makeba met many more African leaders and was given many more passports. But of all the leaders, she was closest to President Sekou Toure of Guinea. He told her that if she ever wanted, she was welcome to come and

live in his country.

While on a visit to Guinea, Makeba met her next husband. His name was Stokely Carmichael, a well known black American leader. Makeba and Carmichael lived a happy life together. Their marriage lasted 10 years.

THE PAINFUL TIMES

But in her book, Makeba does not only write about meeting famous people and falling in love. She also writes about the painful times in her life – like the time she almost died from cancer. Makeba beat the cancer - and lived to suffer another terrible time in her life. A few years ago, her daughter Bongi died after giving birth to her third child.

Ever since Bongi joined her mother in America, she was never really happy. Makeba often blamed herself for her daughter's problems. Makeba asks herself the same question again and again: "If she had not left South Africa, would her daughter still be alive today?"

"I feel guilty," she writes. "I wonder how many of Bongi's problems were my fault."

Makeba also suffered for marrying Carmichael. After she married him, her star stopped shining in America. Her husband's politics upset a lot of people in America – and Makeba paid the price.

Many of her concerts were cancelled and record companies began to turn their backs on her.

When this happened, Makeba took up President Sekou Toure's offer. She went to live in Guinea, where she still lives today.

DEEPLY LOVED

All in all, Makeba tells an honest and moving story in her book. There is just one gap in the story. She only gives one line to Paul Simon, "the American pop star who brings me back to his country after so many years."

One gets the feeling that Makeba does not want to talk about the Paul Simon concerts. It seems that some people are angry with her for singing in these concerts – and that Makeba does not want to upset them any further.

It's not nice to see our people divided like

this. If there is a problem, or if the rules for our musicians and artists are not clear, we hope it can be worked out. After all, Miriam Makeba is deeply loved in the townships of South Africa. She is one of us – and everything must be done to keep it that way!

The book "Makeba: My Story", will be on sale in February. But you can order it now. Skotaville Publishers have kindly offered to give Learn and Teach readers a 10% discount. If you want to order the book, send your name, address and R19.95 to Skotaville Publishers, Makeba: My Story, P.O.Box 32483, Braamfontein 2017. This includes GST and postage.

COMPETITION

Win a free copy of Makeba's book. Write a story called "What Makeba means to me." Send your stories to: Makeba Competition, Learn and Teach Publications, P.O.Box 11074, Johannesburg. So lets have your stories - there are 10 free copies to be won!

Makeba with Oliver Tambo, the President of the ANC, in 1982



All pictures in this story, except for the picture on page 16, are from the book, Makeba: My Story.

Working with Poison

Deep in the forests of Natal where nobody can see her, you will find Maria Sibiya hard at work with a tank of poison on her back. Like thousands of other workers in the forests and on the farms, she works with poison everyday.

The poison is good news for farmers and forest owners. It is a cheap and quick way to kill insects and weeds. But it is bad news for the health of workers like Maria.

Maria lives and works in a forest near Richmond. It is a small town in Natal, surrounded by sawmill factories that turn trees into planks of wood.

In the centre of town, a few run-down shops do business by selling goods to the sawmill workers and the people who work on the farms and forests in the area. From the shopping centre, many dirt roads spread out into the sugar farms, orange plantations and forests that cover the green hills.

One of these roads runs for 16 kilometres through the tall pine and bluegum trees. At the end of the road



This woman works with poison every day in a forest in Natal. We have covered her eyes so she won't get into trouble for talking to us.

stand ten rows of black and white brick buildings. That's the compound where Maria lives together with 500 other men and women.

25 LITRES OF POISON

Every day Maria wakes up at 4am, long before the sun throws its first rays between the rows of trees. She prepares food with the three women that share her small room. They eat and quickly tidy the room. Then it's a rush - down to the tractor and trailer that waits to take them into the forest.

By 6am they reach the place where work begins. Maria climbs the steep hills in the forest with a tank on her back. Inside the tank are 25 litres of poison.

She sprays the trees with the poison. When the tank is empty she rushes down the hill and fills it. She must finish six tanks of poison to get paid for the shift. This is what the workers call "itoho" - the piecework system.

Maria uses many different kinds of poisons. One of these is a poison called 245-T. It is used to kill the wild bushes that grow between trees.

A WEAPON OF WAR

But bushes are not the only things that die from 245-T. The poison was made by the British during World War Two. The British army wanted to use it to destroy enemy crops. But the war ended before it was used.

The poison was used by the Americans in their war against the people of Vietnam. They wanted to destroy the jungle that gave shelter to the soldiers who fought for the people of Vietnam.

More than a million gallons of a poison called Agent Orange were dumped on the forests of Vietnam by American jet bombers. Agent Orange was made from 245-T.

After the war strange things began to happen in Vietnam. Babies were born with no eyes. Some had tiny brains or small hearts. Others had too many fingers or stumps instead of legs and arms. Doctors blamed 245-T for the damage to the bodies of the babies.

Back in America, soldiers who fought in the jungles of Vietnam began to get ill. Doctors blamed 245-T for causing cancer, liver illnesses and skin diseases. Many of the soldiers' wives also gave birth to deformed babies.

Dow Chemicals, the company that sold Agent Orange to the American army, was forced to pay the American soldiers R360 000 damages. At the time farmers in America were using 245-T to kill weeds on their land. The government put a stop to this. In 1970 245-T was banned in America.

Today most governments believe 245-T is too dangerous to be used. 245-T is now banned in countries like Japan, Sweden, Denmark, Italy, Norway, Holland, Germany and America.

WHEN THE WIND BLOWS

But in South Africa the law does not protect workers like Maria who still spray with 245-T. Nobody has ever told Maria about the dangers of 245-T. The company gives her a plastic suit, goggles and a small mask - and tells her to get on with the job.

The workers who spray the poison, like Maria, are not the only ones in danger.

When the wind blows, the spray from Maria's poison can easily enter into the lungs of her fellow workers - like those who cut down trees nearby. They are not given masks for protection.

An organisation in Natal called Chemwatch says that 245-T may have already caused deformed babies. In South Africa Chemwatch says 245-T may have caused the many damaged babies born in Natal. For example, they tell a story of twins who were born in January 1987 - one was healthy, the other had no fingers. The father of the twins works in a forest near Richmond.

In November 1986 a baby girl was born with a tiny left ear. Her mother and father live and work in a forest near Richmond. They say the company sprays with 245-T.

Chemwatch believes that there are many stories about the damage caused by 245-T. They are doing a big study about the poison - but they believe there is already enough proof of the dangers of 245-T. Scientists working for the organisation say that 245-T must be banned in South Africa.

TOOTH AND NAIL

Chemwatch is not the only organisation fighting to get 245-T banned. The

Paper Wood and Allied Workers Union (PWAWU) fights for the rights of forestry workers - and is also deeply worried about the dangers of 245-T.

"We know about the dangers of 245-T," says Jeremy Baskin, general secretary of PWAWU. "And we are prepared to fight tooth and nail against the dangers in the forest. We will not rest until the forests are safe."

"We are also fighting other dangers in the forest - like the 'itoho' system. 'Itoho' forces workers to work so fast that they have no time to worry about their safety."

"Safety is not the only thing we are fighting for," says Jeremy Baskin. "Forestry workers are among the worst-off workers in the country. Many get wages as low as R5 a day. There is no minimum wage in the forests. Many of the workers have never heard of paid leave and sick leave. Our job is to change this."

IN THE MEANTIME

In the meantime PWAWU has written a book about the dangers of work in the forests and sawmills. The book tells about the dangers of noise, machines and the poisons that workers use.



These woodcutters work close to the workers who spray the poison, but they are not given masks or any other safety clothing to protect them from the poison

It tells workers about their right to fight for a healthy job. "A safe workplace is every worker's right. You can demand protection from dangerous chemicals. If you stand together management will be forced to listen," says the book.

The book also says that workers like Maria can do the following things to make their jobs safe:

- * Workers can ask management about the dangers of the chemicals they use. The law says bosses must tell workers about the dangers of each poison.

- * Workers must use gloves, plastic suits, masks and goggles. The law says that bosses must give these safety clothes to workers for free.

- * Workers must see a doctor once a year. They must tell the doctor what

poisons they work with. The doctor must check to see that the poison has not made them ill.

- * If workers know of anybody who has suffered from poisons like 245-T, they must tell the union about it. They can write to PWAU, P O Box 35208, Johannesburg, 2000. (Workers can also write to Chemwatch, PO Box 158, Cato Ridge, 3680.)

- * Most of all, workers can demand that the company must only use poisons that are safe. In other countries 245-T was banned only after the workers united in their trade unions and demanded an end to the poison in their countries. ●

(Maria Sibiya is not the real name of the woman in this story. She asked us not to use her real name for fear of being fired.)

These children were not harmed by the poison. If their mothers carry on working with the poison in the forests will their younger brothers and sisters be as healthy?



Letters

Dear Learn and Teach

One day when I was sitting in the bus, I saw someone reading your beautiful magazine. I could not read the whole magazine but I saw your address. Now I would like to receive it in the post.

What must I do?

Jacob Mokwena
RUSTENBURG

Thank you very much for writing. We love getting such letters. If you want to get the magazine in the post, please send us a postal order for R6 and we will send you the next eight issues of Learn and Teach.

Dear Learn and Teach,

Please help me get my unemployment money. I worked at S A Security Services until I got sick. When I went back to work, I found that my job was finished. I got no money from them, and I have got nothing from UIF.

P.R.

JOHANNESBURG

Thank you for your letter. We are sorry to hear about your problem. The law says that when you leave a job, your employer must give you a blue card. You need this blue card to get money from the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF). If a company does not give you your blue card, they are breaking the law. Go back and ask them for your blue card. If they do not give it to you, go to the UIF office at the Department of Manpower, 156 President Street, Johannesburg to complain. They will help you to get your card. But go as soon as possible, because you must claim your unemployment money

before 9 months has passed after losing your job.

Dear Learn and Teach,

My husband passed away in 1984.

Can I get any money from the UIF?

Widow

KWANOBUHLE

Thank you for your letter. It sounds like you haven't received UIF death benefits for your late husband. The UIF rules say that you must claim death benefits before three years has passed. If three years has not passed, you must take your late husband's blue card, death certificate, your marriage certificate and your reference or identity book to the nearest labour office. If you do not have the blue card, you can go to the place where your husband last worked to ask for it.

Dear Learn and Teach,

I am a single woman of 26 and I live in Durban. I have been looking for work since May 1986. Now I have decided to look for work in Johannesburg. I am looking for any clerical job. I would like to work for a church organisation, old age home or even a hospital. I can find a place to stay in a hostel in Bosmont if I have a job.

P L

DURBAN

We are sorry to hear of your problem. We are sorry we cannot help with a job. But if anybody who reads this letter has a job for you, they must please write to us and then we will let you know. In the meantime, we wish you luck in your search for work.

Dear Learn and Teach,

I have a problem - my wife cannot get a baby. She gets very painful periods - but the doctors say her womb is fine. Please help us because my wife and I want a baby.

Worried Husband
KRUGERSDORP

We are sorry to hear about your problem. Maybe you and your wife should see a doctor at a family planning clinic. Sometimes doctors must do tests on both the man and the woman to see why they cannot have a baby. The Family Planning Association (FPA) in Johannesburg can help you. The clinic is at: 3rd floor, Marlborough House, corner Eloff and Commissioner Streets, Johannesburg. The telephone number is (011) 331-2695.

Dear Learn and Teach,

I have two problems. My first problem is that I can't talk properly. My other problem is my pass. My pass has a '72 hours' stamp in it. So I cannot find work in the cities. I tried asking about the stamp but the people at the pass office didn't explain things nicely to me.

Worried Man
DENNILTON

Thank you for your letter. The pass laws have been changed. You do not have to worry about the '72 hours' stamp in your pass any more. The new law says you no longer need stamps in your reference book to stay in town. It also says all South African citizens must now apply for the new identity book. You can apply for the identity book at your nearest pass office.

About your speech problem - we know how you feel. A couple of us at Learn and Teach stutter and

stammer. If you don't believe us, phone us and ask for Speedtrap or Sharky. But before you do, make sure you have a few hours to spare - it will be a long call! Next month we are planning to do a story about speech problems. As soon as the story is ready, we'll send it to you free of charge.

Dear Learn and Teach

I am the eldest in my family. My problem is that I have no job to support my family. My father has just died. He left my mother with seven children. Before his death he worked for the Railways for 33 years. Now I want to take his place on the railways. I went all the way to Komatipoort, but the station master refused to employ me.
Erick
SOWETO

Sorry to hear about your dad, Erick. We spoke to the Recruitment Officer at Johannesburg station. He said the station master at Komatipoort does not have to give you a job, even if your father worked there for 33 years. He also said that the Railways is only looking for new 'higher grade' workers - people with Std 6 or higher. If you passed Std 6, you can go to the Employment Office at Park Station in Johannesburg to apply for a job. We wish you luck.

Dear Learn and Teach

Please help my brother. He worked on the mines at Boksburg from 1967 to 1980. Then they sent him home without a pension. He has a wife and four young children. What can he do?
N R Tsekoa
QUTHING

Thank you for your letter, Ms Tsekoa. Most miners do not get a pension from the mines. Only 'higher grade' miners get pensions.

If your brother still has any of his old payslips, he can check if deductions were made for pension. If there are no deductions, he is not going to get a pension from the mines.

If your brother worked in the mine for a long time, he may get long service payment. The mines have long, difficult laws about long service payments. One of these laws is that the miner must have worked in the mines for 10 years. Your brother can go to the TEBA offices in Lesotho to check if he can get a long service payment.

Dear Learn and Teach

I am a young woman of 19. I went to school in Swaziland. But I did not finish because my parents were too poor. Now I want to finish my Form 1. I hope your reply will make me smile.

EN

KATLEHONG

Thanks for your letter. Why not study at an adult education centre. There is a centre in Katlehong at 209 Moseleki Street? The phone number is (011) 903-5908. We hope this makes you smile, if only a little.

Dear Learn and Teach

I would like to greet all freedom lovers. I would like to greet those white children of God who do not know about the aims of the UDF and peoples' organisations. White comrades, we know that your forefathers told you to hate black people. But we members of the UDF love all nations. We call you to join the struggle to fight for rights for everyone - so that all the tribes can form one nation. Comrades organise because the future is ours.

VMX

KATLEHONG

Dear Learn and Teach,

I have a Code 10 licence but it is not in my identity book. I want to know if I can still use it. I also want to know how we can force our boss to increase our wages. We get R69 a week. We are forced to work on Saturdays, but they do not pay us for the overtime. When we asked for an increase, the boss said we steal, so he cannot give us an increase. When I go on leave, I only get R200. What can we do?

Worried Worker

WYNBERG

Thank you for your letter. First, your driver's licence - if you want your licence on your new identity book, you will have to take your test again. The new law says that all driver's licences must be put into identity books before six months has passed after getting the licence. If you wait longer than six months, then you must take your test again. It seems your boss is wrong by paying you low wages, and cheating on overtime and leave pay. All bosses must pay for overtime, and must pay full leave pay. It is very difficult for us to tell you what your minimum wage is because you did not tell us where you work or what job you do.

We think you should go to see the Industrial Aid Society. The IAS is an independent, free advice office for workers. They will be able to tell you if you are being cheated and what you can do about it. Please take along any payslips. Their address is: Industrial Aid Society, 3rd floor, Camperdown Building, 99 Polly Street, corner Kerk St, Johannesburg. Tel (011) 23-8467.

If you would like to write to us, write to:

***Learn and Teach Publications,
P.O. Box 11074
Johannesburg
2000***

"SHA-A-A-KES!"

The goalkeeper is out of position. Most of his team-mates are lying all over the grass. The coach on the bench covers his eyes.

On the eastern stand thousands of fans are silent, like they are at a funeral. A tear or two is already falling down many a face as the ball makes its way towards the net.

On the western stand people are already on their feet. Together, with one voice, they scream, "Go-o-o-all!"

Then, from nowhere, a big man in a black and white outfit with the number "5" on his back, rushes towards the ball. He gives it a mighty kick just as it reaches the goal-line.

His team-mates suddenly jump back up onto their feet and run over to hug him. The fans on the eastern side are on their feet. There is only one word on their lips - "Sha-a-a-kes!"



A happy Shakes Mashaba, the captain of Orlando Pirates, after winning the Life cup in 1973

They carry the gentle giant on their shoulders in mad happiness. Ephraim "Shakes" Mashaba has saved the day - again. By stopping a certain goal, he has helped Orlando Pirates to win yet another cup final game.

Happy times are here again. If you are a Pirates fan living in Orlando East and you do not have enough money for a beer, do not worry. Today the aunties will be selling a bottle of beer for 25 cents. All the talk is about "Shakes". He is the hero of the moment.

But that is not how it always was. The very fans who praise you today will be screaming for your blood tomorrow. This is what soccer is all about. Joy and pain, laughter and tears. This is what Shakes told Learn and Teach as we sat with him on a cool evening at his beautiful Vaal Reefs home. This, and a lot more...

HERO OF THE MOMENT

As the whistle blows to end the game, thousands of fans run onto the field.

FROM A POOR FAMILY

Shakes Mashaba was born to a poor family in Orlando East, Soweto in

August 1950. It was a rough place, Orlando East. The youngsters used to go around in gangs with "okapias" in their back pockets.

But not Shakes. He was different. The young Shakes saw how his parents struggled. They could pay rent and buy food - but not much more.

So everyday, after the school bell rang, little Shakes went to the Orlando Station and "opened shop". He sold oranges and peanuts. With the little profit he made, Shakes paid for his schooling. It was this kind of fighting spirit that took Shakes Mashaba to the top in the world of soccer.

"HOW I GOT MY NAME"

One day, Shakes and a group of friends were playing "tickey ball" in the dusty street. A smart gentleman saw them playing. He called them and told them that he liked the way they kicked the ball around.

The old gent said his name was Shembe and that he was starting a soccer team. Shembe called his club the Orlando Preston Brothers.

"Preston Brothers is where I got my name," says Shakes. "We often played against a team called the Mzimhlophe Mighty Brothers. They had a good defender called 'Shakes'. Old man Shembe said that when I grew up, I would play like that Shakes. So he called me 'Shakes' as well."



Tough but not rough. Shakes playing for Swallows keeps an eye on his old team-mate, Jomo Sono

Many future stars played with Shakes at Preston Brothers - players like "Pepper" Molozi, Vusi "Maria Maria" Lamola and Force Khashane. Later "Maria Maria" went on to join Kaizer Chiefs. And Shakes and Pepper went to join Orlando Pirates.

SHAKES - THE CAPTAIN

Shakes joined Orlando Pirates towards the end of 1971. Only a year later he was captain of the team. It is not easy for a player to become captain after only one year, especially a club with a proud record and difficult fans like Orlando Pirates. But Shakes had a simple reason for this.

"I think they made me captain because I worked hard - in training and on the field. I gave all I had," says Shakes.

That year Pirates won the BP Top

Eight competition. But a much better year lay ahead.

"1973 was a year I will never forget," says Shakes. "Pirates made history in more ways than one. We won all the competitions in the league - like the Sales House Champ of Champs competition, BP Top Eight, Life Cup, Castle and Super Team Shield. Yes, 1973 was a wonderful year."

A GREAT TEAM

Shakes has nothing but praise for the players he led that year. "We had a lot of hard-working guys - like McDonald 'Rhee' Skosana, Patson Banda, Jomo Sono, Ronnie Shongwe, Solomon Padi and Webster 'City Late' Lichaba, to name but a few.

"We were a great team. Once we stepped onto the field, we had only one thing on our minds - victory. So our supporters liked us, and we liked them, and we paid them back by winning."

But soccer fans are soccer fans. They love you as long as you are a winner. But they hate losers. Shakes learned this lesson when he became caretaker coach of Pirates for a few months. After Pirates lost a game, Shakes almost lost his life.

"When I was coach we won three games - but then we lost two and drew one. After losing one game, the fans wanted to kill me.

"They attacked me openly at the stadium. I rushed into the dressing room and changed quickly. I sneaked out through a side door and ran to my car. I drove off while the fans were still waiting for me at the change room. Those were the bad times."

THE WORST GAME

Shakes remembers another time when fans gave him problems. "We were playing against Pretoria Callies in Pretoria. That was the worst game I ever played. I tried to 'shake' myself but nothing happened. Everything came to a standstill. Whenever I thought I was in the right position, the game moved to another part of the field.

"The fans' boos were ringing in my ears. I tried to shut them out but they got through to me. Those boos finished me off. In the end we lost the game 3-1."

That year Shakes left Pirates. He joined Swaraj in the South African Soccer Federation League. He helped them win the league in 1976.

Shakes returned to Pirates the following year. But once again he had problems with his game. People were now saying, "Shakes is finished!" Shakes was lost to soccer for two years.

THE GREAT COMEBACK

But not everybody thought Shakes was finished. One of those people was the late Jack Sello, who was the director of Moroka Swallows. "You can still make it in professional soccer," Bra Jack said to Shakes. "There is still a lot of soccer left in you. We need you at Moroka Swallows."

And so Shakes flew into the Birds' nest. It was not long before he got sweet revenge on his old team, Pirates.

"It was a Top Eight match and I really wanted to prove a point. And I think I did. Firstly I took care of Jomo. He was



TOP: The great Orlando Pirates team of 1973. Shakes, the captain is standing second from the left. Sitting in front on the left is the late Percy "Chippa" Moloji. Can you spot "Shuffle the Pack" Makopane and Patson "Kamazu" Banda?
ABOVE: Still on the ball. Shakes today as player-coach for Vaal Reefs.
LEFT: Shakes gives a lesson in ball control to Chiefs player Michael "Bizzah" Dlamini.

a passenger in that match in Durban. He was right in the bottle. At that game I found my form for the first time in two years.

"That victory meant a lot to me. I proved to myself that 'Shakes' was not finished.

YESTERDAY AND TODAY

"Many things have changed," says Shakes. "The Group Areas Act was a big problem for us in the old days.

"We used to camp in a two-roomed house. There would be twenty players in the house. We used to cook food in a big pot. Mostly it was not well cooked. But hell, we used to eat. We would eat a big plate of porridge at two in the afternoon - and then run onto the field at three. We could hardly run because our stomachs were so full.

"Nowadays players stay in five star hotels. They sleep one to a bed. They eat the right kind of food at the right time. That is why players are so fit today.

Shakes says players may be fitter - but the teamwork is worse. He blames "too much money" for this. He explains: "The top goalscorer of the year gets five thousand rands. The Player of the Year also gets five thousand rands. These prizes are not a bad thing - but players have taken them in the wrong way. Nowadays everybody wants to score. Everybody wants to be a hero.

THE DREAMS ARE SWEET

Today Shakes is not as fast and sharp as he used to be. The younger players are now wearing

his crown. But luckily, soccer has not yet lost the great Shakes Mashaba. He is now a player coach with a mining club, Vaal Reefs Stars. He hopes to take the team to the first division soon.

Shakes says he misses the bright lights of professional soccer - but he is happy to play with amateurs. He says he is proud of what he has done with his life.

It was now late and we left the old footballer to rest - and to dream sweet dreams of a time when the crowd were on their feet with only one word on their lips - "Sh-a-a-a-kes!" ●



When Shakes played, the other team could only sit and watch

English Lesson

Before you do this English lesson, please read the story about Maria Sibiya and the forestry workers. The story is called "Working with Poison". It is on page 19.

PART ONE

NEW WORDS

Here are some words from the story about Maria Sibiya. Match the words from the first row with their meanings in the second row. We have done the first one:

deformed	to fight in every way
to pay damages	not allowed by law
banned	things used to make medicine, insect killer, paint, weed killer and many other products. They are often poisonous and need to be used with great care.
goggles	born with something wrong with our bodies
to fight tooth and nail	glasses or spectacles used to protect your eyes
chemicals	to pay people because you have injured them

ANSWERS

poisonous and need to be used with great care.	chemicals
paint and many other products. They are very things which are used to make medicine, insect killer, to fight in every way	to fight tooth and nail
glasses or spectacles used to protect our eyes	goggles
not allowed by law	banned
to pay people because you have injured them	to pay damages
born with something wrong with our bodies	deformed

PART TWO

Now fill in the missing words in the following sentences. This is a way of checking that you understand the story.

1. Maria Sibiya works in a _____ near Richmond in Natal.
2. She lives in a _____ with 500 other men and women.
3. Maria starts work at _____ every morning.
4. Maria's job is to spray the trees in the forest with a _____ called 245-T.
5. 245-T was first made by the _____ during World War Two.
6. An organisation in Natal called _____ says that 245-T causes _____ babies.

7. Scientists say that 245-T must be _____ in South Africa.
8. 245-T is not Maria's only problem. PWAWU says that forestry workers like Maria earn as little as _____ a day.
9. The law says that bosses must give workers _____ for free.

ANSWERS

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| 3. 6 am | 2. compound | 1. forest |
| 6. Chemwatch, deformed | 5. British | 4. poison |
| 9. safety clothes | 8. R5 | 7. banned |

Now try these questions. Choose the correct answer - a) or b) or c).

1. The British made 245-T to use in
 - a) farming
 - b) war
 - c) forestry

2. The Americans used 245-T to make Agent Orange. They used Agent Orange
 - a) to murder babies in Vietnam
 - b) to destroy the jungle in Vietnam
 - c) to destroy the crops in Vietnam.

3. In South Africa workers still have to use 245-T but in most other countries it has been banned because
 - a) it kills crops
 - b) it costs too much money
 - c) it causes illness and disease.

4. Maria works on the piecework system. This means that she gets paid
 - a) for every hour she works
 - b) only when she has finished six tanks of poison
 - c) for every day she works, even if she doesn't finish spraying six tanks of poison.

ANSWERS

- | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 4. b) | 3. c) | 2. b) | 1. b) |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|

PART THREE

The people who wrote the story about Maria know that 245-T is very dangerous for workers' health. They want us to know the facts about 245-T. If we know the facts we will be able to help make sure that 245-T is banned in South Africa.

Here is a list of the facts that prove that 245-T is dangerous and should be banned. Complete the list by finishing each of the sentences.

1. The Americans used 245-T in their war against the people of Vietnam. After the war many babies _____.

2. After the war some American soldiers who fought in Vietnam_____.
3. Doctors blamed 245-T for causing_____.
4. Many soldiers' wives gave birth to_____.
5. Dow Chemicals, the company which sold Agent Orange, was forced to_____.
6. In 1970, 245-T was_____.
7. Today 245-T is banned in_____.

ANSWERS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. were born deformed | 7. Japan, Sweden, Denmark, Italy, Norway, Holland, Germany and America |
| 2. became ill | 5. to pay American soldiers R350 000 damages |
| 3. cancer, liver illnesses and skin diseases | 6. banned in America |
| 4. deformed babies | |

When we read all these facts about the dangers of 245-T, we understand why it must be banned.

When you want to organise people, it is important to give them as many facts as possible. Knowing the facts helps people decide what they can do.

WORKING IN A GROUP

Here is something you can do with a group of fellow workers or friends. Think of something that you are fighting for in your work. Maybe it is a living wage, or the right of fathers to take leave when their wives are having babies or the struggle for better safety at work.

Together think of all the facts and reasons why you are struggling for these things, and write down your list of facts.

Then read through the list and put the most important facts at the top of the list and the less important ones at the bottom.

PART FOUR

A. LITTLE WORDS

Little words like on, in, to, for and so on are called prepositions. Most sentences have a preposition or two. People who are learning English often find prepositions a problem.

Fill in the missing prepositions. Choose your answers from the list below. Use each word only once and cross it out. Use all words in the box. We have done the first one.

against	by	in	for	on	from
of	to	of	by		

The poison was used 1) _____ the Americans 2) _____ their war 3) _____ the people 4) _____ Vietnam. They wanted to destroy the jungle that gave shelter 5) _____ the soldiers who fought 6) _____ the people of Vietnam. More than half a million gallons 7) _____ a poison called Agent Orange were dumped 8) _____ the forest of Vietnam 9) _____ American jet bombers. Agent Orange was made 10) _____ 245-T.

ANSWERS

4. of	7. of	6. for	9. by
8. on	3. against	10. from	5. to
		2. in	1. by

B. DOING WORDS

Words that tell us what people are doing - like eat, walk and talk - are called doing words or verbs.

When a person does something everyday or often we say things like:

Maria wakes up at 4 am

and not

Maria is waking up at 4am

REMEMBER When we talk or write about something a person does everyday we don't use -ing on the end of the verb.

Look at what Maria does everyday:

- She wakes up at 4 am
- She prepares food with the women that share her house
- She eats
- She quickly tidies the room
- She goes into the forest
- She begins work at 6 am

Notice that all the underlined words are verbs and none of them end with -ing. This is because we are talking about what Maria does everyday.

Now write five short sentences saying what you do from the time you get up in the morning to the time you start work. If you do not have a job, say what you do in the first three hours of your day. Use verbs like wake, eat, clean, tidy, wash and so on.

Start like this:

1. I wake up at _____.
2. | _____
3. | _____
4. | _____
5. | _____

There is no answer to this exercise. Show your sentences to someone whose English is better than yours.

SLOPPY



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NEW YEAR'S EVE AT SLOPPY'S POZZIE.

Look at what I just caught, Joey!

Urk! Mama!

UNCLE JAKE AND DUMPY ARE PLAYING MORABARABA...

Thiba o bo thibe! Ha!

Sulp! I give up, Uncle Jake.

GLADYS AND THABO FIXING OL' SPEEDFIRE...

LIZZIE RELAXING...

Ah! This is life!

AND IN THE KITCHEN...

I'll bake them a cake they'll never forget. Heh heh!

KNOCK KNOCK

TWO NEIGHBOURS WALK IN. THEY WANT TO BORROW THE TRUCK.

Uh... He's baking a cake!

How sweet!

Come in, gents. This is just one of my many talents.

I can see you're also good at choosing pretty dresses. Har Har!

Isn't it a lovely dress?

Let's go and see the hubby. Hee.

