

Workers must free Namibia!

Last month the Mineworkers Union of Namibia (MUN) held its third Congress. A comrade from COSATU spoke at the Congress. These are some parts of his speech :

Workers in South Africa and workers in Namibia are fighting the same struggle in so many different ways. Together we reject racial domination for the evil and the cancer that it is. Together we struggle against the exploitation of monopoly capital, particularly Anglo American. The illegitimate war against SWAPO is also a war against the people of South Africa who are denied houses, bread and education to pay for the guns and tanks that occupy your country.

Comrades, it is clear that we cannot only build worker power in the mines. Our bosses are monopoly owners who practice their naked exploitation everywhere - in the factories, the farms, the docks. They will fight to the end to protect the cheap labour system because it means more profits for them. To effectively challenge the power of the bosses we need to organise and mobilise all workers in all sectors. Especially the ones who supply and service the mines, the transport workers, the metal workers and the construction workers.

We must remember also that the power of the bosses is protected by the government which acts in



the interests of the bosses. In SA we have seen how the Botha government forced through the LRA to save bosses from the growing might of the COSATU. Our experience is that racial oppression and capitalist exploitation is two sides of the same coin.

The only place where workers and

youth can organise, mobilise and build unity and democracy is in SWAPO. Because of our social weight in society and in production, we workers must make sure that our voice is the loudest voice in our organisations; that our needs are the needs that come first in our organisations; that our dreams are the dreams of our organisations; that our struggles are the struggles of our organisations.

If we can do that - if we can really build our leadership as workers in the national liberation movement and draw all the oppressed alongside and behind us - then we will be well on the way to the society that meets our needs - a democratic and socialist society in Namibia and South Africa.

Comrades, no-one will do this for you. You are the revolutionary class, the creative class, the class that exploits no-one, the class that needs to be free from oppression and exploitation. Look to yourselves. Look to your own strength. Look at what you did in the days of the protest action last year when you shook the system like never before.

Look and see that you together - united in action - are the force to

change things. And believe it. Have confidence in yourselves.

Then we will build our organisations and build our struggle and build our government in a post-independent Namibia and South Africa on the basis of what we need as workers - and not on the profits of bosses.

Workers of the world unite!