

# TRADE UNIONS FOR MATATU WORKERS

DEFEND WORKERS' RIGHTS  
EMPOWER WOMEN WORKERS  
DEMAND QUALITY PUBLIC  
TRANSPORT



OUR  
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TRANSPORT

# WHAT IS A TRADE UNION?

Trade unions are democratic organisations of workers who come together to protect and advance our interests in the workplace.

Trade unions negotiate with employers, the government, or any other organisation that control or influence our pay and conditions at work.

Trade unions provide support and solidarity to our members in times of need.

Trade unions are independent of employers, the government and political parties.

Trade unions stand up for equality and against all discrimination, whether based on gender, ethnic origin, religion, age or disability.



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# WHY WE NEED TRADE UNIONS IN THE MATATU INDUSTRY

Most of us working in the matatu industry face big problems:

- Low pay
- Long hours
- Insecurity
- Frequent harassment from police and authorities
- Exploitation by vehicle owners
- Terrible working conditions
- Sickness and injury
- Lack of social protection

By coming together in a trade union, we are a powerful voice for change. We are stronger together than we are on our own.

# WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF JOINING A TRADE UNION?

- Respect for our rights and improvements to our pay and working conditions.
- When we demand improvements together, we have a strong voice that cannot be ignored.
- Trade unions help us support one another when we face unfairness or ill-treatment.
- Trade unions campaign for social protection for all.

If we demand improvements on our own, we rarely get listened to.  
But together we have collective strength.



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# WHO CAN JOIN?

**DRIVERS, CONDUCTORS,  
STAGE WORKERS, VENDORS,  
MECHANICS, KAMAGERAS,  
PORTERS, LOADERS, CALLERS,  
GUARDS, CLEANERS, SACCO  
WORKERS....**

**In fact, ANYONE who depends  
on matatus for a living.**

**According to international and  
Kenyan law, all matatu workers  
have the right to be a member  
of a trade union of their choice.**



# WHO OWN AND GOVERN TRADE UNIONS?

**WE DO.  
ALL THE MEMBERS.**

As members, we have the right to attend regular meetings to elect our leaders, determine what needs to be done, and how we are going to achieve it.

All members regularly contribute a small amount of money to support the activities of the union. We have an equal say in how the money is to be used.



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# WHO SUPPORTS US?

The **International Transport Workers Federation (ITF)** is assisting the Matatu Workers Union (MWU), the Public Transport Operators Union (PUTON), and the Transport and Allied Workers Union (TAWU) to represent matatu workers, particularly to ensure that the workers' voice is heard in planning the proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system in Nairobi.

ITF is the world-wide federation for workers in the transport industry, with more than 700 unions affiliated, representing over 16 million transport workers from 150 countries.



# HOW DO I JOIN A UNION?

# MATATU WORKERS UNION

General Serectery: Henry Nyambuto Omoga  
Contact: +254 722 889160 / +254 731 981652  
P.o. Box 3107 – 00200  
Nairobi, Kenya

Published by the International Transport Workers  
Federation (ITF)  
ITF Africa regional office, Eldama Park, Mara 2 Block,  
66540 - 00800 Westlands,  
Nairobi, Kenya

[itfglobal.org](http://itfglobal.org)



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