



MIGRANT WORKERS UNION IN SOUTH AFRICA

ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE

ABOUT

MIWUSA is a democratic workers union representing all those who expect to work and or working in South Africa in different industries. The vision of MIWUSA is to build a strong democratic and worker controlled organisation/movement led by migrant workers in South Africa to advance, protect and fight for all migrant workers' rights.

Realising the difficulties, the hardship, the vulnerability, exploitation and the demand of representation of migrant workers living in South Africa, **Migrant Workers Union of South Africa, (MIWUSA) is formed.** The birth of MIWUSA is through maturity, broader consultations and experience of ZIWUSA (Zimbabwean Workers Union in South Africa) that led to ZIWUSA expanding its scope to cater for all migrant workers in SA. MIWUSA membership currently stands at 4000 plus members from different foreign nationalities in South Africa.

VISION

The vision of the organisation shall be to build a strong democratic and worker controlled organisation / movement led by migrant workers in South Africa to advance, protect and fight for all migrant workers' rights.

THE MISSION:

To build strong affiliated (country) nationality based independent and democratic unions in South Africa that will advance, protect and fight for workers' rights through elected worker leadership (Shop Stewards). Engage in strategic and systematic membership recruitment process to educate, develop, conscientise, unite workers in a strategic plan to make them believe in themselves by collectively solving issues that affect them as migrant workers in order to create changes in their day to day lives.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To promote interests of members,
- To encourage settlement of disputes by conciliatory methods,
- To secure justice for all the members,
- To regulate relations between members and their employers/communities, protect and further the interests of the members;
- To secure decent standards of living, social security and fair conditions of work for members;
- To promote, support or oppose, as may be deemed expedient, any legislation, proposed legislative or other measures affecting the interests of members;
- To enter into statutory or civil agreements with employers or employers' associations and communities on behalf of the organisation as a whole, or groups of individual members;

SCOPE

Any migrant natural persons who works in South Africa, permanently, for a limited period, temporarily, casually or seasonally and whether the wage he gets is fixed , changing, monthly, daily or in any other method of calculating wages according to production, piece work or otherwise.

MEMBERSHIP

All non South African persons, migrants employed and or intending to be employed in formal and or informal sector within the borders of South Africa shall be eligible for membership of the Union. If you are an hourly paid worker or a member of the salaried staff, regardless of your colour, creed or political affiliation as long as you work in South Africa.

WHAT WE DO

MIWUSA having informally worked with COSATU in specific programmes without affiliation, closely and in partnership with progressive South African unions is prepared and committed to attempt to resolve all problems faced by migrant workers. From experience gained through ZIWUSA we are aware capable and skilled to solve most of your problems of:

- No access to education,
- Lack of documents and qualifications required (home affairs)
- No proper channels for documentation of migrants.
- Application and outcome process of permits is slow;
- Migrants having no proper channels to report grievances and knowledge of who to approach because of fear of arrests, xenophobia and deportation
- Lack of proper protection;
- Being victimized by the ones holding the rule of law e.g. police officers demanding passports, bribery;
- Border posts giving less days for visits;
- Unfair treatment at work, schools, hospitals etc;
- Denied access by service providers;
- Lack of representation to air their views and concerns as migrants;
- Exploited and oppressed by the employers and denied representation;
- Exploitation through labour broking + 3 months temp;
- Underpaid, no compliance to labour laws BCEA – unfair labour practices (benefits);
- Sick denied access to medical treatment (clinics and hospitals);
- Immigration Act – (ZSP-for Zimbabweans) change of status, business permit, incompetence of home affairs, corruption,
- Xenophobia and Attorneys Act admission
- Language barrier –Lack of interpreters in government departments
- Undocumented children and others.

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