

# Congress Militant

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Paper of the Marxist Workers' Tendency of the ANC

# BAN CCA.

According to Rob Luckey's private analysis (Bsc, doing Masters in Inorganic chemistry at Wits University). CCA is a strong form of Hydrochloric acid. It causes extreme burns to the skin and to any clothing worn.

Already a worker in Braamfontein has burned. The management never paid her out.

If too much of its fumes are inhaled it could be harmful to the lungs.

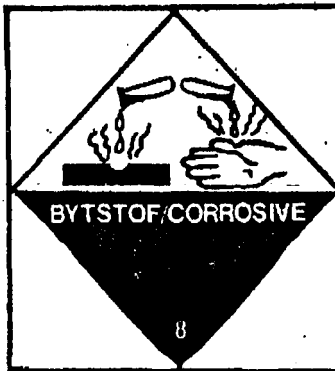
Transnet says that an acid related

substance must be used to take rust off the trains.

Protea Chemicals, one of the companies that supply

Transnet with the chemical, says that there is an alternative to CCA which is less dangerous. It is used by the railway workers in Germany. This chemical is more expensive. We must demand that Transnet buys a safe alternative.

Transnet buys CCA because it is cheap. But our lives are not



cheap.

Transnet says in their propaganda: "We believe in the human dignity of all people."

Yet Transnet forces people to use a poisonous chemical when there are safer alternatives. Where is the "human dignity" in this?

SARHWU

workers must lead this fight. At Braamfontein, Rooiwal and Benrose depots SARHWU workers are refusing to use CCA. The mana-

gement says that those who do not want to use it can just go and work temporarily at span 1. This is a trick form the management to prevent us from banning CCA.

What happens when the temporal period is finished? They think that they will use

BLATU workers. We must win over the BLATU workers for a united fight against CCA.

Should we use CCA if they will pay us more for it? NO! As one worker in Braamfontein said "We can not sell our health to

Transnet. We must demand SARHWU's R250 for 40 hr a week National Minimum wage."

## NO TO PRIVATISATION

Let us fight for workers' control and management of Transnet. Forward to a workers' ANC government to impliment the FreedomChater.

# SARHWU workers lead a fight for Maternity Benefits.

Dr Anton Moolman (the Managing director of Transnet) says in their public propaganda:

"Our most important asset, our workers must be treated with dignity financially and non-financially in an environment where everyone can live to the full in of which he will be proud"

Where is this dignified treatment when we work in these conditions?

Transnet women workers are tired of being treated with contempt by the management.

Pregnant women workers still do hard work which includes standing for too long and lifting up heavy things.

We are condemned to work with harmful chemicals. All this can affect a women's ability

to have a healthy baby. It can lead to pregnant women loosing their babies.

The three month unpaid maternity leave we are getting is inadequate. When we come from giving birth we sometimes work without getting paid. What are our babies supposed to eat?

Does the Transnet Management leave their babies behind without care and food?

If Transnet is serious when they say: "We commit ourselves not to discriminate against anyone on the grounds of race, sex or religion" then we challenge them to adress our demands.

Transnet

women workers demand a six months paid Maternity leave. Do the white Transnet women workers get the same dirty treatment as us?

We need time to visit clinics regulary before giving birth. We need money to provide for our babies. We need time after birth to stay at home to breastfeed the baby.

Transnet cannot deny us these rights and still claim to "stand for human dignity of all people."

Maternity benefit is not the problem of the women workers alone.

Male workers in SARHWU have shown willingness to

fight for this demand. This is a family issue. If it is won it will be a victory for all workers. We also demand that male workers be allow time off when their partners or wives are pregnant.

SARHWU women and men unite for a better future. This fight must be linked to the struggle to ban CCA.

Now is the time for all of us to fight to implement our demands in the Freedom Charter.

The Freedom Charter says "men and women of all races shall receive equal pay for equal work, . . . . annual leave and sick leave for all workers, and maternity leave on full pay for all

working mothers."

This struggle will bring men workers close to women workers' suffering. As Phineas Zikhali a Saccawu worker from Umlazi explained (in their booklet SHARING THE LOAD) "I didn't realise the problems that women face. But during the negotiation (for maternity benefits), I started to see those problems and I realised that I was part of the problem. I began to realise that as long as the women were tied to the kitchen sink, they cannot be free. And until women are free, we will only have half freedom."

Unity of all Transnet workers under SARHWU will be necessary to win this demand.